

**Question for written answer E-003301/2022/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Ignazio Corrao (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Inability to use NRRP funds in Sicily and the risk of a widening north-south divide

Sicily has forfeited tens of millions of euro from the NRRP in strategic sectors over the past year owing to lack of administrative capacity.

In February 2022, Palermo City Council and its municipal undertaking missed out on the call for NRRP financing for the modernisation of recycling facilities and the improvement of differentiated waste collection. Owing to a technical problem during the uploading of data, the city lost around EUR 30 million¹.

In 2021, under the call for applications for irrigation infrastructure, development consortia submitted 31 projects worth a total of EUR 400 million, but these were rejected by the Ministry of the Environment as inadmissible², making Sicily the only region in Italy not to receive any funding for this.

Another opportunity went begging when it came to funding for the modernisation of the water system as the groupings set up in Trapani, Siracusa and Messina were unable to participate in a EUR 630 million call for projects.

Despite the emergencies in the waste sector and with the water system in Sicily, resources are liable to be focused on already-developed territories with the greatest administrative capacity.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission not think this situation will widen the north-south divide in Italy, rather than narrow it?
2. How can it help to reinforce administrative capacity in the Region of Sicily as quickly as possible?
3. How it will ensure that measures of a strategic nature such as these receive financing in Sicily?

¹ That amount would have financed 15 eco-islands, 9 collection centres and one waste treatment plant.

² Ministerial Decree No 490962 of 30 September 2021