

**Question for oral answer O-000003/2024
to the Council**

Rule 136

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on behalf of the Renew Group

Subject: Calling on the Council to take all necessary steps to reach an agreement on the European cross-border mechanism file and open negotiations with Parliament

The proposal for a European cross-border mechanism regulation published in May 2018 by the Commission would have set up a mechanism to allow for the removal of administrative and legal obstacles hampering the implementation of a joint project in a cross-border region. On 2 October 2019, following a first-reading adoption, Parliament voted to open interinstitutional negotiations. On 10 May 2021, the Council Working Party on Structural Measures decided it would not continue work on the proposal.

Following a protracted stalemate, Parliament made use of its treaty prerogatives pursuant to Article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to request the Commission to submit a new revised proposal. Parliament's report proposed the establishment of a Border Regions' Instrument for Development and Growth in the EU, which deeply streamlined and simplified the 2018 Commission proposal by taking into account the reasonable legal concerns of the Council. A wide cross-group majority in plenary supported Parliament's resolution in September 2023.

The Commission replied positively to Parliament's resolution by adopting a revised proposal for a regulation on 12 December 2023. Parliament reiterates its readiness to start interinstitutional negotiations on the basis of the decision of the Committee responsible of 2 October 2019.

1. Is the Council aware that, according to analyses of the Commission and of Parliament, said mechanism could make a strong contribution to removing barriers, which cause losses at the EU level of EUR 457 billion every year, and cost around 4 million jobs?
2. Is the Council aware that the triggering of the mechanism under the amended proposal for a regulation is of a purely voluntary nature and would not in any way impact international agreements on cross-border cooperation already in force in Member States?
3. Is the Council committed to launching interinstitutional negotiations on the European cross-border mechanism as soon as possible, with a view to reaching a political agreement among the co-legislators before the end of the legislative cycle?

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Lapses: 25.4.2024