

**Priority question for written answer P-003676/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Request for PAEF-RAM principal and interest repayment moratorium

In January 2012, the Autonomous Region of Madeira (RAM) signed up to the Portuguese Economic and Financial Adjustment Programme (PAEF-RAM) in a bid to stabilise its financial situation. Given the need to meet the cost of COVID-19 containment measures and provide assistance for families and businesses affected, the regional authorities have now asked the Portuguese Government to grant a moratorium on PAEF-RAM principal and interest repayments. Since no reply was forthcoming, the matter was raised in the Portuguese Parliament and referred to the Finance Minister, who replied that, in the absence of any EU provisions for moratoriums between public entities, between states and regions or between states, Madeira's request could not be granted.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say whether there is any EU legal impediment to granting the moratorium being sought by the Regional Government of Madeira on repayment of a loan between two public entities, in this case between central and regional government?
2. If the Portuguese Government is entitled to reduce PAEF-RAM interest rates and extend the repayment period, should it not also be empowered to grant payment moratoriums?

Supporter¹

¹ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Maria da Graça Carvalho (PPE)