

**Question for written answer E-006341/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: 'Gilets jaunes' robbed to build motorways and hospitals in Romania

The European Commissioner for Regional Policy, a Romanian, declared on 8 November 2018 that she was proud to work for her country and to have increased the regional funds for Romania¹ by 10 % between 2021 and 2027. She clearly has true European ambitions. To feed those ambitions, Brussels is said to have earmarked more than EUR 100 billion to Romania for the period between 2007 and 2027, including some EUR 10 billion from the European Social Fund.²

The Bucharest ring road and four hospitals are being built³⁴ using EU funds mostly from Germany, France and Italy: EUR 300 million per hospital and EUR 1.3 billion for the ring road⁵ – EUR 2.5 billion in total.

In France, maternity wards and dozens of hospitals are being closed or are at risk of closure in places such as Altkirch, Vierzou ou Saint-Lô, in an effort to save EUR 1 billion.⁶

Why are hospitals being closed in France to pay for the construction of hospitals in Romania?

Why has the task of constructing motorways in Romania, which is largely being paid for by the French and Germans (EUR 1.4 billion), been given to a US group?⁷

¹ Politico, 8 November 2018; <https://www.romaniajournal.ro/commissioner-for-regional-policy-retorts-to-new-attack-from-her-party-colleagues-corina-cretu-i-am-shocked/>

² EUR 67 billion from 2007 to 2020. 2007 to 2013: EUR 24 billion as part of its regional policy (https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/communic/negotiation/country_ro_en.pdf) and EUR 12 billion for agricultural policy.

https://www.eca.europa.eu/Other%20publications/PL14_AR13/PL14_AR13_en.pdf ; 2014-2020: EUR 23 billion (regional policy) + EUR 8 billion (agricultural policy) = 31 billion; http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-907_en.htm and https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/romania

³ Politico, 8 November 2018; <https://www.romaniajournal.ro/commissioner-for-regional-policy-retorts-to-new-attack-from-her-party-colleagues-corina-cretu-i-am-shocked/>

⁴ <https://www.romania-insider.com/hospital-bucharest-district-1/>

⁵ <https://www.romania-insider.com/romanian-pm-tender-ploiesti-brasov-highway/>

⁶ <http://www.lefigaro.fr/actualite-france/2018/10/30/01016-20181030ARTFIG00295-cher-deux-agents-de-l-hopital-de-vierzou-entament-une-greve-de-la-faim.php>; <http://www.lefigaro.fr/conjoncture/2018/06/23/20002-20180623ARTFIG00023-un-collectif-manifeste-a-paris-contre-la-fermeture-des-hopitaux-et-maternites-de-proximite.php>

⁷ In 2004, the contract for the Transylvania motorway – the northern part of the project – was awarded to the US-based Bechtel Group. After a number of modifications and renegotiations, however, the agreement with Bechtel was broken off in 2013. The government, as it turns out, had already paid the company EUR 1.4 billion over a period of 10 years for just 52 km of useable motorway. <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/romania-seeks-world-bank-aid-over-stalled-highways-09-08-2017>