

**Question for written answer E-002151/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The funding gap faced by the EU Copernicus programme

The services currently provided by the EU Copernicus programme are crucial, most notably for supporting EU crisis management and achieving the goals of the Green Deal. However, to truly live up to the ambitions of the Green Deal, the infrastructure needs to be enhanced beyond the capabilities of the existing satellites. Six Sentinel Expansion missions are currently being developed to provide additional information about CO₂ emissions, support sustainable agriculture and biodiversity management, address Arctic user needs, predict droughts, and more besides.

However, the programme is at risk because of a EUR 721 million funding gap, which has resulted from the financial impact of Brexit on the EU budget. If it is not resolved, this funding gap will not only affect the continuity and advancement of Copernicus services but will also lead to increased non-recurring costs when missions resume.

1. Can the Commission clarify the consequences for the programme and its services if the funding gap is not resolved?
2. What action is the Commission taking to find alternative funding options?
3. Is it not essential that the Commission protect this crucial European infrastructure that supports the Green Deal, particularly as the impact of climate change on EU citizens is worsening every year?

Submitted: 6.7.2023