

**Question for written answer E-002843/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Georgios Aftias (PPE)

Subject: Measures to support Western Macedonia

As you know, Western Macedonia is facing major problems in terms of new jobs, creating new medium-intensity enterprises, retaining young workers in their local area and attracting innovative business plans. Significant efforts have been made in all these directions in recent years but your support would be pivotal for the region. The exodus of young people needs to be contained and local businesses need to be supported.

Local stakeholders, regions, municipalities and workers are sounding the alarm and asking for full financial backing for the region. The Commission should strengthen essential infrastructure in Western Macedonia that will be instrumental in the evolution of the production model and the smooth transition towards a permanent process of economic growth.

In view of the above:

1. What steps, besides the Just Development Transition programme, can the Commission take for the creation of new businesses in Western Macedonia?
2. How can new jobs be financed?
3. Does it intend to adopt policies to support youth entrepreneurship to encourage young people to stay in their area/region?

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