

**Question for written answer E-001679/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Alessandro Panza (ID)

Subject: Details regarding ways of making EU funding more accessible to businesses

According to the research office of the Mestre Association of Crafts and Small Businesses (CGIA), only 54% of the EUR 64.8 billion in European cohesion funding allocated to Italy for the 2014-2020 programming period has been spent, with the remaining 46% (amounting to around EUR 29.8 billion) now at risk unless invested by December 2023.

In this regard, one of the problems most frequently raised by the business community is the difficulty of accessing EU funding, for which the criteria are unclear and ambiguous.

A growing number of businesses are now applying for EU funding in response to successive economic crises since 2020, with the Commission seeking calls for proposals to this end. In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say whether it is envisaging 'twin-track' funding arrangements, with 50% being non-repayable and 25% accorded at concessionary rates?
2. Will funding accorded in response to applications from businesses be in addition to that received from other sources (such as EIB or EIF)?

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