

**Question for written answer E-001195/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Economic and Investment Plan for the South Neighbourhood countries and NDICI funds

The financial envelope for the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) for the Neighbourhood Policy is expected to amount to around EUR 19 323 million in the current 2021-2027 budget period.

Since 2007, the Member States and the EU institutions have followed the financial rule of allocating two thirds of the Neighbourhood Policy funds to the countries of North Africa and the Middle East (the Southern Neighbourhood) and one third to partners in the Eastern Neighbourhood. According to this informal allocation formula (2:1 for the South), NDICI funding for the Southern Neighbourhood in the current period should amount to around 12 500 million.

The Commission and the High Representative recently published the Joint Communication entitled 'Renewed Partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood — a new agenda for the Mediterranean'¹. In this Communication, the Commission proposes an 'Economic and Investment Plan for the Southern Neighbours' to be funded to the tune of up to EUR 7 000 million under the NDICI.

Given the numerical difference between the EUR 7 000 million proposed in the Economic Plan and the EUR 12 500 million to be allocated to the Southern Neighbourhood under the NDICI in the current budgetary period, how does the Commission plan to implement and use the remaining EUR 5 500 million?

¹ JOIN(2021)0002.