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Answer given by Mr Síkela
on behalf of the European Commission
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The EU-Central Asia Summit, held on 4 April 2025 in Samarkand (Uzbekistan), served as an opportunity to take the EU's partnership with Central Asia to the next level, deepening trade, strengthening regional collaboration and expanding people-to-people ties. It reaffirmed the shared commitment to a strategic partnership built on common values and interests.

At the Summit, the EU launched a EUR 12 billion Global Gateway investment package – strengthening transport links between Europe and Central Asia and deepening cooperation on critical raw materials, digital connectivity, water, and energy. The majority of this funding is leveraged through investments from European Investment Bank (EIB), European Bank for Reconstruction (EBRD) and other European financial institutions and the private sector, to be invested in projects of mutual benefit for Central Asia and Europe.

Out of this amount, EUR 3 billion are a contribution from Team Europe that is dedicated to developing the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor. This amount is a confirmation of the commitments made by the EIB and the EBRD at the EU-Central Asia Transport Investors Forum in January 2024.

A further EUR 6.4 billion are dedicated to energy, water, and climate initiatives, such as the hydropower plants in Rogun (Tajikistan) and Kambarata (Kyrgyzstan), which are crucial for energy security and sustainable development, supported by blending and guarantees. EUR 2.5 billion, partially guaranteed by the EU, will focus on securing supply chains for critical raw materials, including from Uzbekistan's Almalyk Copper Mine. Digital connectivity receives EUR 100 million – comprising an EU grant and an EIB loan – to enhance infrastructure and accessibility.