

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.1.2025)

1. The Commission provides dedicated assistance in Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to support the regions at the EU's northeastern external border to manage the consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

EUR 150 million from the European Regional Development Fund, initially allocated for Interreg programmes with Russia and Belarus, have been reallocated to internal Cross-Border Cooperation programmes to expand cooperation opportunities between the EU regions bordering Russia and Belarus and other EU regions.

The eastern border regions in all concerned Member States benefit from substantial cohesion policy funding in the period 2021-2027. The Commission encourages Member States to use all available EU funding to address the new needs of the regions most affected by the war. The mid-term review of their programmes can be an opportunity to review the situation.

2. and 3. In the Political Guidelines for 2024-2029, the Commission's President proposed a more focused, impactful and simpler budget, and a strengthened cohesion and growth policy with regions at the centre. This policy will be designed in partnership with national, regional and local authorities in order to address regional and social disparities, including in the aforementioned regions, and ensure all citizens have an effective right to stay in the place they call home.