

**Question for written answer E-003714/2023/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Need to encourage and promote cultural policies in rural and mountain areas in the EU

In recent decades, mountain, rural and peripheral areas have suffered considerable depopulation, which continues today, due to a variety of causes, be these economic, social or even cultural.

Between 1951 and now, there has been a demographic collapse of 26.4 % in Italy's rural areas (around 6.7 million inhabitants have moved to urban areas).

This demographic collapse has also had an often underestimated aspect, namely the impact on culture. The traditions, culture and history of the inhabitants of areas affected by depopulation are in danger of disappearing for want of the communities needed to keep them alive.

Given the above:

1. Does the Commission intend to invest in the development and repopulation of rural areas through cultural initiatives?
2. How could the Commission help to safeguard the traditions and history of rural and mountain populations?

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