

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004461/25
to the Commission
Nikolas Farantouris (The Left)
(11 November 2025)**

Subject: Need to strengthen the implementation of environmental legislation and address the environmental investment gap

The fourth Environmental Implementation Review published by the Commission ⁽¹⁾ highlights the insufficient implementation of environmental legislation by Member States. According to the findings of the review, this insufficient implementation gives rise to huge economic costs, amounting to at least EUR 180 billion per year. ⁽²⁾ At the same time, the review identifies a huge gap in the necessary environmental investments, amounting to EUR 122 billion per year. This gap corresponds to one third of the total annual needs for environmental investment in critical areas such as the circular economy, biodiversity, water protection and management and tackling pollution. ⁽³⁾

Accordingly:

1. What measures has the Commission taken since the publication of the review to strengthen the implementation of environmental legislation and to address the investment gap and what additional measures does it intend to take?
2. Given that there are significant disparities between Member States, is the Commission providing or intending to provide assistance to Member States, tailored to the challenges each of them faces?
3. Given the significant contribution of European funds to addressing the environmental investment gap, how does the Commission justify the absence of a specific programme in its proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (such as the current LIFE programme) and, in any event, how is the adequacy of environmental investment ensured in its existing planning for the next MFF?

Submitted: 11.11.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(5 January 2026)**

The Commission supports the implementation of environmental legislation through a range of measures. These include dedicated funding, the mainstreaming of environmental action in the EU Semester and the EU budget, structured dialogues with Member States, technical assistance and infringement packages.

The Technical Support Instrument (TSI) ⁽¹⁾ provides tailor-made technical expertise to Member States to design and implement reforms, offering strategic and legal advice, studies, training and expert visits.

The Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) Peer 2 Peer ⁽²⁾ also supports this, allowing national experts to exchange through expert missions, study visits and workshops.

So far, over 1800 reform projects have been supported in 27 Member States, to support environmental policy implementation and the green transition capacity needs.

The Commission proposal on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) ⁽³⁾ aims to maintain the activities of the EU programme for the environment and climate action ⁽⁴⁾ by integrating its activities into the European Competitiveness Fund ⁽⁵⁾ with further support under the National and Regional Partnership Plans ⁽⁶⁾ and specifically within the EU Facility ⁽⁷⁾.

Environment and climate action is an overarching objective of the MFF and thereby its contribution is not limited to a single programme or fund.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0420>

² <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/4dead000-263d-11f0-8a44-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

³ <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoIMTE4YWNhNjktYmE1Yi00NDJlLWFiODItMjNmMjVhNjc0NzE1IiwidCI6ImIyNGM4YjA2LTUyMmMtNDZmZS05MDgwLTcwOTI2ZjZGRiMSIsImMiOj9>

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/technical-support-instrument/technical-support-instrument-tsi_en.

⁽²⁾ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/law-and-governance/environmental-implementation-review/peer-2-peer_en.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en.

⁽⁵⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/european-competitiveness-fund_en.

⁽⁶⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/european-competitiveness-fund_en.

⁽⁷⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_25_2748.

This is further reflected in the proposal for an ambitious budget of almost EUR 2 trillion between 2028 and 2034, including a 35% green spending target for climate and environment in the 2028-2034 MFF. Projects receiving EU funding will also have to comply with the Do No Significant Harm principle.
