

**Question for written answer E-003777/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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

In an earlier question the Commission's attention was drawn to a number of irregularities in the management of European funding by the Lunigiana LAG. As regards the Garfagnana LAG, the position is as follows:

1. the LAG has run up debts totalling EUR 983 262, which have never been paid back to the creditors;
2. the budget has been falsified to the extent that it lists a series of non-existent loans (such as the alleged loan of EUR 35 000 for the Alpi Apuane Regional Park);
3. there is a conflict of interests involving the leader of the LAG, Luigi Favari, who unilaterally appointed himself without any decision by the governing board (although this is required under the LAG's rules);
4. Mr Favari is affected by further conflicts of interest because his senior position in the LAG is incompatible with the posts (which he is occupying simultaneously) of adviser or manager in companies or associations that have won contracts for which the LAG itself invited tenders.

Can the Commission say why Tuscany Region has failed to carry out the proper inspections? Bearing in mind that the EU funding which the Garfagnana LAG has had in its hands amounts to approximately EUR 31 million, can it specify what added value has been created for the regional employment situation? What will it do to ensure that European funding for the years 2014 to 2020 is managed in a transparent way?