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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.3.2025)

The Commission is not aware of any EU funding allocated to Emilia Romagna's Plan for the Elimination of Architectural Barriers (PEBA) project. The Managing Authority of the Emilia Romagna European Social Fund+ and European Regional Development Fund Regional Programmes has indicated that the project was fully financed with national resources. Hence, the Commission has no knowledge of any possible implementation challenges related to Emilia Romagna's PEBA project.

In terms of funding, the European structural and investment funds (ESIF) are the EU's main financial instruments to strengthen economic and social cohesion. They help ensure social inclusion of the most vulnerable citizens, including those with disabilities.

Furthermore, the EU, under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme, provides financial support through an annual grant to a number of EU-level organisations of persons with disabilities and Non-Governmental Organizations to build their capacity and make their participation in EU-level processes easier. Lastly, it is important to recall that the European Semester provides a framework for the coordination of economic and social policies across the EU and provides information on the situation of persons with disabilities in the Member States.

It is too early to prejudge the outcome of the discussions on the next financial programming cycle and ensuing programme discussions and, therefore, at this stage, it is not possible to anticipate the EU funding allocations that might be available for this kind of project in the post-2027 period.