

Question for written answer E-001825/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Hannes Heide (S&D)

Subject: Refusal to allocate cohesion funds for transport and mobility in Upper Austria

Cohesion is one of the pillars of the European Union. A third of the EU budget is allocated to European Regional Policy. Austria receives over EUR 1 billion from various cohesion funds.

Cohesion Policy in Austria, especially in Upper Austria, focuses on research and innovation, small and medium enterprises and reducing CO₂ emissions from industry.

Although these areas are crucial, the issue of public transport infrastructure and mobility in rural areas has often been raised in dialogues with municipalities and representatives of rural areas. Rural areas lack good public transport infrastructure, and a solution for the 'last mile', i.e. the distance between public transport stations and people's homes, requires innovative solutions and financial support.

The state of Upper Austria has underlined its commitment to transport, mobility and the last mile in its applications for various cohesion funds. However, the state of Upper Austria claims that the Commission has refused funding for its transport priorities.

Therefore:

- 1) Did the Commission refuse to allocate cohesion fund resources for transport infrastructure and mobility in the rural areas of Austria and specifically in Upper Austria?
- 2) Why did the Commission focus the allocation of cohesion funds (the European Regional Development Fund and the Just Transition Fund) for Austria on industries and not include social topics, culture and sustainable tourism?

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