

**Question for written answer E-000917/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Gianantonio Da Re (ID)

Subject: Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions regarding the Commission's long-term vision for EU rural areas up to 2024

On 15 March, the European Committee of the Regions adopted an opinion on rural areas and their development, pointing out that 'the long-term vision for EU rural areas up to 2024' presented by the Commission in June 2021 requires the leadership and partnership of rural and local communities as part of the 'smart village' project, as well as secure and sustainable access to digital infrastructure and skills. The opinion also highlights the importance of cooperation between municipalities in solving problems at local level and bridging the development gaps between rural and urban areas.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say what measures it plans to take in line with the observations of the European Committee of the Regions?
2. Will it encourage cooperation with rural municipalities and local authorities to promote the development of these areas?

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