

Question for written answer E-004189/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Edward Czesak (ECR)

Subject: Cohesion policy in mountainous regions of the EU

Mountainous regions are structurally disadvantaged, owing to their extreme conditions and remoteness, to the extent that many such regions face depopulation and ageing populations, which can upset the natural cycle of generations, leading to a lowering of social standards and quality of life. This often leads to a rise in unemployment, social exclusion and urban migration. Mountainous regions represent a significant amount of EU territory (around 30%).

1. Will the Commission start the process of creating a working definition for functional mountainous regions in the context of cohesion policy, complementing the definition of mountainous areas as used in the context of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, with the aim of improving coordination of the policies and measures concerned? And if so, when?
2. Will the Commission take steps to establish a specific, in-depth programme to protect those European glaciers which are predicted to disappear by 2050? And if so, when?
3. When will the Commission take steps to establish a programme of support for mountainous regions?