

EN

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Answer given by Mr Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.12.2025)

1. Recognising the challenges Cyprus faces due to its insularity and remoteness, an additional total amount of EUR 200 million have been allocated to Cyprus for the 2021–2027 programming period from Cohesion policy funding, as per Annex XXVI, paragraph 21 and 22 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060¹.

Furthermore, the Commission will soon launch a call for evidence to prepare an EU-wide strategy covering islands and coastal communities.

2. Under the Thalia 2021–2027 Programme, Cohesion Policy provides EUR 969 million², out of which EUR 147 million for research, innovation and digitalisation, EUR 357 million for the green transition, and EUR 97 million from the Just Transition Fund to speed up the energy transition and reinforce energy security. The programme also supports e-health actions to strengthen the national health system.

Under the Connecting Europe Facility, the Commission also supports the Great Sea Interconnector, both politically and financially, with a EUR 657 million grant.

In addition, to safeguard the connectivity of isolated regions and islands, Member States may impose Public Service Obligations (PSOs)³ on air routes, when the market alone fails to provide adequate air services⁴. Cyprus has imposed such a PSO on the Larnaca-Brussels air route from 1 December 2025⁵.

Under State aid rules, the Commission has approved targeted measures to support Cyprus' connectivity, such as a route development scheme for airlines in 2022⁶⁷.

Finally, the Commission's Guidelines on State aid to airports and airlines⁸ allow targeted support for airports in isolated areas facing structural disadvantages.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 547–548.

² EU contribution.

³ Setting fixed standards of continuity, regularity, pricing or minimum capacity.

⁴ Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008, OJ L 293, 31.10.2008, p. 3–20.

⁵ See information notice (C/2025/1995) published in the EU Official Journal on 28 March 2025.

⁶ See State aid case SA.101311 of 18 February 2022

(https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/cases1/202211/SA_101311_60D6637F-0000-C98B-8E81-5CFC2B20A612_33_1.pdf).

⁷ Established under Article 107(3)(c) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

⁸ Communication from the Commission - Guidelines on State aid to airports and airlines, OJ C 99, 4.4.2014, pp. 3–34.