

E-003790/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.1.2026)

1 The unique situation of the Danube Delta and the importance of its ecosystem demands particular attention within the meaning of Article 174 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)¹. Via EU cohesion policy, Member States conduct their economic policies and coordinate them in such a way to attain the objectives set out in Article 174. The place-based approach of cohesion policy provides Member States with flexibility to allocate funding to regions based on identified needs to address socio-economic and territorial disparities.

2 The TFEU establishes the legal framework for the outermost regions and the adoption of specific measures applicable to them. Any change to this list of regions and the description of their specific characteristics would require an amendment of the Treaty.

3 Cohesion policy investments have been supporting the sustainable development of the Danube Delta through a specific ‘integrated territorial investment’ instrument. With more than EUR 400 million in the 2021-27 period earmarked across different programmes, these investments contribute directly to the achievement of the objectives of the Integrated Sustainable Development Strategy of the Danube Delta.

The Danube Delta also benefits from international cooperation projects from several territorial cooperation programmes (Interreg), including the Danube Region, Romania-Bulgaria, and Black Sea Basin. Interreg priorities focus on promoting climate change adaptation, enhancing inclusive and qualitative social services, developing research and innovation.

The region is also a major focus of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. This macro-regional strategy addresses shared challenges including environment, transport, and economy.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/LSU/?uri=CELEX:12016E174>.