

**Question for written answer E-005363/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Mr Marc Lemaître's statements in Parliament concerning Spain's administrative management of structural and cohesion funds

On 15 November 2021, Parliament's Committee on Regional Development (REGI) held an exchange of views with Mr Marc Lemaître, Director-General of the Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO).

During the exchange of views, Mr Lemaître said that some Member States, and most notably Spain, have focused all their administrative attention on the Recovery and Resilience Facility funds and have disregarded the traditional cohesion funds¹.

In particular, Mr Lemaître said that Spain 'pushed back in a very saddening way the submission of the partnership agreement and the submission of programmes [under the structural and cohesion funds] [...] nearly beyond understanding' and that 'Spain has shown that it cannot do two things at the same time'.

1. Has the Commission ever directly communicated to the Spanish Government the dissatisfaction with the administrative management of cohesion funds that it expressed in Parliament?
2. What is the risk that Spain will not receive part of the conventional cohesion funds to which it could have access for the 2021-2027 period if its administrative management continues as it has done to date?
3. What is the current status of Spain's formal procedures to receive these funds, and which Member States have already completed these procedures?

¹ <https://www.elmundo.es/economia/2021/11/21/619a4018fc6c832a6e8b45f1.html>