Question for written answer E-002871/2021 to the Commission
Rule 138

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Subject: Ensuring fair and transparent allocation of NextGenerationEU funding

NextGenerationEU is a unique opportunity for Europe to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic while also transforming our economies through strategic investments. As the Commission reviews national recovery plans, there are growing concerns over the potential lack of transparency and fairness in the allocation of these funds. In Poland, for example, there is criticism of the controversial allocation of the Central Government Fund for Local Investments, initiated by the government to lend support to local authorities. Academic studies show that a very generous portion of funding under this programme was allocated to mayors and local authority representatives from the Prawo i Sprawiedliwość party and from the Prime Minister’s constituency. The committee in charge of evaluating applications was nominated by the Prime Minister, who ultimately grants the funds. Similar concerns have also been expressed in other Member States, as well as concerns over the potential lack of access for local authorities to EU funds.

1. Is the Commission aware of such shortcomings?

2. How is it assessing the potential risks while reviewing national recovery plans in the framework of NextGenerationEU, and what are the safeguards to ensure transparency and fairness in the allocation of funds?

3. Has the Commission already identified gaps in the plans submitted, and if so, what were they, and in which Member States?

Supporter¹

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