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E-000636/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.4.2026)

In cohesion policy, given public procurement's vital role in shared management, national and regional authorities must establish robust control systems and rectify irregularities, applying financial corrections as needed. Should controls fail or serious irregularities remain uncorrected by a Member State, the Commission can interrupt payment deadlines, suspend payments, or apply financial corrections to recover misused funds.

If corrections applied by the Commission are net (when regulatory conditions¹ are met), they reduce the support from the Funds to a programme. If they are not net, the Member State can reuse the concerned amounts to fund other eligible operations.

Where irregularities are related to projects implemented by beneficiaries, the Member State must protect the EU budget by applying a financial correction towards the respective project (and beneficiaries).

For activities involving exclusively national public funds, compliance with procurement rules primarily falls to national review bodies as per Directives on procurement remedies².

¹ Article 104 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02021R1060-20251025>.

² Directive 89/665/EEC and Directive 92/13/EEC: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:01989L0665-20140417>; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:31992L0013>.