

**Question for written answer E-003787/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Massimo Paolucci (S&D)**

Subject: Transparency and efficiency in local action groups

Local action groups (LAGs) are public-private bodies provided for in EU regulations for the management of development programmes for rural areas and are responsible to the region of competence, the Member State and the EU as regards the correct use of the relevant funding.

However, in many cases, LAGs have become synonymous with inefficiency, a lack of control and transparency, and the removal of private shareholder responsibility, due in part to the standard on the basis of which their intervention programmes are fully funded by EU resources.

Regional checks on LAG activities are often formal – expenditure is checked to ensure that it complies with the procedures defined in the contracts. No long-term assessment of their initiatives is carried out, nor are checks performed to verify the functioning of their bodies regarding compliance with legal requirements on the part of administrators, the disclosure of documents, the balance of powers between bodies, the regularity of budgets, and the actual payment of shares by private shareholders.

LAG Partenio in the region of Campania sets a bad example as regards non-compliance with regulations.

What effective instruments and specific measures has the Commission introduced to ensure that EU standards are complied with and that the regions concerned carry out the necessary checks?