

**Question for written answer E-000358/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Reinhard Bütikofer (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: EU funding for the TIME-Park project

In 2005, the town of Zarrentin in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania was granted EUR 1.5 million in EU funding to develop a 'multimedia village' on an area of land earmarked for commercial premises on which building is subject to environmental restrictions.

By 2012, however, not one plot had been sold, and a decision was taken to reclassify the land in question and open it up for residential development.

Zarrentin town council's contract with the developer, LGE Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, stipulates that once the contract has expired it must buy back the land in its entirety for roughly EUR 1.4 million. In addition, the reclassification of the land means that the purpose for which funding was originally granted will not be achieved. The city maintains, however, that that purpose was in fact achieved between 2005 and 2014 and that it must therefore repay only part of the EU funding, i.e. around EUR 675 000, in respect of the remainder of the agreed funding period to 2021. What is more, the town council has decided to sell the entire area of land to an investor and not to hold an EU-wide tender procedure, with a view to attracting a buyer from the region.

1. Was the EU funding granted on condition that jobs would be created?
2. If the funding purpose was not achieved, and if a regional, not an EU-wide, tender procedure is launched, can part of the repayment still be waived?
3. Would partially waiving repayment not be tantamount to indirectly subsidising a private investor?