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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.6.2025)

The Interreg V-A Greece–Bulgaria Programme (2014–2020) is implemented in shared management and it is therefore the managing authority who is responsible for overseeing project implementation.

The Commission works closely with the Managing Authority to monitor Interreg V-A programmes at all stages: reviewing project selection criteria, assessing progress data, participating in Monitoring Committees, and, when needed, holding high level annual review meetings. These mechanisms, as set out in the regulatory framework, ensure balanced and timely project implementation by all partners and enable corrective actions where necessary.

Managing authorities can also subject projects to enhanced monitoring measures. This is the case for the Aiming at Improving Cross-Border Accessibility (CrossBo) project and measures to operationalise the new crossing point have been initiated.

In the context of the 2014-2020 programming period and in line with the closure guidelines¹, the deadline for submitting programme closure documents has been extended to 15 February 2026. If expenditure for non-functioning operations is included in the accounts for the final accounting year, Member States undertake to physically complete or fully implement all such non-functioning operations and ensure they contribute to the objectives of the relevant priorities not later than 15 February 2027. If any non-functioning operations remain incomplete by 15 February 2027, all associated financing will be considered ineligible.

¹ Commission notice: Guidelines on the closure of operational programmes adopted for assistance from the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund for the 2014–2020 programming period (European Commission, 14 October 2024).