

**Question for written answer E-002521/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Stanislav Polčák (PPE)

Subject: Democratic dimension of the partnership principle

Last year, I asked the Commission a question about fulfilment of the partnership principle when drawing up the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, which I considered to be more of a government recovery and resilience plan. This question has been reopened by the Eighth Cohesion Report, in which this principle correctly relates to the nature or quality of democracy and the way in which individual areas of European policy are received. Adherence to the partnership principle is thus not an end in itself, but it does have distinct and significant relevance. The involvement of local and regional actors strengthens democratic principles and contributes to a favourable perception of the European Union and its policies. It is in this light that the shortcomings in applying the partnership principle must be seen. They cannot be brushed aside, but must be addressed seriously.

1. What findings has the Commission gathered in this regard?
2. How will it endeavour in future, in collaboration with the Member States, to ensure that these shortcomings are not repeated?