

**Question for written answer E-002194/2023**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Laura Ferrara (NI)**

**Subject:** 2014-2020 Regional Operational Programme (ROP) for Calabria: reprogramming proposal or a rush to spend money?

At the Monitoring Committee meeting of 6 July 2023, the region of Calabria submitted a draft reprogramming proposal to secure the ROP for 2014-2020.

This comes on top of the many revisions and adjustments to Calabria's ROP in recent years, which have significantly modified – and not to say distorted – its original structure.

To meet the EU final expenditure target, at least EUR 434 million in new spending will have to be incurred, according to regional-department projections, bringing total outlay to more than EUR 550 million. This comes some five months ahead of the final programming deadline.

These figures, as well as an analysis of the reprogramming proposal, raise doubts as to what this adjustment entails, given that it seems to constitute a rush to spend money rather than a path towards achieving genuine EU programming objectives.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission regard exceeding maximum flexibility between axes (15 %), laid down in Regulation (EU) 2022/2039, as being in line with EU legislation and programming objectives?
2. Does it regard the projected EUR 120 million allocation for the new SAFE axis as being in line with the ROP's objectives?
3. Can it say what the total amount is for operations under Article 65(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 that has already been charged to the 2014-2020 programming period?

Submitted: 12.7.2023