

**Priority question for written answer P-003579/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Krzysztof Hetman** (PPE)

Subject: Funding allocation for rural development under the ERDF

The Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund (COM(2018)372) entered into force on 1 July. Member States are currently in the process of drawing up and negotiating their regional operational programmes, in which they will set out their management plans for the two funds.

In accordance with the regulation, Member States should allocate a minimum of 8% of ERDF funding under 'Investment for growth and jobs' to urban development, but it does not specify a minimum allocation for rural areas. In light of the above:

Given the absence of a specific percentage for the rural allocation, would the Commission accept a high (or low) level of allocation for rural development if duly justified, corresponding to the characteristics of the region concerned and resulting from the objectives of the strategy adopted for that area?