

**Question for written answer E-000704/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Revision of Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 (de minimis Regulation) to raise thresholds and reduce the administrative burden

The Commission's draft revision of the de minimis Regulation finally provides for an increase of the de minimis thresholds, but only from EUR 200 000 to EUR 275 000 (from EUR 100 000 to EUR 137 500 for road haulage companies).

The de minimis thresholds have remained unchanged since 2006, and an increase is long overdue given both the overall economic climate and current rates of inflation. Local government planning has been significantly affected by the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and rising construction and energy costs. Public investment at local authority level is, meanwhile, taking on an ever greater role in achieving the EU's objectives. It is widely agreed that subsidies, especially in rural areas, help to ensure greater equality in living conditions (economic, social and territorial cohesion). However, the draft regulation also introduces a compulsory transparency register, which increases the administrative burden for aid providers without any apparent added value.

1. To what extent does the Commission believe that the planned rises in the thresholds take into account aid providers' contribution in achieving the Union's climate change and digitalisation objectives and fostering its overall economic development in the Union beyond inflation?
2. How much attention does the Commission pay to the overall objective of fostering more equal living conditions, enshrined in primary law in Article 174 TFEU, when considering de minimis aid in rural areas?
3. What use will the Commission make of a new compulsory transparency register for de minimis aid?

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