

**Question for written answer E-007835/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Liliana Rodrigues (S&D)**

Subject: Termination of calls for ERDF funding applications under the 'Madeira 14-20' programme

The Regional Development Institute (IDR) of the Autonomous Region of Madeira (RAM) announced on 10 October that the Madeira programme managing authority had decided to terminate certain calls for applications under the Madeira 14-20 programme intended for public projects. The reason given was that the ERDF funding allocation had been used up by the applications submitted and assessed up to that point.

According to the RAM 14-20 programme managing authority, the active calls for applications were all due to be closed in late 2018 or at the end of 2020.

Without any prior notice, the procedures have been terminated in the middle of the application period, allegedly because the funding has run out. This has disappointed the expectations of the many private individuals, businesses, and institutions that were preparing to apply or had already submitted applications.

1. Can the Commission say how the ERDF funding allocation came to be used up before the end of the period legally laid down for the purposes of submitting and assessing applications for European funding, bearing in mind that this situation is tantamount to 'moving the goalposts'?
2. Does not the Commission consider that setting an overlong time-frame for the submission of applications (three to four years, depending on the particular case) and assessing the applications and granting funding apparently on a 'first come, first served' basis is an approach lacking in both transparency and procedural rigour?