

**Question for written answer E-003327/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Łukasz Kohut (S&D)

Subject: New EU financial perspective for 2021-2027

On 17 December 2020, Council Regulation (2020/2093) laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027 was adopted.

On 30 June 2021, a package of regulations establishing common rules for the Funds (2021/1060) was published, including regulations establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (2021/1057), as well as the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF) (2021/1058). On 25 January 2022, Poland launched negotiations on the Partnership Agreement setting out the detailed conditions for the use of the funds, and on 30 June 2022, the text of the document governing the implementation of cohesion policy in the country was agreed.

After a request for intervention from NGOs, I verified the information in all 16 Marshal's Offices and in the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy (September to October 2022). I received erroneous information that the negotiation process between Poland and the Commission was ongoing and that there was no data on the implementation of the competition procedures. At the same time, intense work on the application section was ongoing under the 2014-2020 perspective.

The pandemic, rule of law issues, the NRP impasse, galloping inflation and the energy crisis are significantly affecting the finances of organisations, local governments and businesses. It is therefore of the utmost importance for the direct beneficiaries that the following questions are answered.

1. Is it known at what stage Poland is in launching the competition procedures?
2. Has a timetable been established for the mobilisation of funds, and when can they be delivered to the direct beneficiaries?
3. Can the Commission provide a definitive answer as to the cause of the delays, which are causing harm to the beneficiaries?