

**Question for written answer E-003546/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Christian Ehler (PPE)

Subject: ERDF funding from the 2014-2020 period

The current implementation period for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme for 2014-2020 runs until 31 December 2022. As a result, all services provided after 31 December 2022 are no longer eligible for funding. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to complete certain projects by the deadline. The reason for this delay is the prevailing market situation, which has been exacerbated by the war in Ukraine. Among other things, delivery issues have made it difficult to use certain materials.

The eligibility deadline for expenditure is 31 December 2023, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The Member States' authorities must submit the relevant closure documents to the Commission by 15 February 2025. Unfortunately, such expenditure cannot be used until 31 December 2023 in practice, as there would not be enough time for the necessary audit procedures. Extending the deadline for the submission of the closure documents by one year would help everybody involved.

1. Does the Commission intend to change the deadlines in order to reduce the financial burden for certain projects?
2. The funding period for the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development has been extended. Why is this not possible for the ERDF?

Submitted: 28.10.2022