

**Question for written answer E-002217/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE), **Ignazio Corrao** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Back-up projects in national recovery and resilience plans

Official documents show that Italy intends to include so-called back-up projects in its national recovery and resilience plan. A total of EUR 69.1 billion are apparently to be blown in the 6 'missions', EUR 30.2 billion of which under the Green pillar, which is supposed to be the most innovative. In particular, under the heading 'High-speed rail for passengers and freight', EUR 8.66 billion of the EUR 14.79 billion to be provided are projects which are already being funded by the Member State. The back-up projects would account for 58.5% of the total, both in the individual chapter and under the Green pillar.

The fear is that in some regions which already have a dynamic economic and social fabric, innovative projects are being funded to achieve the objectives of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), while in less developed regions 'back-up projects', without any real value added, are being financed.

Can the Commission state whether:

1. the use of the resources to finance 'back-up projects', moreover in disadvantaged regions, does not run counter to the Recovery and Resilience Facility's objective of making the EU more resilient and innovative;
2. in its view, Member States should not provide for a minimum quota of innovative projects in their national recovery and resilience plans, in particular for disadvantaged regions, in order to prevent the economic and social gap from continuing to grow wider, as provided for in Articles 174 and 175 of the TFEU;
3. it intends to clarify the correct interpretation of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 by means of a communication or guidelines, in particular as regards the effectiveness of national recovery and resilience plans (Article 19)?

Supporters¹

¹ This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Eleonora Evi (Verts/ALE), Piernicola Pedicini (Verts/ALE)