

**Question for written answer E-003249/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Implementation of the cross- border programme Italy - Croatia

One part of the EU cohesion policy is carried out through the Cross-border Cooperation Programme. By joining the EU, Croatia was given the opportunity to participate in the new Cross-border Cooperation Programme Italy - Croatia for the period 2014 - 2020. For multiple reasons this programme is important for Istria, which alone directly borders an Italian region. Among other things, in the previous period the County of Istria was the most successful Croatian region when it came to participation in cross-border programmes.

Since the adoption of operational programmes is the responsibility of the European Commission and the governments of countries participating in the programmes, I ask the following question as a representative from the County of Istria and from Croatia, and following enquiries from potential users:

- What is the situation with the preparation and adoption of the operational programme for the implementation of cross-border cooperation between Italy and Croatia, i.e. has there been a delay in its adoption?
- When can we expect the adoption of the above operational programme and when can we expect the publication of the first tenders?