

**Question for written answer E-004349/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Irmhild Boßdorf (ESN)

Subject: Level of error in cohesion policy rises to 6.6 % – control system failures and lack of consequences for EU funds

In its 2025 annual report¹, the European Court of Auditors once again highlighted significant weaknesses in the legality and regularity of EU expenditure. Cohesion policy presents a particularly worrying development: the estimated level of error went up from 5.7 % in 2024 to 6.6 % in 2025 – 3.3 times the materiality threshold of 2 %. This is also significantly higher than the overall estimated level of error in EU budget expenditure, which stands at 3.8 %. Cohesion policy is therefore a key risk area with regard to the regularity of EU spending, raising questions about the effectiveness of control and sanction mechanisms in place.

Against this background, questions arise as to the financial impact of the identified errors, the specific projects in which infringements occurred and how the Commission intends to ensure the systematic recovery of unlawfully used funds and prevent repeated infringements. It should also clarify how beneficiaries or intermediate bodies should be prevented from receiving further EU funding following repeated serious infringements.

1. What is the estimated financial impact – expressed in EUR – of the errors in cohesion policy in 2025?
2. In relation to which specific cohesion policy projects or expenditure items were infringements identified as part of the sample audit, and what amounts were recovered or subject to financial corrections as a result?
3. In the event of infringements, does the Commission plan to take steps to exclude beneficiaries or competent bodies from further funding until the deficiencies have been demonstrably rectified, or to include them on an EU-wide risk list?

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¹ https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/publications/ar-2025-infographic?mtm_campaign=youmayalsobeinterestedin&mtm_kwd=relatedpublication&mtm_source=op-2026-04&mtm_content=annual%20report%20on%20the%20eu%20finances%20-%20key%20facts%20and%20figures%20for%202025.