Question for written answer E-001497/2018 to the Commission

Rule 130

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Subject: Follow-up: Information regarding the 2007-2013 ERDF Regional Operational Programme

for Sicily

In Question E-006044/2017, I requested full details regarding non-operational overlapping projects under the 2007-2013 ERDF Operation Programme and the financial implications thereof.

The Commission replied that the Italian authorities had not yet replied in full, particularly in the case of projects that were not completed or were non-operational.

In recent months, the Sicilian regional authorities have issued numerous decrees decertifying operations financed under the 2007-2013 ERDF Operational Programme owing to irregularities and delays in implementation.

Numerous frauds involving EU funding have been committed in Sicily in recent years, a recent example involving an amount of EUR 3 billion in rural development funding for the period 2007-2013 discovered by the Nicosia Guardia di Finanza.

Assessment of 2000-2006 ESF OP certified expenditure resulted in a funding cut of EUR 379 million because of systemic irregularities and fraud.

In view of this:

- 1. Can the Commission indicate the amounts certified by the Sicilian regional authorities and endorsed by the Commission under the 2007-2013 ERDF OPs, the 2007-2013 RDPs and the 2007-2013 ESF OPs respectively?
- 2. Can it give details regarding projects decertified under the 2007-2013 ERDF OPs, the 2007-2013 RDPs and the 2007-2013 ESF OPs respectively, giving the reasons in each case?

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