

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002544/25
to the Commission
Michalis Hadjipantela (PPE)
(25 June 2025)**

Subject: Effective monitoring of RRF disbursements

There are growing concerns about the effectiveness of fraud prevention and detection in the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). The Commission relies primarily on national control systems, despite significant differences in Member States' experience with EU funding and administrative capacity. Disbursements occur following the Commission's assessment that milestones and targets have been met, without verifying the actual costs incurred by beneficiaries.

European Court of Auditors Special Reports 13/2025 ⁽¹⁾ and 11/2023 ⁽²⁾ identify cases where estimated costs were higher than actual expenditures, yet Member States received full funding for their estimated costs.

The ability of the EU Anti-Fraud Office to intervene is limited by restricted access to national databases. Moreover, Member States are not legally obliged to report irregularities via the Irregularity Management System or use ARACHNE.

Given the scale of RRF funding and the variation in administrative capacities, clearer safeguards are needed to ensure value for money and avoid unintended financial gains at the expense of the EU budget.

Considering the above:

1. To what extent does the Commission monitor RRF disbursements that exceed actual project costs to safeguard the EU budget?
2. What measures are being considered to enhance transparency around actual RRF spending and prevent the misuse of unspent funds, given the lack of cost verification at the final recipient level?

Submitted: 25.6.2025

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

The co-legislators agreed to set up the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) as a performance-based instrument where payments are based on Member States' progress in implementing reforms and investments, and not on the costs incurred to do so.

In line with the RRF Regulation ⁽¹⁾, Member States share cost estimates of the measures they intend to include in their recovery and resilience plan (RRP).

When assessing an RRP (or its revision), the Commission evaluates if the estimated costs are reasonable, plausible, not covered by other EU funding sources, and commensurate. There is no legal obligation for the Commission to monitor whether disbursements exceed actual costs.

According to the regulation ⁽²⁾ Member States are primarily responsible for ensuring prevention, detection and correction of fraud, corruption, conflict of interest for the use of RRF funds, avoiding double funding and ensuring compliance with relevant law.

The Commission assessed each national control system when assessing RRP and carries out audits to verify Member States' compliance with their obligations.

It has the right to reduce proportionately the support and recover any amount due to the Union budget, in cases of serious irregularities affecting the financial interests of the EU that have not been corrected by Member States.

The Commission is strongly committed to transparency and publishes data on the 100 largest recipients of funds for the implementation of RRF measures, as per the regulation.

¹ https://www.eca.europa.eu/ECAPublications/SR-2025-13/SR-2025-13_EN.pdf, paragraph 47.

² <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/publications/SR-2023-11>, paragraph 55.

⁽¹⁾ Article 18(4)(k) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility, OJ L 57, 18.2.2021 (RRF Regulation).

⁽²⁾ Article 22(1) of the RRF Regulation.

Upon request of the European Parliament, the Commission asked Member States for a list of the 100 largest final recipients and shared this data with the Committee on Budgetary Control.
