

# European Scrutiny Committee

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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From: Sir William Cash MP

7 May 2020

Lord Callanan  
Minister for Climate Change and Corporate Responsibility  
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0ET

## **CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE INVESTMENT INITIATIVE**

**(a) 6816/20 Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 as regards specific measures to mobilise investments in the health care systems of the Member States and in other sectors of their economies in response to the COVID-19 outbreak (41137)**

**(b) 7154/20 Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 as regards specific measures to provide exceptional flexibility for the use of the European Structural and Investments Funds in response to the COVID-19 outbreak (41176)**

We have considered your Explanatory Memoranda (EMs) of 27 March and 22 April 2020 on the above documents and note that we set out in our Report of 1 April our areas of interest in respect of these documents.

We note that it is for Managing Authorities to decide whether to make use of the flexibilities offered by the Regulations. It would be helpful if you could set out for us the latest state of play on UK uptake of this flexibility, along with latest estimates of the potential levels of funding available to the UK should UK Managing Authorities wish to avail themselves of the possibilities granted by these Regulations.

We were disappointed that your EM of 22 April on the CRII Plus did not respond to the queries that we put in our Report of 1 April. We therefore reiterate our request for the following information:

- the UK's position on the potential benefits (for the UK) of the proposed changes to the allocation and availability of the ESI Funds; and
- to what extent the UK is likely to devote its outstanding ESI Funds to projects dealing with the repercussions of the coronavirus.

Your EM of 22 April made no specific comment on the potential for the UK of the flexibilities contained within the CRII Plus Regulation, including the proposed changes to the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). In your response to the queries set out above, we ask that you include comment on the changes to the EAFRD as well as the other proposed amendments.

We ask that you respond within ten working days.

I am copying this letter to Lord Kinnoull, Chair of the House of Lords European Union Committee, and Chris Johnson, Clerk of the Lords European Union Committee; Les Saunders at the Department for Exiting the European Union; and the EU scrutiny team in your Department.

**CHAIR**