

**Question for written answer E-005192/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Laura Ferrara (NI)

Subject: Latest developments in the activities of day nurseries and early childhood education and care (ECEC) policies in Calabria

Under Calabria's multi-funded Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020, the activities of day nurseries and access to early childhood education and care (ECEC) in the region have been co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF).

In its reply to previous question E-000788/2020¹, the Commission informed us about the state of implementation of these activities.

Therefore, in view of the European objectives in this area, already identified in Council and Commission recommendations, as mentioned in the previous question, and in view of the potential risks stemming from the failure to use ROP funds in some of the Axes which have performed particularly badly (ERDF Axis 6-9 and ESF Axis 8-10), can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. To date, how much has been spent, in certified expenditure, under the Calabria ROP 2014-2020 for ECEC policies?
2. Given the delays in spending (certified expenditure) under the European Social Fund of the Calabria ROP, does the Commission think there might be a risk of a significant loss of resources for these sectors and these objectives?
3. How does it intend to make tangible improvements to access to ECEC in Calabria and southern regions, taking due account of the inequalities between Italian regions?

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-000788_EN.html