

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002558/24
to the Commission
João Oliveira (The Left)
(15 November 2024)**

Subject: Use of EU funds by Carris

Carris is a public transport company which is fully owned by Lisbon City Council. The mayor of Lisbon recently cited EU funds as justification for an adjustment to Carris's budget that allowed council money previously earmarked for the transport company to be reallocated.

More recently, during the presentation of the draft 2025 council budget, the deputy mayor of Lisbon announced the council's payments to Carris for its public service obligations budgeted for 2025 (EUR 55 million). That amount could still be adjusted in the event that EU funds were received.

Can the Commission say what EU funds could be behind the above-mentioned adjustments? Can the Commission also provide information on the conditions for using those funds, including the amount of funding for compensating public service obligations and whether or not the principle of additionality is applicable?

Submitted: 15.11.2024

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(10 April 2025)**

The Commission confirms that, according to the Portuguese authorities, cohesion policy funding was recently decided for Carris to support the acquisition of rolling stock (articulated trams) to enhance Lisbon's public transport service.

The total cost of the operation was EUR 40.6 million, with a contribution from the Cohesion Fund through the programme Sustentável 2030 ⁽¹⁾ of EUR 29.5 million. The conditions for using the funds are in line with the eligibility rules of the programme and the provisions of the cohesion policy regulations.

The additionality principle was included in Article 95 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 ⁽²⁾, which governed the implementation of cohesion policy in the 2014 to 2020 programming period. The principle is no longer included in the regulation (EU) 2021/1060 ⁽³⁾, which governs implementation in the 2021 to 2027 period.

Carris is also receiving funding under Portugal's recovery and resilience plan ⁽⁴⁾ (RRP), which includes two investments related to tenders by Fundo Ambiental. Investment C15-i05 aims to purchase zero emission buses and charging infrastructure in Lisbon and Porto Metropolitan Areas.

Carris was selected for 33 buses and charging stations and received EUR 6.38 million from the RRP. With Investment C21-i12, Carris aims to acquire 44 buses and charging stations, receiving EUR 11 million from the RRP. The investment is expected to be completed in 2026.

The additionality principle ⁽⁵⁾ ensures that support under the Recovery and Resilience Facility is additional to other EU programs and instruments.

⁽¹⁾ <https://sustentavel2030.gov.pt/>

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1303/oj/eng>

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1060/oj/eng>

⁽⁴⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/portugals-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en

⁽⁵⁾ Article 9 Regulation (EU) 2021/241.