

Question for written answer E-004059/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Laura Ferrara (NI)

Subject: Calabria ROP 2014-2020: programme progress and risk of automatic decommitment

With around one year to go until the deadline for the certification of structural fund expenditure on 31 December 2023, many doubts remain as to whether the resources under Calabria ROP 2014-2020 can be fully absorbed. A total programme allocation of EUR 2 379 million (already reduced to EUR 2 267 million) would correspond to currently certified expenditure of EUR 1 295 million. The Italian Court of Auditors' regional audit office recently expressed serious misgivings about progress in spending these funds in its opinion on the general accounts of Calabria Region: 'Although the spending targets for 2018-2021 were met, serious doubts remain as to whether objectives for 31 December 2023 will be. Given that between one financial year and the next, the difference in certified expenditure has never been more than EUR 300 million, if we extrapolate this, the EU objective for 2023 appears unattainable.' In the light of the above:

1. Can the Commission say whether the regional authorities have submitted a general proposal to amend the programme to ensure that the funds under the ERDF and ESF programmes are fully absorbed, as indicated at the most recent monitoring committee?
2. Does it consider the risk of the automatic decommitment of resources to have been averted, including in the light of the very recent regulatory changes introducing greater spending flexibility?

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