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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.1.2025)

The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) was established as a temporary instrument, with the clear objective to help Member States recover from the COVID-19 crisis and increase their resilience by supporting the implementation of reforms and investments to advance the green and digital transition.

In line with the temporary nature of this instrument, the RRF has a clear end-date in 2026. Specifically, the legal framework applying to the RRF¹ clearly sets out that all payments related to the RRF must be made by 31 December 2026 and no new net borrowing can take place beyond 2026. In this context, the political guidelines for the 2024-2029 Commission make the full implementation of the RRF a key priority and the Commission remains committed to supporting Member States in the implementation of the reforms and investments agreed in their recovery and resilience plans.

The political guidelines 2024-2029 also indicate that the next EU budget will be more focused, to align with priorities and objectives, simpler, with a plan linking reforms and investment for each country, and more impactful, notably with a European competitiveness fund to increase investment capacity in strategic technologies and use the budget to leverage further national, private and institutional financing more effectively. It will be for the co-legislators to discuss the future Commission's proposals and agree on the next multiannual financial framework in line with the EU's priorities and funding needs.

¹ Council Regulation (EU) 2020/2094 of 14 December 2020 establishing a European Union Recovery Instrument to support the recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis (OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020); Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility (OJ L 057, 18.2.2021); Council Decision (EU, Euratom) 2020/2053 of 14 December 2020 on the system of own resources of the European Union and repealing Decision 2014/335/EU, Euratom (OJ L 424, 15.12.2020).