

Question for written answer E-002718/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Christian Ehler (PPE)

Subject: Compliance with the do no significant harm principle in activities under the European Innovation Council

The 2022 Work Programme of the European Innovation Council (EIC) states that in order to be eligible, activities 'must comply with the "do no significant harm" [DNSH] principle as enshrined in the EU Taxonomy Regulation. The programme also stipulates that EIC funding will not be awarded to projects that contravene the objectives of the European Green Deal, including any proposals dedicated to increasing the efficiency of fossil fuels and related technologies, for example. The Horizon Europe legislation does not mention the DNSH principle as an eligibility criterion. Neither the MFF Regulation nor the European Union Recovery Instrument Regulation require compliance with the DNSH principle. The scope of the Taxonomy Regulation is limited to measures that set out requirements for financial instruments marketed as sustainable, financial market participants that make available financial products, and undertakings which are subject to the obligation to publish a non-financial statement.

1. What is the legal basis for using the DNSH principle as an eligibility requirement for EIC projects?
2. Why does this requirement also apply to grants under the EIC?
3. In how many evaluations did the evaluator refer to the DNSH principle or environmental, social and governance criteria in general as a factor in the assessment of the application?