

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003914/25
to the Commission
Bogdan Rzońca (ECR)
(6 October 2025)**

Subject: Ensuring the equal treatment of Podkarpackie and other border regions in the future cohesion policy (2028-2034)

In its proposal for a regulation establishing the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime affairs, prosperity and security for the period 2028-2034 (COM/2025/565), the Commission rightly highlights the importance of border and rural regions.

However, the definition of ‘eastern border regions’ in Annexes V and VII only includes regions bordering Russia and Belarus, excluding regions that border Ukraine, such as the Podkarpackie region. This does not reflect geopolitical realities, Podkarpackie’s role as the EU’s gateway to the East, or the region’s humanitarian, economic and logistical role in supporting Ukraine.

In addition, the proposal involves centralising the management of the cohesion policy within the framework of the National and Regional Partnership Plan, limiting the participation of regional governments that have proven experience in implementing EU funds.

Taking the above into consideration:

1. How does the Commission intend to ensure that regions bordering Ukraine, including Podkarpackie, are fully recognised and receive targeted support in the post-2027 cohesion policy?
2. What mechanisms will ensure the effective and decisive participation of regional authorities in programming and delivering EU funds?
3. Will the Commission commit to maintaining a separate guaranteed envelope for border regions that fulfil a strategic role for the EU as a whole?

Submitted: 6.10.2025

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

Focusing on the specific needs of border regions is a requirement for the National and Regional Partnership Plans as set out in Article 22(2)(f)(iii) of the Commission proposal ⁽¹⁾.

This is complemented with Article 4 of the proposal for a regulation establishing the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund ⁽²⁾, which considers regions bordering Russia, Belarus as well as Ukraine as disadvantaged areas.

The governance model for the National and Regional Partnership Plan can be built on the existing implementation structures. The Commission’s proposal ⁽³⁾ enables to have regional chapters under the National and Regional Partnership Plans, similarly to the current cohesion policy programmes.

As set out in Article 6 of the proposal, the Plans must be prepared and implemented in partnership with regional, local, urban, rural and other public authorities in accordance with the multi-level governance principle and a bottom-up approach. All authorities implementing the plan will also remain in direct contact with the Commission (Article 49(1)).

In assessing the submitted Plans, the Commission must ensure that all requirements of the Plan have been complied with and adequately reflected, including via appropriate funding to these regions.

Furthermore, the Commission is working on a communication on the Eastern Border Regions. to further enhance the efforts the Commission is already making to help these regions.

1 COM(2025)0565.

2 COM(2025)0552.

3 COM(2025)0565.