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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.3.2025)

The EU's Cohesion Policy[1], with a budget[2] of over EUR 400 billion for the programming period 2014-2020 and of EUR 376 billion for the 2021-2027 period, contributes substantially to investments in support of European competitiveness and to the creation of a greener, more connected and socially integrated Europe.

The analysis presented in chapter 9 of the ninth Cohesion Report[3] suggests that the impact is particularly high in the less developed regions that joined the EU after 2004. However, the policy also benefits many developed regions of Member States that joined before 2004. This is due to the cohesion support that all regions receive and to the strong spillovers generated by supported projects in less developed Member States and regions. These spillovers are created by the procurement of goods and services directly in the implementation of projects, as well as through the additional demand created by higher levels of growth in less developed regions. As shown in the annex, the impact in the medium term is positive in all Member States which joined before 2004, irrespective of their level of development.

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/2021-2027_en
[2] The figures correspond to the amounts allocated to Cohesion Policy in the respective Multiannual Financial Frameworks in current euro. They cover the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Social Fund. For the 2014-2020 period, the amount also covers the Youth Employment Initiative and includes the Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe. For 2021-2027, the amount covers the Just Transition Fund.
[3] https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information-sources/cohesion-report_en