

**Question for written answer E-001799/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Regional competitiveness index and the future of the cohesion policy

At the end of March the Commission published the regional competitiveness index. It shows that there are still significant disparities among EU regions, but also that the competitiveness of less developed regions is improving. The not-so-good news is that between the 2019 and 2022 releases, most Eastern regions of the EU continued to lag behind, with parts of the Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, and Bulgaria drifting even further from the EU average. This is, I believe, regrettable, but it also speaks to the enduring importance of cohesion policy, which is far from exhausted. Does the Commission agree with this statement, and what specific conclusions does it draw from the fact that some regions still lag behind in terms of their activities?

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