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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.12.2025)

The European Competitiveness Fund (ECF)¹ strengthens the competitiveness of the EU, as highlighted in Draghi² and Letta³ reports and the Competitiveness Compass⁴. It will support projects, innovators and companies helping the EU build a competitive edge in strategic sectors delivering high EU added value. The proposal does not include dedicated national funding envelopes.

Polish businesses, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), will benefit from support under the 4 ECF policy windows and the entire financial toolbox, including grants, guarantees, equity and loans. Through project advisory and business support, including EU4Business Network⁵, the ECF will provide dedicated support, especially for SMEs and in less-developed regions. Instruments, such as the value chain builder, will allow to integrate suppliers, manufacturers and innovators from different Member States. The ECF InvestEU Instrument, to be deployed by the European Investment Bank Group and national promotional banks and international financial institutions, will allow to address specific financing needs of EU Member States.

The ECF proposal does not indicate funds available for grants and loan financing to ensure companies and projects can have access to the most appropriate form of support, however, it indicates minimum support delivered through the ECF InvestEU Instrument of EUR 17 billion. This amount shall be increased by contributions from work programmes under the ECF policy windows and the maximum amount of the budgetary guarantee will be EUR 70 billion.

Polish businesses will also benefit from consolidation of the current 14 funding instruments into one framework of support for the EU competitiveness, which will result in simplified access to funding.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/european-competitiveness-fund_en.

² https://commission.europa.eu/topics/competitiveness/draghi-report_en.

³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/ny3j24sm/much-more-than-a-market-report-by-enrico-letta.pdf>.

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/competitiveness/competitiveness-compass_en.

⁵ building on the Enterprise Europe Network and the European Cluster Collaboration Network - <https://eu4business.eu/>.