

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001656/25
to the Commission
Sérgio Gonçalves (S&D)
(24 April 2025)**

Subject: Changes to cohesion policy and their impact on regional disparity

The Commission's proposal to allow up to 100% co-financing for new cohesion policy priorities raises serious concerns about the impact on less developed regions and the outermost regions, which rely heavily on stable long-term cohesion support. Redirecting funding from structural objectives to new thematic areas, without providing additional resources, risks undermining the core mission of cohesion policy. Furthermore, orienting funds towards sectors such as defence, which are often concentrated in more industrialised areas, may exacerbate territorial imbalances and divert resources away from regions that still face significant development gaps.

In this context:

1. What guarantees can the Commission offer that less developed regions and the outermost regions will not experience a net loss of cohesion funding?
2. Does the Commission not agree that new priorities should be matched with additional funding rather than drawing from existing allocations?
3. How will the Commission safeguard territorial balance, particularly where large companies and more developed regions may have a competitive advantage in absorbing redirected funds?

Submitted: 24.4.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(27 June 2025)**

The Commission's proposal of 1 April 2025 ⁽¹⁾ for a regulation amending the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund, and the Just Transition Fund as regards specific measures to address specific challenges in the context of the mid-term review does not propose a change to the distribution of the resources across the different categories of regions, nor to the provisions governing possible transfers between categories of regions or to the methodology on the allocation per Member State ⁽²⁾.

Therefore, required resources for less developed regions cannot be used for transition or more developed regions. Furthermore, the possibilities provided for in the proposal are of a voluntary nature and amendments of individual programmes require prior approval by the relevant monitoring committee before they are submitted to the Commission.

The implementation data submitted by the Member States indicates that some of the 2021-2027 resources remain unallocated. At a time of mounting challenges and limited fiscal space, it is necessary to maximise the utilisation of the available allocations, and the managing authorities will have the opportunity to direct them towards strategic investments that address urgent challenges which risk weakening the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the EU.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2025) 123 final.

⁽²⁾ Articles 110, 111 and Annex XXVI of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (the Common Provisions Regulation).