

**Question for written answer E-000785/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Matteo Gazzini (PPE)**

Subject: Funding for the maintenance and improvement of local road networks

For some time now, villages and small towns in Italy and throughout the EU have been experiencing demographic decline and a population shift towards major urban centres, which offer better job prospects and more efficient services. These villages and towns are stuck in a vicious circle, as falling population levels also reduce their tax revenue and thus their ability to maintain and upgrade local road infrastructure, further aggravating the problem.

While this trend will have an adverse societal impact on villages and small towns, it will also lower the transport network density and accessibility of certain regions, effectively undermining the free movement of goods and persons.

In the light of the above, does the Commission intend to allocate funding for small communities with a view to ensuring that road infrastructure is efficient and that all EU regions can be easily accessed?

Submitted: 13.3.2024