

**Question for written answer E-001410/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Seán Kelly (PPE)

Subject: Access to PEACE PLUS funding in Northern Ireland

In July 2022, the Commission adopted the PEACE PLUS programme – a welcome financial investment by the EU, Ireland and the UK – to support peace and reconciliation across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.

The thematic areas of the programme include a focus on community building and investing in young people, as well as an emphasis on local partnerships. This is particularly important in the post-Brexit context, as the loss of access to the European Social Fund is significantly affecting the community and voluntary sector in Northern Ireland.

In this regard:

1. Can the Commission provide more information on the governance structures and management of the EU's contribution to the PEACE PLUS programme?
2. Will the relevant community groups and non-governmental organisations have the opportunity to contribute to the operation of the programme?
3. The structure of the PEACE PLUS programme, which relies on tendering and can require participating organisations to match funding, can make it difficult for smaller community groups to access funding. Can the Commission ensure that pathways are in place for all relevant community groups to access funding in Northern Ireland?

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