

**Question for written answer E-001103/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Salvatore Iacolino (PPE)**

Subject: Communication plans for the Structural Funds - Management authorities' obligations

Considering Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds;

Considering Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 setting out rules for the implementation of the aforementioned Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006;

Considering also the new regulation of 17 December 2013 laying down new common provisions regarding the European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, Cohesion Fund, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, and general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, Cohesion Fund, and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, and which repeals Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006;

Considering that the aforementioned regulations make communication plans compulsory and stipulate that the relevant resources – for each programme under the Structural Funds – must be proportionate to the need for adequate information on these programmes;

Considering that it has emerged that some of the individual management authorities responsible for implementing each communication plan – particularly in the case of undeveloped regions such as Sicily – are failing to comply with their obligation as regards communication plans, which are a vital tool for ensuring that regions and businesses are fully informed;

could the Commission clarify:

1. whether it has information on this issue, including as regards the most recent operational programmes;
2. whether any breaches of the obligation to account for expenditure on communication plans have been found, and how management authorities have been sanctioned for any such breaches;
3. whether any such failures to comply – as would seem to be the case for Sicily – are having an impact on the full and correct use of funds intended for operational programmes;
4. what it intends to do to ensure that individual management authorities comply with their obligations regarding communication plans (as specified in point 2), including with reference to the aforementioned Regulation of 17 December 2013;
5. whether it is considering establishing a compulsory minimum percentage for each communication plan with regard to individual operational programmes?