Priority question for written answer P-002072/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Nora Mebarek (S&D)

Subject: Extending the term of programmes funded under cohesion policy 2014-2020

The combined impact of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine is affecting the implementation of EU policies. Cohesion policy, which has been largely mobilised to deal with the health emergency and the consequences of the war, has been particularly hard hit.

Today, local authorities, businesses and associations are warning that operations supported by the European structural and investment funds are being postponed, mainly owing to the unavailability of raw materials or general cost increases.

The response from the Commission’s staff that these operations should be held over until the 2021-2027 programming period is not good enough, both because they may not receive financing in this period and the need to support stakeholders means we need to marshal all available funds.

1. Will the Commission therefore consider, as it did in 2009 during the financial crisis and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Internal Security Fund, extending the eligibility period for funding from the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund 2014-2020 by one year?

2. If not, will it consider extending the last accounting year to cover all projects until 31 December 2023?