

**Question for written answer E-001127/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Lunigiana LAG (Local Action Group) and management of European funding

Between 1994 and 2013 the Lunigiana LAG (Local Action Group) was extensively involved in managing European funding on the ground and was, for example, responsible for implementing the priority 4 Leader approach and administering priority 4 of the rural development programme.

The area in which the LAG administers and allocates public money covers the municipality of Mulazzo, whose mayor is Claudio Novoa, a director of the LAG.

The Mayor of Mulazzo thus has a conflict of interest to the extent that he works for a body which allocates European funding while serving in an authority that receives funding.

In judgment No 7299/2012 the Italian Court of Cassation found Mayor Novoa's earlier handling of European funding to have been lacking in transparency.

1. Is the Commission aware of the above situation? What steps will it take to ascertain that there are no irregularities involved?
2. Does it not consider Claudio Novoa's office as mayor to be incompatible with his position as director of the LAG, not least in the light of Article 325 TFEU?
3. What is the sum total of the LAG's operating costs and of the European funds, investment, and financing managed and implemented by the LAG since 1995?