

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001041/25
to the Commission
Dick Erixon (ECR)
(11 March 2025)**

Subject: Failure to ensure compliance with public procurement and state aid rules under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)

The European Court of Auditors' special report 09/2025 exposes a deeply troubling reality: the Commission has failed to ensure that Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) funds are properly monitored for compliance with public procurement and state aid rules. The report highlights ongoing weaknesses in the Commission's audit and control processes, weak oversight and guidance for the Member States and serious inconsistencies in enforcement. Despite repeated warnings, the Commission has neither imposed effective corrective measures nor ensured that the Member States carry out adequate checks before receiving RRF payments. This lack of accountability is entirely unacceptable and undermines trust in the responsible management of EU funds.

Given the gravity of these findings:

1. How does the Commission justify allowing RRF payments to be made despite clear evidence that Member States are not conducting adequate compliance checks?
2. Will the Commission finally introduce binding and enforceable corrective measures to prevent further misuse of EU funds under the RRF?
3. What concrete steps will the Commission take to overhaul its audit system and ensure that its assurance declarations reflect actual risks, rather than presenting an illusion of control?

Submitted: 11.3.2025

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(5 May 2025)**

The Commission would like to recall its public reply to Special Report 9/2025 ⁽¹⁾.

In line with the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) Regulation ⁽²⁾, payments to the Member States are solely based on the satisfactory fulfilment of milestones and targets ⁽³⁾.

While the primary responsibility to ensure compliance with EU and national law, including compliance with public procurement and state aid rules lies with the Member States ⁽⁴⁾, the Commission put in place an effective control system which is fully in line with the RRF Regulation as agreed by the co-legislators.

The Commission carries out regular audits in all Member States to ensure they comply with these obligations. When the Commission has identified a serious deficiency in national control systems, and the Member State has failed to address it, the Commission has taken corrective action.

While the RRF Regulation allows Member States to make use of existing national budget management systems, they must comply with both EU and national law.

If a Member State fails to correct a serious RRF-related irregularity (i.e. fraud, corruption or conflict of interest), or seriously breaches its obligations under the Financing Agreement, the Commission can and will apply corrections and recover funds.

Following previous recommendations from the European Court of Auditors and the European Parliament, the Commission has strengthened further its audit strategy in 2023 and extended the scope of its audit work to systematically check Member States' compliance with public procurement and state aid rules, including the effectiveness of these checks.

Based on this extended audit work, and considering all controls conducted and information available, the Commission maintains that it had reasonable assurance for the payments done in 2023.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECARepplies/COM-Replies-SR-2025-09/COM-Replies-SR-2025-09_EN.pdf

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TEXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R0241>

⁽³⁾ RRF Regulation, Article 24.

⁽⁴⁾ RRF Regulation, Article 22(1).