

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003364/25
to the Commission
Mihai Tudose (S&D)
(2 September 2025)**

Subject: Pact for the Eastern Border Regions

In connection with the call for evidence with a view to the establishing by the Commission of a Pact for the Eastern Border Regions, I would like to draw attention to the strategic importance for the European Union as a whole of strengthening the resilience of regions in close proximity to the war in Ukraine. The vulnerability of those regions, including socially and economically, is not just an isolated local issue, being exacerbated in recent years by declining investment, tourism and accelerated depopulation.

How does the Commission intend to support the local economy in the eastern border regions — including as regards infrastructure and connectivity?

Submitted: 2.9.2025

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

Europe is only safe if its eastern border is secure, with strong and prosperous regions. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has amplified the already fragile demographic situation and negative economic dynamics in these regions.

The Commission already undertook many steps following Russia's war of aggression to address this: cross-border cooperation programmes with Russia and Belarus were suspended, — funding reallocated to EU internal cooperation and to cooperation with Ukraine and Moldova.

EU-Ukraine solidarity lanes help enhance connectivity with Ukraine and Moldova; the mid-term review of cohesion policy introduced incentives to help eastern border regions, and the proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework require to address the specific challenges of eastern border regions in security and economic development in the future National and Regional Partnership Plans.

The Commission is also preparing a Pact for eastern border regions building on the visits by the Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms to these regions, the meetings held with/close cooperation with all levels of stakeholders, and the many inputs collected, including via the replies to the call for evidence.

The latter points to the need for a long-term dedicated support and particular attention to, *inter alia*, infrastructure and connectivity needs, be they investment in dual-use infrastructure, improved accessibility or military mobility.
