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Answer given by President von der Leyen
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.9.2025)

The Commission ensures the respect of the principle of subsidiarity in all its proposals in the area of shared competence, including when it proposes Union interventions in times of crisis. Experience has shown that in times of crisis situations, a coordinated response at the level of the European Union is necessary to achieve the objectives pursued to adequately solve or mitigate such a situation. An uncoordinated response at the level of Member States risks leading to disruptions of the functioning of the internal market and to unequal access to products and services. This is particularly relevant when severe difficulties arise in the supply of certain products, as was the case during the COVID-19 crisis.

Under these circumstances, an intervention at Union's level is deemed the best means to ensure an efficient response to the crisis situation and a fair and equal treatment to all Member States and citizens of the Union. In practice, these interventions often take the relay of actions taken at national level, without by-passing national decision-making.

It is important to note that a Union intervention in time of crisis does not necessarily lead to the use of emergency powers. Even during the COVID-19 crisis, most acts of the Union aimed at mitigating the effect of the crisis were adopted by the ordinary legislative procedure. Moreover, the Commission only proposes the use of emergency powers when the conditions for their use are considered fulfilled.