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E-000599/2025

Answer given by Ms Kos
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.5.2025)

The Commission is currently processing an internal review request under the Aarhus Regulation¹ regarding the Commission Implementing Decision of 23 October 2024 approving the Reform Agendas and the multiannual work programme under the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans².

The projects that are proposed to be funded from the Reform and Growth Facility will be supported through the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) and, as such, subject to the WBIF governance and decision-making process. This requires that for each project, detailed Grant Application Forms (GAFs) are prepared and submitted to the WBIF. GAFs will be subject to in-depth checks on all EU standards including conducting environmental and social impact assessments, which are important analytical tools to address key 'do no significant harm' principles.

In addition, the Commission is currently in the process of reviewing the indicative lists of projects together with the beneficiary countries, in order to make these lists realistic in terms of budgetary requirements and compliance with the objectives of the Reform and Growth Facility. The Commission has also requested beneficiary countries to consult the indicative lists of projects with their national stakeholders, including civil society organisations.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1367/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 September 2006 on the application of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters to Community institutions and bodies.

² C(2024)7375.