

**Question for written answer E-005614/2020/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Krzysztof Jurgiel (ECR)**

Subject: Question to the Commission on schemes to revive small towns in Poland under the Operational Programme Eastern Poland

The Polish Government is planning to launch the Operational Programme Eastern Europe under the Partnership Agreement. The reasons for this are the degradation of industrial plants in small towns, the gradual reduction in domestic demand, and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, all of which have slowed down the development of small towns. The idea of revitalising the market functions of small towns and cities, together with the creation of the necessary economic and social infrastructure and broad support (advisory, financial and training) for local businesses, is therefore essential to helping small towns and giving them a chance to develop.

The revitalisation of small towns and cities is the key to the renewal of local communities, the increase in demand for local products, and the reconstruction of the local economy on the basis of sustainable development. Current and future generations of people from small towns and cities deserve the chance to enjoy a lasting improvement in their quality of life. A programme to revive small towns and cities was implemented in Europe in the 1960s under the Structural Funds.

I believe that the development and implementation of the programme for the economic revival and renewal of small towns and cities should be a priority action.

Under the new cohesion policy for 2021-2027, will the Commission support the creation of programmes to revitalise small towns and cities under the Operational Programme Eastern Europe?