

**Question for written answer E-000011/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Elisabetta Gualmini (S&D)

Subject: Closure of the bakery in Sassatella (Municipality of Frassinoro - Modena, Italy)

The 'Piacentini' bakery in Sassatella is the only such business in the mountain municipality of Frassinoro (in the province of Modena), the highest (at 1 131 metres) in the Apennines in Emilia-Romagna. This family-run business is an essential amenity for the local community in this isolated district of only 1 725 people in Italy's remote mountainous interior.

However, after 43 years of uninterrupted business, the owners have been forced to close their doors as of 31 December 2023. This was brought in by the need to certify and upgrade the bakery's equipment, a very costly investment for a small artisanal bakery in a mountainous area. The closure of the 'Piacentini' bakery not only deprives the citizens of Sassatella of a vital service, but also marks a further step towards the depopulation of an already sparsely populated area.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission think that rules on energy efficiency and modernisation, applied on a 'one fits all' basis, need to be reassessed for small mountain districts?
2. Are there any structural or specific funds that can be brought to bear in cases like this?

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