

Question for written answer E-001572/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Raffaele Fitto (ECR)

Subject: Spending in Italy in 2021 under the national RRP

With EUR 191.5 billion, Italy heads the list of beneficiaries of NextGenerationEU funding.

In August 2021 Italy received EUR 24.5 billion in pre-financing (EUR 11.5 billion in grants, EUR 13 billion in loans), which is equivalent to around 13 % of total funding.

Italy had 51 targets to reach in 2021 and a EUR 13.7 billion spending programme. Spending capacity is causing concern: Minister for the Economy Daniele Franco stated in a hearing at the Italian Parliament on 23 February 2022 that only EUR 5.1 billion had been spent, mainly on projects already planned previously in national spending programmes.

In view of the fact that these issues with spending capacity affect the growth, recovery and resilience targets in Italy's national RRP:

1. Is the Commission aware that Italy is underspending and if so, what action will it take to accelerate spending?
2. Has the stipulation that 40 % of spending must be for resources in Italy's southern regions been respected?
3. In light of external conditionalities caused, for example, by rising energy prices and problems with sourcing raw materials, would the Commission be prepared to consider, at Member States' request and pursuant to Article 21 of Regulation (EU) 241/2021, reassessing national RRP targets and timelines?