

**Question for written answer E-015504/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Jozo Radoš (ALDE)**

Subject: Financing renewable energy projects in the EU's rural, mountain, and remote areas

The term renewable energy sources denotes modern, sustainable forms of renewable energy, in particular the use of biomass, geothermal energy, hydroelectric power, solar energy, and wind power. These energy sources have huge natural potential, which is to be found especially in rural, mountain, and remote areas. That is why EU energy policy has increased the demand for biofuels and encouraged the use of rural areas for renewable energy production. Within the 2014-2020 financial framework the Commission has earmarked a special allocation under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development for the purpose of financing renewable energy projects in rural areas.

1. What amounts are available to Member States under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development to finance renewable energy projects in the EU's rural, mountain, and remote areas, and how far have Member States managed to put that funding to use?
2. Can renewable energy projects in rural, remote, and mountain areas be financed using other financial instruments and programmes (Connecting Europe Facility – CEF, European Regional Development Fund, European Energy Efficiency Fund, and the Horizon 2020 innovation and research programme)?