

**Question for written answer E-002331/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Horizon Europe: lump sum funding

Lump sum funding is now widely adopted in all parts of the Horizon Europe framework programme (FP), marking a major shift in the financial management of EU-funded research, development and innovation (RD&I) projects. Promises of a reduced administrative burden have largely failed to materialise; no financial reporting does not mean that there is no need for adequate financial management. Feedback on running projects still needs to be collected and considered so that further improvements can be made. In addition, this feedback should ensure that lump sum funding is only used when deemed appropriate, taking into account the complexity, technical and economic uncertainty, and scope of EU-funded RD&I projects and consortia (and not merely used as a measure for reducing the FP error rate).

1. What criteria does the Commission use to decide whether to apply lump sum funding to a call or not?
2. What is the legal basis for inviting evaluators to assess lump sum budget tables in project proposals?
3. What additional measures is the Commission planning to take to simplify the use of lump sum funding for beneficiaries while maintaining legal certainty?

Submitted: 30.10.2024