

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001622/24
to the Commission
Oihane Agirregoitia Martínez (Renew)
(4 September 2024)**

Subject: Post-2027 multiannual financial framework cohesion policy and the role of regions

A number of scenarios are being assessed for the post-2027 multiannual financial framework. One of them would be to end shared-management programmes and group them into a single national plan, one per Member State, an idea similar to the current Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), the payment of which is linked to reforms and investments. In that scenario, it would be very difficult to ensure that sub-state authorities are involved in the setting of spending and investment priorities.

Cohesion policy must be available to all regions, following a territorial approach and upholding the principles of partnership and subsidiarity. Regions must play a greater role in policy implementation by means of shared management and multi-level governance and enhanced dialogue with the European Commission.

These concerns have been conveyed to President von der Leyen in a letter signed by 124 regions.

In view of the above:

Can the Commission confirm that a scenario of that kind exists and, if so, how would it ensure that the regions, as provided for in Article 174 TFEU, continue to set, implement and manage cohesion policy as a tangible solution that can address many challenges?

Submitted: 4.9.2024

**Answer given by Ms Ferreira on behalf of the European Commission
(18 October 2024)**

There is still no proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework. The current legislation requires the Commission to make such a proposal only in mid-2025.

In her political guidelines, the President of the Commission, put forward ‘a plan for each country linking key reforms with investment, and focusing on our joint priorities, including promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion’ ⁽¹⁾.

At the same time the President also stressed in these guidelines that the European Union needs a ‘strengthened cohesion and growth policy with regions at its centre’, and that cohesion policy needs to be designed ‘in partnership with national, regional, and local authorities’.

The Commission’s Communication on the ninth Cohesion Report adopted on 27 March 2024 ⁽²⁾ already emphasised that any future change to Cohesion Policy or any new delivery model needs to be aligned with the Treaty objective of economic, social and territorial cohesion, including the importance of its place-based dimension, partnership principle, as well as regions as core of its multi-level governance.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2020-04/political-guidelines-next-commission_en_0.pdf

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information-sources/cohesion-report_en