

Question for written answer E-002529/2024

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Protecting the rural development programme and the impact of Italy having decriminalised abuse of office: the case of Umbria

Following the decriminalisation of abuse of office¹, Perugia's preliminary investigation judge recently granted the request made by Perugia's public prosecutor's office to discontinue the case against the President of Umbria and the Regional Minister for European Programming, who had been under investigation for abuse of office in an inquiry into the use of EU funds for rural development².

Italy's decriminalisation of abuse of office raises serious concerns about the protection of the resources allocated through EU funding programmes.

It will have a significant impact on the management of EU funds, especially in cases where there is a risk of conflict of interest. The case of the President of Umbria³ raises questions as to whether rural development funds can be managed transparently. In this context, EU legislation⁴, such as the rules on conflicts of interest⁵, will have a key role to play in ensuring that EU funds are safeguarded from potentially harmful dynamics.

In view of the above:

1. In response to the decriminalisation of abuse of office, what measures could the Commission take to boost transparency and integrity in the management of EU funds in Italy?
2. Can it look over the allocation of rural development programme resources in Umbria and check that there are no potential conflicts of interest⁶?
3. Can it carry out an impact assessment on the decriminalisation of abuse of office and the repercussions it could have on the management of EU funds?

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¹ Law No 114 of 2024.

² <https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2024/10/31/labuso-dufficio-non-e-piu-reato-la-procura-di-perugia-chiede-e-ottiene-di-archiviare-lindagine-sulla-presidente-dellumbria-tesei/7750636/>.

³ EUR 10 700 000 call for tender for the establishment of the Umbrian truffle supply chain won by five Umbrian companies: EUR 4 800 000 went to Urbani Tartufi, the family business of councillor Agabiti, where one of President Tesei's sons also works: <https://www.perugiatoday.it/cronaca/umbria-regione-tesei-agabiti-indagate-abuso-ufficio-archiviazione-accolta.html>.

⁴ Article 61 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018.

⁵ <https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/protection-eu-budget/conflict-interest>.

⁶ <https://www.perugiatoday.it/cronaca/umbria-regione-tesei-agabiti-indagate-abuso-ufficio-archiviazione-accolta.html>.