

**Priority question for written answer P-005469/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Marlene Mortler (PPE)

Subject: ERDF deadline extension – museum project in Leutershausen

A modern and attractive museum is set to be opened in Leutershausen. It will focus on the most famous son of the city: Gustav Weisskopf and the puzzle surrounding the first powered flight. The exhibits will include numerous test and experimentation stations concerning physical phenomena which make human flight possible.

The museum project has been delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, with tenders outstanding, work not completed due to illness and supply shortages. Since the museum's completion date had to be postponed to the end of 2022, there may be a significant impact on EU funding under the ERDF programme, as deadlines determined by the programme can no longer be met. The Bavarian State Ministry of Science and the Arts is also refusing to allow a deadline extension on the basis of the deadlines laid down by the EU, which are being adhered to.

1. Is the Commission aware that the rigid deadlines are causing local authorities in the Union huge financial damage?
2. In light of the pandemic, can the Commission extend the funding period for the museum project in Leutershausen? Otherwise the city will not be able to make up for the funding approved for the project?
3. What does the Commission intend to do specifically to support similar valuable projects despite the pandemic situation and its impact?