

**Question for written answer E-003251/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Irregularities in LEADER II funding in Galicia

The EU rural development initiative LEADER II took action at regional level in rural areas with the greatest socio-economic development problems, particularly those with an ageing population, a high depopulation rate and low income levels.

The LEADER II Plan (1994-1999) was intended to promote locally run innovative activities across all rural sectors. In Spain, a total of 133 programmes were up and running, 132 of which were coordinated by local action groups.

The municipal council of Arnoia (Galicia, Spain) requested and received support to build a biomass plant, which was never built, to buy machinery, which was never bought, and to build five workshops. The project cost some EUR 78 000.

1. Did the Galician Government make the Commission, or one of its agencies, such as the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), aware of how LEADER II funding was being managed in Arnoia? If so, when?
2. How many irregularities concerning the management of EU funding in Galicia has the Galician Government reported to OLAF since 2009?