

**Question for written answer E-003914/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Bogdan Rzońca (ECR)

Subject: Ensuring the equal treatment of Podkarpackie and other border regions in the future cohesion policy (2028-2034)

In its proposal for a regulation establishing the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime affairs, prosperity and security for the period 2028-2034 (COM/2025/565), the Commission rightly highlights the importance of border and rural regions.

However, the definition of ‘eastern border regions’ in Annexes V and VII only includes regions bordering Russia and Belarus, excluding regions that border Ukraine, such as the Podkarpackie region. This does not reflect geopolitical realities, Podkarpackie’s role as the EU’s gateway to the East, or the region’s humanitarian, economic and logistical role in supporting Ukraine.

In addition, the proposal involves centralising the management of the cohesion policy within the framework of the National and Regional Partnership Plan, limiting the participation of regional governments that have proven experience in implementing EU funds.

Taking the above into consideration:

1. How does the Commission intend to ensure that regions bordering Ukraine, including Podkarpackie, are fully recognised and receive targeted support in the post-2027 cohesion policy?
2. What mechanisms will ensure the effective and decisive participation of regional authorities in programming and delivering EU funds?
3. Will the Commission commit to maintaining a separate guaranteed envelope for border regions that fulfil a strategic role for the EU as a whole?

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