

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003160/25
to the Commission
Lynn Boylan (The Left)
(31 July 2025)**

Subject: Minimum national allocation for the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Can the Commission clarify whether the proposed 14% earmark for social policies under the cohesion envelope will result in a minimum national allocation for the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), and whether any additional earmarks — such as those currently in place for food aid, child poverty and social inclusion — will be maintained in the next ESF+ Regulation?

Submitted: 31.7.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(9 September 2025)**

On 16 July 2025, the Commission published its proposals for a regulation establishing the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security for the period 2028-2034 (the ‘fund’) ⁽¹⁾ alongside a proposal for a self-standing European Social Fund (ESF) Regulation ⁽²⁾.

As part of the fund, Member States would propose national and regional partnership plans (NRPPs) that would include investments and reforms contributing to, among others, the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and addressing the relevant country-specific recommendations.

At least 14% of the total budget for the national and regional partnerships, excluding the amounts ring-fenced for farmers and fishers, are proposed to be dedicated to meeting social objectives ⁽³⁾.

Moreover, the proposals contain provisions stipulating that Member States shall concentrate resources in their NRPPs on the following measures ⁽⁴⁾: social inclusion, food and/or basic material assistance, implementing the Child Guarantee ⁽⁵⁾ and the Youth Guarantee ⁽⁶⁾.

Europe’s social model and investing in people would remain a core aspect of any plan, as it is essential for promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction, economic growth, and Europe’s competitiveness.

ESF support as part of any plan would be based on the guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States, as provided for in Article 148 (2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and continue to strengthen social cohesion investing in Europe’s people, their future and preparedness.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2025) 565 final — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025PC0565&qid=1753718606996>.

⁽²⁾ COM(2025) 558 final — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0558>.

⁽³⁾ Article 22(2), point (q) of COM(2025) 565 final.

⁽⁴⁾ Article 22(2), point (g), letter (ii) of COM(2025) 565 final, Annex VI, and recitals 19-22 of COM(2025) 558 final.

⁽⁵⁾ Council Recommendation 2021/1004 — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2021/1004/oj/eng>.

⁽⁶⁾ Council Recommendation 2020/C 372/01 — https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=oj:JOC_2020_372_R_0001.