

**Question for written answer E-000683/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Pascal Arimont (PPE)

Subject: Conditions associated with the WIFI4EU initiative for small municipalities

Under the WIFI4EU initiative, the Commission provides winning municipalities with a EUR 15 000 voucher that comes, however, with certain strings attached.

Feedback from my constituency makes it clear that smaller municipalities find it difficult to actually use this voucher, as the total costs of installing and operating the Wi-Fi hotspots are not sustainable in the long term.

Other municipalities are saying the same thing: installation and maintenance are so expensive that the costs outweigh the benefits. For example, the best quote for installation and three year's maintenance of the required number of Wi-Fi hotspots (there must be a given ratio of indoor to outdoor hotspots) was around EUR 92 000 incl. VAT.

1. Has the Commission received similar feedback on the WIFI4EU initiative from other municipalities?
2. Does the Commission intend to relax the conditions so that municipalities, especially smaller ones, which have been awarded a voucher can still implement their projects without having to incur such expenses?