

Question for written answer E-000382/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Sara Cerdas (S&D)

Subject: Equitable approval of applications for EU funding in the Autonomous Region of Madeira

Madeira's Regional Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible for the management and implementation of the archipelago's rural development programme (RDP), financed by the European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

A number of mayors in the region have condemned the fact that their municipalities' proposals for EU funding within the scope of the RDP have been rejected without sufficient justification, calling those rejections 'partisan discrimination' and deeming them illegal.

These municipalities' projects 'compete' with projects developed by public-private companies and institutes protected by the Regional Government itself, which is responsible for the management and implementation of these funds.

1. The Regional Government of Madeira is responsible for ensuring that the applicable national and community rules are upheld, especially where non-discrimination, competition, public procurement, environment and equal opportunities are concerned. How will the Commission ensure that applications are approved fairly and impartially?
2. Should the management and implementation of a community programme of this size be left solely up to regional authorities?
3. How will the Commission ensure that public money is distributed fairly in the Autonomous Region of Madeira?