

**Question for written answer E-003785/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Funding of active equipment and of operating expenditure (OPEX) in the upcoming phases of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)

The RRF allows Member States to finance 5G networks and contributes to achieving the EU's connectivity objectives that must be met by August 2026. However, some of these projects involve high operating costs that, if not considered in the call for tender, could jeopardise the viability of the projects in the long run. In Spain, for example, the financing of active equipment has not been considered in these calls for tender, except for in exceptional and successful cases such as that of the Galicia region. Consequently, no mobile network operators participated in the calls for tender.

1. In the review of the 2013 Broadband State Aid Guidelines, will the Commission propose that operating costs are covered in addition to active equipment in subsidies for network deployment?
2. Considering the delay in awarding RRF funding, is the deadline of achieving the previously established targets in 2026 going to be extended?

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