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E-000692/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(27.4.2026)

Ensuring appropriate national co-financing for projects contracted under the 2014-2020 Regional Operational Programme falls within the remit of the Romanian authorities. Commission notice 2021/C 417/01<sup>1</sup> establishes guidelines to facilitate the timely closure of the 2014-2020 operational programmes, and where necessary to enable beneficiaries to secure continuing funding for phased operations.

To these ends, the Government of Romania adopted Emergency Ordinance 36/2023<sup>2</sup> to establish a uniform national legal framework for programme closure and the phasing of operations, on which the Commission was consulted. Article 7 of the Ordinance allows for adjustments to the assessed financial needs of phased operations to reflect the significant increases in prices that have been observed in recent years. Updated cost estimates may thus be applied to the second phase of selected projects to be financed from 2021-2027 EU funding programmes. This framework is intended to alleviate the financial pressures faced by local authorities to complete projects and reduce the risk of losing EU funds.

The Commission remains in regular contact with the Romanian authorities regarding implementation of the partnership principle and of the Government Emergency Ordinance 36/2023. The Commission will continue to monitor the closure process to ensure sound financial management in line with Commission notice 2021/C 417/01.

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<sup>1</sup> Commission notice Guidelines on the closure of operational programmes adopted for assistance from the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (2014-2020) 2021/C 417/01 (OJ C, C/417, 14.10.2021. CELEX: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021XC1014\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021XC1014(01))).

<sup>2</sup> Government Emergency Order No. 33 (2023) laying down the general framework for the closure of operational programmes financed under the 2014-2020 programming period: <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/270564>.