

**Question for written answer E-001205/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Guido Reil (ID)

Subject: Social Economy Action Plan

In December 2021, the Commission presented its Social Economy Action Plan. The Commission wants to provide start-up and retraining support for welfare organisations and social NGOs. For the 2021-2027 period, it wants to increase its support beyond the (estimated) EUR 2.5 billion it already provided in the period 2014-2020. It intends to launch new financial products and improve access to finance, in particular under the InvestEU Programme.

The Workers' Welfare Organisation (AWO), a non-profit organisation in Germany, has already received funding from the EU. However, parts of the AWO have, in close cooperation with the SPD and the trade unions, been turned into some kind of self-service free-for-all.

Scandals involving the AWO in Frankfurt and Wiesbaden in 2019 caused much dismay, but there had also been irregularities and abuses previously that landed before the public prosecutor. Other welfare organisations have also been involved in corruption scandals. This has been documented in numerous reports by the courts of auditors of various länder.

1. In the context of the Action Plan, will the Commission introduce additional monitoring, evaluation and supervisory tools that will ensure that social NGOs and charities do not misuse funding?
2. When approving funding, does the Commission allow itself to be influenced by the trustworthiness or reputation of welfare organisations such as the AWO?