

**Question for written answer E-003670/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Vera Tax (S&D), Tom Berendsen (PPE)

Subject: Geographical dimensions of the Interreg VI-A Germany-Netherlands programme area

On 12 February 2021, the Commission presented its proposal for the Interreg VI-A Germany-Netherlands programme area, seeking to reduce its dimensions from those of the area covered by the 2014-2020 programme. However, the programme partners wish to keep the area unchanged, since they are convinced that any reduction therein will be to the detriment of its economic development and social cohesion. On 8 June 2021, at the request of the Commission, the partners sent a letter of response containing additional information.

1. What is the background situation and what are the immediate reasons for the proposal to reduce the size of the Interreg VI A Germany-Netherlands programme area, given that Brussels has earmarked more rather than less EU funding for the new programming period?
2. Is the Commission aware that a substantial change to the programme area at this late stage will be greatly to the detriment of the programme itself and to the cooperation that has been nurtured between the partners over the years?
3. Is the Commission accordingly willing to keep unchanged the dimensions of the Interreg VI-A Germany-Netherlands programme area?