

**Question for written answer E-006044/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Sicily. Information on the 2007-2013 ERDF Regional Operational Programme for Sicily

According to the Closure Guidelines for the 2007-2013 programme, any projects funded that do not meet operational criteria will impact negatively on the closure of the 2007-2013 ERDF OP and, in the case of projects overlapping two different programming periods, on the 2000-2006 ERDF OP as well.

In the Final Implementation Report for the 2007-2013 ERDF OP for Sicily of 31 March 2017, lots of projects, and above all those overlapping two different programming periods, funded by the 2000-2006 and 2007-2013 ERDF Operational Programmes, are declared as 'concluded and operational', without any closing decrees.

In the annexes to the Final Implementation Report, 114 of the 136 projects overlapping two different programming periods are shown as 'concluded and operational', whilst 27 are declared as 'non-operational', for a total of EUR 835 million.

While issuing its closing decrees, the Region of Sicily might have come across projects that had not been completed or had inconsistent expenditure, which would oblige them to be de-certified.

On the subject of certification, it was agreed with the Commission that sampling would be carried out over several programming periods, subdividing certification into four stages. In July 2017 it seems that the fourth stage was never completed, preventing the Commission from carrying out its checks by the given deadlines.

In light of the above, can the Commission state:

1. The list and amount of expenditure for the 'concluded and operational' projects without any closing decrees;
2. The potential financial implications of a lack of documentation/closing decrees;
3. The state of play or results from the fourth stage of certification?