

**Question for written answer E-003072/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Budgetary difficulties for NGOs under the EaSI programme resulting from inflation

DG EMPL provides operating funding for approximately 20 European social NGOs. These NGOs applied for a Framework Partnership Agreement under the EaSI programme covering the period 2022–2025. At the time of applying, inflation was relatively low and there were no obvious indications that an urgent cost-of-living crisis was about to happen.

Most of the 20 NGOs falling under DG EMPL are based in Belgium, where employment legislation provides for the automatic indexation of salaries to the cost-of-living index. Some staff costs may increase by more than EUR 50 000 a year following the indexation.

Under the specific grant agreement, DG EMPL stipulated that NGOs are not allowed to increase the Commission's grant to take account of the impact of inflation. It is likely that several NGOs will have to make staff redundant and will struggle to deliver the promised outputs.

1. Does the Commission agree that NGOs funded under EaSI should be able to take account of the rising costs related to inflation, in particular salary costs?
2. Can the Commission confirm whether the same budgetary rules apply to European NGOs funded under structural programmes, or do the rules differ per programme?
3. What actions is the Commission planning to take in the short and longer term to support the NGOs which are facing a budgetary deficit because of inflation?