

**Question for written answer E-002997/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: FAST-CARE flexibility in the event of price rises and a supply crisis

The outbreak of the pandemic and the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine have resulted in an unprecedented flexibility in how cohesion funds are used. More recently still, the FAST-CARE proposal contributes to greater flexibility in the use of funds in a series of assumptions as to possible consequences of the war against Ukraine. This flexibility, which is strongly appreciated by the regions and local bodies, does more than just assist with tackling the refugee crisis; it also makes it possible to meet the sustainability criteria in the European Green Deal and cohesion policy while doing so.

To that effect, the FAST-CARE proposal permits transfers, within programmes, between thematic objectives coming under the same priority, and introduces additional flexibility between funds. The proposal envisages, in addition, exceptions being made when unforeseen and duly justified circumstances occur.

In this respect:

Could the Commission clarify whether there will be specific provisions allowing a more flexible use of funds should private companies and public authorities find themselves unable to implement projects financed by the ERDF because of problems caused by higher prices for materials and the supply crisis since the start of the war? How would these provisions be mobilised?