

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000831/25
to the Commission
Esther Herranz García (PPE)
(25 February 2025)**

Subject: Implementation of NextGenerationEU funds

Under the NextGenerationEU programme, Member States have committed to funding public infrastructure works aimed at establishing low-emission zones and ushering in the sustainable and digital transformation of urban transport.

During the implementation period of the projects, it came to light that some proposals would lead to duplication or could cause greater harm than the improvements set out to be achieved and it was therefore decided not to implement them. As a result, some municipalities have come forward as being open to refunding the share corresponding to measures with which such issues have been identified, without prejudicing the implementation of the rest.

However, some national governments are demanding repayment of the full amount of aid, since it is not possible to repay only the part corresponding to the projects that have not been implemented. This has a negative impact both on those projects that have been implemented and on municipal coffers.

1. Are there any EU rules requiring full reimbursement or preventing the reimbursement of NextGenerationEU funds only for the part corresponding to unimplemented projects?
2. Does the Commission interpret NextGenerationEU funds in such a way that the Member States are to regard the funds received by the municipalities as a single, indivisible fund which does not take account of the various projects to be carried out under those funds?

Submitted: 25.2.2025

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(30 April 2025)**

NextGenerationEU comprises the Resilience and Recovery Facility (RRF) as well as other smaller instruments such as the Recovery assistance for cohesion and the territories of Europe (REACT-EU).

The RRF is a performance-based instrument under which disbursements are made upon satisfactory fulfilment of milestones and targets.

Should the Commission assess that milestones or targets of an instalment are not satisfactorily fulfilled, the payment is suspended in part or in full.

If the Member State does not take necessary measures to fulfil the respective milestones or targets within six months from the suspension, the Commission reduces the amount of the financial contribution and, where applicable, of the loan.

When the implementation of projects is no longer achievable, either partially or totally, by the Member State concerned because of objective circumstances, the Member State may make a reasoned request to the Commission to make a proposal to amend or replace the measures concerned in the Plan ⁽¹⁾.

The conditions under which an entity/beneficiary must repay the funds depend on the specific terms of the relevant measure, as set by the national authorities.

Member States are the beneficiaries of the RRF, where disbursements are made upon fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets. Final recipients, such as municipalities for instance, receive funding from RRF-supported measures upon fulfilment of the specific conditions of the concerned measures.

For the purpose of audit and control, Member States should collect and ensure access to a list of any measures for the implementation of reforms and investment projects under the plan with the total amount of public funding of those measures and indicating the amount of funds paid under the Facility and under other EU funds.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0241> see Article 21.