

**Question for written answer E-004580/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Norbert Erdős (PPE)**

Subject: Approval of the Member States' rural development programmes by the Commission

The rural development programmes of the Member States ensure adequate funding for developing rural areas, creating new jobs and helping the rural population sustain itself. These programmes are the prerequisites for the implementation of necessary and justifiable projects and for the EU to ensure equitable standards of living for the rural population.

The economy of the European Union will make no progress without rural development. Hence the exceptional importance and urgency of the Commission's approval of the rural development programmes that are still under consideration. Major investment projects are waiting to finally get EU funding.

Hungary has been waiting for the Commission's approval of the Hungarian rural development programme for a very long time. We have very serious investment, job creation, water and environmental management plans for which the Hungarian people have been waiting for the Union support for a very long time.

Based on the above, my questions for the Commission are as below:

1. How many rural development programmes has the European Commission approved to date, and how many programmes still await approval?
2. What is the Commission's timetable for approving these programmes?
3. At what stage is the discussion of the Hungarian rural development programme, and when is it expected to be approved?