

**Question for written answer E-002917/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Vera Tax (S&D)**

Subject: Contribution of internal ESF+ and ERDF allocations to EU cohesion objectives by reducing economic differences between regions

When communicating the allocation of cohesion policy in November 2020, the Commission clearly indicated that when programming the final internal allocations, the starting point should be regional distribution and the elements determining the allocation of cohesion policy. These should also take into account the economic and social challenges that regions face, including the effect of the COVID-19 crisis and the national and regional context. In addition, according to the ESF+ (European Social Fund Plus) Regulation, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and ESF+ share in particular the objective of economic and social cohesion. It is therefore of crucial importance that each Member State's ESF+ operational programme takes into account these criteria.

When assessing the operational programmes, how will the Commission ensure that internal ESF+ and ERDF allocations will contribute to the EU's cohesion objectives by reducing economic differences between regions?