



0075/2016

12.9.2016

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on facilitating the access of regional and local authorities to European  
Structural and Investment Funds

**Jozo Radoš (ALDE), Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE), Patricija Šulin (PPE),  
Nedzhmi Ali (ALDE), Dubravka Šuica (PPE), Brian Hayes (PPE), Tomáš  
Zdechovský (PPE), Pavel Poc (S&D), Hannu Takkula (ALDE), Franc  
Bogovič (PPE), Petras Auštrevičius (ALDE)**

Lapse date: 12.12.2016

**Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on facilitating the access of regional and local authorities to European Structural and Investment Funds<sup>1</sup>**

1. With a budget of EUR 454 billion for 2014-2020, the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs) are the European Union's main investment policy tool.
2. The EU policy framework 2014-2020 aims to foster better access to ESIFs for regional and local authorities with the new infrastructure investments. This will help EU countries, especially less developed regions such as rural, mountainous and remote areas and inland regions, to improve people's living standards and make their businesses more competitive.
3. In many EU countries, a number of regional and local authorities are often excluded from EU funding and/or exposed to unequal access to resources due to political fluctuations and weak administrative capacity.
4. The Commission is called upon to consider initiatives which aim to facilitate access to EU funding, for instance via a 'standardised set of projects' (e.g. building local roads or water supply systems) and common guidelines for the Member States' co-financing schemes for local and regional authorities.
5. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Commission.

---

<sup>1</sup> Under Rule 136(4) and (5) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, where a declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament's component Members, it is published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.