

**Question for written answer E-001072/2022**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Lucia Vuolo (PPE)**

**Subject:** Criteria for selecting projects to reduce local disparities, unemployment and depopulation

Social and territorial cohesion is the fourth pillar of the Italian national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP). Its aim is to reduce local disparities and urban-rural imbalances. In order to boost the appeal of small towns and villages under the NRRP, in November 2021, the Italian Minister of Culture tasked the regions with the following objectives: socioeconomic regeneration, the revival of the jobs market and the fight against depopulation. On 30 January, the Regional Government of Campania included only 38 municipalities in its spending plans for the related programme and came up with its own criteria for the allocation of funds, namely: empty dwellings, touristic area, buildings constructed and population changes. These parameters are likely to prove inconsistent with the EU criteria and even the NRRP itself. For example, the criteria applied for the purposes of regional State aid were: unemployment, cost/benefit analysis and GDP per capita.

In view of this:

1. What steps will the Commission take to enforce the EU criteria for the allocation of funds and prevent regional authorities from excessively narrowing these in order to channel funds towards municipalities at a certain end of the political spectrum?
2. Does it believe that projects helping to reduce local disparities, depopulation and unemployment are likely to be selected when applying criteria such as the number of empty dwellings, housing built and population changes?