Question for oral answer O-000015/2021 to the Commission Rule 136 Katalin Cseh on behalf of the Renew Group

Subject: Respecting the partnership principle in National Recovery and Resilience Plans and ensuring good governance of spending

Member States have been requested to present their National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs) by 30 April 2021. The Commission has shown commitment to making these plans consistent with the objectives of the European Green Deal, the digital transformation and economic, social and territorial cohesion, as well as increasing crisis preparedness and delivering on policies for the next generation. It has also stressed many times that the involvement of local stakeholders such as municipal governments, NGOs and civil society organisations (CSOs) in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of NRRPs is of the utmost importance. This principle is endorsed by the European Parliament and its committees.

However, regions, municipalities, NGOs and other CSOs are raising the alarm that these targets are far from being met. Several Member States have not been sharing the draft of their NRRPs with local stakeholders, which makes submitting proper input impossible. There is an alarming lack of any formal consultation or working groups accessible to municipal governments, NGOs and CSOs.

Greater public scrutiny and consultation with local stakeholders would bring much-needed political accountability. Such transparency is key to avoiding corruption, would foster innovation, provide a better overview of grassroots challenges, and ultimately lead to the achievement of the EU's political ambitions for green, digital and inclusive growth.

- 1. Does the Commission intend to propose an assessment tool to ensure that the criterion of Member States consulting municipal governments, NGOs and CSOs is respected?
- 2. Achieving quality spending that minimises fraud and corruption requires good governance. The Recovery and Resilience Facility is no exception. In this context, when will the Commission make an integrated and interoperable information and monitoring system available to the Member States, including a single data-mining and risk-scoring tool to access and analyse data on the final beneficiaries of EU funds? How does the Commission intend to ensure that Member States make use of such tools with a view to their generalised application?

Submitted: 03/03/2021

Lapses: 04/06/2021