

Question for written answer E-004067/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Rosa Estaràs Ferragut (PPE)

Subject: Revision of the Regulation on de minimis aid

The draft revision of the Regulation on de minimis aid tabled by the European Commission on 15 November 2022 does not contain specific provisions for island territories.

However, these territories suffer from severe and permanent disadvantages such as those referred to in Article 174 TFEU, resulting in substantial additional costs for local businesses, making it impossible for them to compete on a level internal market playing field.

As a result many business sectors are disappearing from the islands or have already done so, inevitably leaving tourism as their sole economic mainstay.

The rules on de minimis aid should accordingly be tailored to the specific needs of islands, enabling their businesses to compete on an equal footing with mainland companies.

In particular, it is necessary to include a specific de minimis ceiling and greater flexibility regarding implementation of these rules in the territories affected.

In view of this:

1. Will the Commission reconsider the incorporation of specific provisions for island territories in the de minimis rules?
2. Would it be willing to engage in an in-depth discussion of this issue with political, social and economic stakeholders on the islands in question?

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