

Question for written answer E-001845/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Mario Furore (NI)

Subject: Request for postponement of a deadline for submitting proposals in the light of Covid-19

In view of the development of the Covid-19 epidemic, a Prime Ministerial Decree was issued in Italy on 9 March 2020 ¹, whose provisions are to remain in force until 3 April 2020. The Decree lays down extraordinary measures to tackle the epidemic which constitute abnormal difficulties in the performance of normal activities to propose projects for participation in procurement procedures and invitations by the Commission to submit proposals.

In particular, the invitation to submit proposals for 'Subsidies for information campaigns and promotional activities for agricultural products carried out within the internal market and in third countries under Regulation (EU) No 1144/2014', with a deadline of 5 April 2020, could be fraught with difficulties due to the current situation. To enable interested parties in Italy to respond to the invitation, bearing in mind the principle of non-discrimination, with a view to correct, impartial and uniform implementation, taking account of all the circumstances and interests involved in its decision, which is subject to the parameters of suitability, necessity and appropriateness:

will the Commission consider extending the deadlines for the submission of proposals?

¹ DECREE ISSUED BY THE PRIME MINISTER on 9 March 2020 Further provisions to implement Decree-Law No 6 of 23 February 2020 laying down urgent measures to contain and manage the epidemiological emergency caused by COVID-19, applicable throughout national territory. (20A01558) (Official Journal, General Series No 62 of 09-03-2020)