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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.11.2024)

As specified in the Commission's reply to the Special Report 14/2024 of the European Court of Auditors' (ECA)¹, the Commission applies, in its calculations of the climate contribution of the national recovery and resilience plans (RRPs), the methodology and specific coefficients that were established by the Parliament and Council in the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) Regulation. Annex VI of the RRF Regulation provides a list of intervention fields with specific climate coefficients².

Since the ECA has not detected any error or misclassification in the Commission's calculations, the ECA's conclusion of 'likely overestimations' of EUR 34.5 billion is thus the mathematical consequence of the ECA using a different methodology and different climate coefficients than those set in the RRF Regulation by the co-legislators.

The Commission has invested substantial resources into developing and proposing a sound methodology under RRF to track and report on climate spending in the EU budget, as adopted by the Parliament and the Council, and it considers that the methodology provided in the RRF Regulation and applied by the Commission led to a sufficient level of accuracy. The Commission is also pursuing opportunities to improve its climate mainstreaming methodology and takes note of all relevant information, including audit findings.

The Commission ensures a high degree of transparency about the climate contribution of national RRFs, for instance by publishing the RRF Annual Reports and by regularly updating the Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard.

¹ See: <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/publications/SR-2024-14>;
https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECARepplies/COM-Replies-SR-2024-14/COM-Replies-SR-2024-14_EN.pdf

² OJ L 057 18.2.2021, p. 17.