

**Question for written answer E-002709/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Christian Ehler (PPE)

Subject: Lump sums in Horizon Europe

At the end of Horizon 2020, a pilot was launched involving lump sum payments for project finances. The pilot is still ongoing and none of the designated projects have been closed and fully audited. In the preliminary evaluation of the pilot, it was concluded that the Commission would have to adjust the use of lump sums to ensure that they are effective. Large beneficiary communities have urged the Commission to await the completion of the pilot before making any decisions around the general use of lump sums. Nevertheless, the Commission has expressed a desire to increase the use of lump sums as soon as possible. One major driver is that it would reduce financial error rates in the Horizon programme.

1. In how many calls and for which parts of the Horizon programme does the Commission envisage using lump sums under the 2023/2024 and later work programmes?
2. How is the Commission adjusting its policy in the light of the beneficiaries' requests?
3. As a proper evaluation of completed pilots is a necessary part of evidence-based policymaking, why is the Commission determined to rush ahead before the pilot projects have been through a full life-cycle round, including audits by the European Court of Auditors?