

Question for written answer E-003104/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Laura Ferrara (NI)

Subject: Fraud in the use of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI) in Calabria, 2007-2013 and 2014-2020

By a clear margin, the Calabria Region holds an unfortunate record, topping the rankings for fraud against the interests of the European Union in the use of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI).

In the 2007-2013 programming period alone, there were several hundred cases of fraud, embezzlement, swindling and other irregularities in Calabria affecting funds earmarked for the common agricultural policy and regional cohesion policies.

In addition, many irregularities have continued to come to light in the 2014-2020 programming period.

In order to obtain a clear and comprehensive view of the impact of fraud on the use of EU funds and, consequently, to establish the necessary arrangements to prevent and/or limit potential cases of fraud in future, the Commission is asked to state:

1. the amount of losses due to fraud, embezzlement and irregularities recorded in the Calabria ROPs for 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 and the Calabria RDPs for 2007-2013 and 2014-2020;
2. what sums, having been unduly paid under the regional programmes for Calabria in 2007-2013 and 2014-2020, have already been recovered and/or subjected to the decertification procedure;
3. whether it considers that strengthening the tools available to OLAF, such as carrying out on-the-spot checks, is a corrective measure whose use can no longer be delayed, especially in regions such as Calabria, which are struggling to find effective remedies for the problems described above.