

**Question for written answer E-002734/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Anna Zalewska (ECR)

Subject: Recovery and Resilience Fund: implementation under threat

The EU Recovery and Resilience Fund was supposed to be a fast-track source of funding for the EU economy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the EUR 800 billion earmarked under the facility, however, only EUR 150 billion has so far been paid out to 18 countries. Nine countries (Poland, Germany, Hungary, Estonia, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands, Belgium and Ireland) have yet to receive any funding.

There is now a new risk that EU countries will not be able to make use of the funding allocated to them. The Commission is completely ignoring this problem and is taking no action whatsoever.

Member States have to submit a payment request to the Commission to obtain funding. Payment can only be made, however, once the 'milestones' have been reached – i.e. certain investment conditions have been met. If the conditions devised by the Commission – which are completely unrelated to specific investments – are not met, then the disbursement of funding is blocked.

The Commission is borrowing on behalf of the EU on the capital markets in order to finance the national recovery and resilience plans.

When the national recovery and resilience plans were established, EUR 14.9 billion was earmarked for interest payments in the 2021-2027 budget. Interest rates are now significantly higher than they were then, which means that the EUR 14.9 billion will have been used up by the summer of 2023, more than four years earlier than originally planned.

The Commissioner for the Economy, Paolo Gentiloni, recently stated that 'simulations show that loan servicing costs will reach EUR 34 billion for the period 2021-2026'.

1. Does the Commission see no risk to the implementation of the national recovery and resilience plans?
2. Where does the Commission plan to get the money to pay for the increased loan servicing costs?
3. Is the Commission planning to take account of the effects of the war in Ukraine (inflation, energy prices, refugees) in the national recovery and resilience plans?

Submitted: 20.9.2023