

Question for written answer E-003142/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Laura Ferrara (NI)

Subject: Suspension of Calabria 2014-2020 ROP fund payments

In February 2019 the Commission informed Calabria's regional government in an official letter that payments of approximately EUR 130 million in funding for Calabria's 2014-2020 Regional Operational Programme (ROP) were being suspended temporarily.

This step was prompted by the 'Lande desolate' judicial inquiry into some projects co-financed under the 2007-2013 Calabria ROP and is a precautionary measure necessary in order for the regional government and the Commission to be able to carry out further checks into the accuracy of the expenditure certified so far for the 2014-2020 ROP.

According to Article 83(1)(b) of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013, suspension of a deadline for interim payment claims should not last longer than six months. However it would seem from press reports¹ that payments are still suspended now, even though the time limit laid down in EU legislation has passed.

In view of this, and in order to ensure maximum transparency in the use of EU funds, can the Commission say:

1. Is the aforementioned suspension of the interim payment of the approximately EUR 130 million drawn on the Calabria 2014-2020 ROP still in force?
2. What has been the upshot of the investigations so far into the accuracy of certified expenditure under the Calabria 2014-2020 ROP?
3. Regarding the amount of EUR 13 353 628.41 in non-admissible expenditure that will have to be deducted from the expenditure declared to the Commission, as stated in the answer to question E-002159/2019, to which of the projects in the last programming period does this refer?

¹ https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/fondi-europei-rimborsi-bloccati-anche-la-calabria-ACOlU0n?refresh_ce=1