

**Question for written answer E-000042/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Disproportionate budget for sub-measure 16.1 of the Sicilian rural development programme

The call for proposals regarding sub-measure 16.1 of the Sicilian rural development programme (RDP) 2014-2020, which finances the European Investment Partnership (EIP) operational groups, provides for a total of EUR 27 million to fund 50 groups (EUR 540 000 per group).

This level of financing would be disproportionate, as there are too many eligible groups relative to the 10 agricultural sectors included in the Strategic Plan for Innovation and Research.

Emilia-Romagna, the Italian region that has invested the most in measure 16, has allocated only EUR 6 million to sub-measure 16.1.

At the same time, the 2017 budget for measure 13 on compensation for areas with natural constraints has been exhausted, to the detriment of farms in mountain areas.

For these reasons, Sicily's Farmers' Union has warned that the disproportionate volume of resources earmarked for sub-measure 16.1 may give rise to problems regarding transparent management and proposes that the two measures be restructured in favour of measure 13.

1. Does the Commission consider that proposal appropriate?
2. What is its view on the disproportionate budget for sub-measure 16.1 of the Sicilian RDP?