

Question for written answer E-003453/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Isabelle Thomas (S&D)

Subject: Implications for the payments crisis of the revision of the multiannual financial framework for 2014-2020

When it presented its proposal revising the multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2014-2020, the Commission clearly specified in its explanatory memorandum that pre-financing funds not disbursed in 2014 as a result of delays in validating operational programmes had been used to pay outstanding invoices from the 2007-2013 period.

It even stated that 'the reverse operation could be done, if need be, in 2015 to cover the pre-financings'.

If, when it submitted the 2015 draft budget, the Commission was unable to predict how many operational programmes would not be implemented and, therefore, the volume of pre-financing funds which would not be required in 2014, this would qualify as 'unforeseen circumstances' as referred to in Article 13 of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the period 2014-2020.

Does the Commission not agree that, once all the operational programmes have been validated, it should propose a draft amending budget in which the 2015 margin for contingencies has been activated? Such a step would alleviate the problems project sponsors are facing as a result of the delay in releasing support from funds affected by the revision of the MFF.