

**Question for written answer E-005276/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Improving the Structural Fund absorption rate in Spain

Spain is among the Member States with the lowest absorption rates in the EU. According to official figures, only 68 % of the funds from the ERDF Multiregional Operational Programme (POPE) have been allocated to projects, and payments have been made for only 24% of the total¹.

Two packages were recently adopted in response to the coronavirus (CRII and CRII+), allowing the reallocation of unused funds under the current MFF to address the COVID-19 crisis. Under CRII, Member States are able submit new operational programmes or to re-programme existing ones, thus allowing projects and expenditure associated with the crisis to be financed in their entirety using European funds.

However, the reprogramming of the Multiregional Operational Programme (POPE) has not been published in Spain. Against this background:

1. Has the Commission received the reprogramming of the Spanish Multiregional Operational Programmes?
2. If so, have 100% of available funds been allocated?
3. What measures will be put in place to promote public-private partnerships, ensure investment in innovative projects and ensure that operational programmes are modified in time?

¹ <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/programmes/2014ES16RFOP002>