

**Question for written answer P-012569/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Siegfried Mureşan (PPE)

Subject: EARDF funding for peri-urban areas in Romania

Under EU legislation the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EARDF) funding is directed towards rural areas of the Union. However, in certain Member States, such as Romania, there is legal confusion about the definition of rural areas. For example, certain villages, although they are, obviously, from a development point of view, rural areas, are in fact subordinate from an administrative point of view to municipalities. This subordination transforms such areas as well as other peri-urban areas, in legal terms, into parts of towns or municipalities, thus excluding them from the scope of the EARDF funding opportunities. The primary responsibility for ensuring a coherent legal status of the above-mentioned areas lies with the national authorities. Nevertheless, the Romanian National Rural Development Programme is responsible for the definition of the 'rural areas' and continues to exclude from the scope of the EARDF certain villages under the administrative subordination of towns or municipalities, although it is a proven fact that their inhabitants are mainly engaged in agricultural activities.

Is the Commission aware of the situation and did it propose solutions to the Romanian authorities during the approval process of the National Rural Development Programme?

Are there any solutions offering a greater degree of flexibility by the Commission when evaluating the eligibility from EARDF funding of such peri-urban areas?