

**Question for written answer E-004217/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE)

Subject: Next Generation EU funds for sustainable mobility in Spanish municipalities and the 'long-term vision for rural areas'

The Spanish Ministry for Transport, Mobility and the Urban Agenda has opened the first call for applications for the allocation of EUR 1 billion from the Recovery and Resilience Facility to municipalities for sustainable mobility.

This call discriminates against rural areas, as it is essentially limited to municipalities with more than 50 000 inhabitants.

The Xunta (autonomous government) of Galicia and 75 Galician local councils have signed a joint declaration entitled 'For a strong and connected countryside' deploring the exclusion of rural municipalities from the European recovery plan and urging the central government to distribute funds for mobility fairly with a view to ensuring the interconnection of rural areas¹.

In its 'long-term vision for rural areas'², the Commission stresses the need for Member States to invest EU funds in connectivity in rural areas. The Commission calls on Member States to develop sustainable rural mobility strategies, adding that it is essential to improve existing transport links by means of EU funding such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

Does the Commission believe the ministry's decision to exclude municipalities with less than 50 000 inhabitants from EU funding for sustainable mobility to be compatible with its 'long-term vision for rural areas'?

¹ <https://www.xunta.gal/notas-de-prensa/-/nova/60635/xunta-75-ayuntamientos-gallegos-impulsan-declaracion-institucional-por-rural>

² COM(2021) 345 final, pages 18-19.