

**Question for written answer E-002817/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Álvaro Amaro (PPE), Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar (PPE), Lúcia Pereira (PPE), José Manuel Fernandes (PPE)**

**Subject:** Clarification regarding advance payments and flexibility in the use of the Structural Funds as part of measures to combat the pandemic

Having regard to a communication forwarded to us by the Agricultural Federation of the Azores - an organisation representing farmers in an outermost region of the EU, whose specific problems are well established and recognised by the Treaties, namely by Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - explaining the sharp deterioration of prices in the destination markets for their products, namely dairy products, vegetables, flowers, meat and wine; and bearing in mind the measures to combat COVID-19 presented by the Commission, in particular the possibility of making transfers between the Structural Funds, and bearing in mind also the questions posed by Álvaro Amaro, MEP, at the hearing on 30 April to the Commissioner for Agriculture whose answers we consider unsatisfactory; we now ask the Commission in writing:

1. Does it envisage bringing forward payments to July, at a rate of 85% for direct payments and 90% for rural development?
2. Does it intend to introduce some flexibility with regard to transfers of funds between the European Structural and Investment Funds, as part of measures to address the pandemic, in order to include the second pillar of the CAP?
3. Will it consider channelling more funding for market measures so that it can also support the pork, suckling-pig and poultry sectors?

**Supporters<sup>1</sup>**

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