

**Question for written answer E-007021/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Stéphanie Yon-Courtin** (Renew)

Subject: The RRF and competition in telecoms markets

While Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) funding should be invested to promote 5G and Gigabit connectivity across Europe, it is vital to preserve fair and sustainable competition in telecoms markets. The RRF should not reinforce the position of dominant telecoms operators in the single market. Member States might also be tempted to attribute funding to state-owned or state-backed companies that were in financial trouble even prior to the COVID-19 crisis. Italy, for example, is considering re-establishing a fixed broadband monopoly through the merger of the incumbent operator, Telecom Italia, with its main infrastructure competitor, Open Fiber. RRF funding could then be channelled into the merged entity in order to finance fibre deployment. The RRF should not be used to distort competition and hamper end-user welfare in European telecoms markets, turning the clock back to the pre-liberalisation era.

1. Has the Commission put in place an oversight mechanism to ensure that funding from the RRF is not used to distort competition within the telecommunications sector?
2. Can the Commission confirm that Member States will be subjected to strong scrutiny, especially when they choose to support state-owned or state-backed undertakings?
3. What powers does the Commission have, with regard to telecoms policy, antitrust and merger control, to prevent the re-monopolisation of EU telecoms markets?