

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004570/25
to the Commission
Giuseppe Antoci (The Left)
(17 November 2025)

Subject: EU support for the just transition of the industrial complex of Syracuse and the future of the Just Transition Fund

One proposed measure of the 2028-2034 multiannual financial framework (MFF) is the amalgamation of the cohesion funds, including the Just Transition Fund (JTF), into a single instrument implemented by means of national and regional partnership plans.

Both the mid-term evaluation of the cohesion programmes and work under the Just Transition Platform show that the JTF's territorial approach is useful, but also that, without a dedicated pillar for a just transition, decarbonisation simply risks exacerbating disparities between the respective regions and industrial areas. ⁽¹⁾

The petrochemical complex of Syracuse, one of the largest in Europe, is not included within the JTF territories for 2021-2027. It is also exposed to occupational, environmental and social impacts. In the context of the new MFF, Syracuse should not be left behind other industrial centres making the transition.

In view of the above:

1. How will the Commission seek to ensure that the future single cohesion fund includes a dedicated pillar for the just transition, including territorial plans and conditionalities based on clear decarbonisation commitments? How would its specifics differ from the JTF?
2. How will the future allocation criteria and territorial plans be able to support carbon-intensive industrial centres excluded from the present JTF, like Syracuse, including by means of proper technical assistance and the involvement of local authorities, social partners and businesses?

Submitted: 17.11.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(13 January 2026)

The Commission is committed to ensuring a just transition towards a climate-neutral economy, taking into account environmental, economic, and social aspects.

In the 2021-2027 period, the Just Transition Mechanism allocates around EUR 55 billion to mitigate the impacts of the transition. The Just Transition Fund (JTF) is a key pillar of the Mechanism with a total allocation of about EUR 19.7 billion.

The Commission's proposal for the 2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework continues to address the just transition. This is reflected in specific objective 1, 'Europe sustainable prosperity across all regions' point iii) of the proposed European Economic, Territorial, Social, Rural and Maritime Sustainable Prosperity and Security Fund.

The introduction of greater flexibility through the National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRP Plans) will enable Member States to support the transition of carbon-intensive industrial centres -such as Syracuse- currently not covered by the JTF.

Member States may design territorial just transition strategies that include these areas, provided that their needs are clearly identified and justified in the NRP Plan.

The involvement of local authorities, social partners and businesses will remain key, as the partnership principle will continue to apply.

¹ EPRS Just Transition Fund: Challenges and prospects.