

EN

E-000814/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.4.2026)

Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEIs) are a State aid tool enabling Member States to grant national funding to bring together knowledge, expertise and economic actors throughout the EU and create positive spillover effects to the whole EU.

The disbursement of State aid after the Commission approval decision is the sole responsibility of the respective Member State and creates neither a right nor a legally enforceable act for a beneficiary to receive the aid approved, even if named in the approval decision.

The Commission is aware that, in some approved IPCEIs, some Member States have delayed or even abandoned their initial plans to grant aid notified to and approved by the Commission, which were also identified by the European Court of Auditors¹.

Aiming to prevent such potential delays, the Joint European Forum for IPCEI (JEF-IPCEI), which involves all Member States, European Economic Area countries and the Commission, agreed on and published a collection of national best practices including hands-on guidance for all national authorities when to start and how to prepare for the implementation phase of an IPCEI after the adoption of the Commission decision in an efficient manner to ensure a timely disbursement of approved aid².

The Commission follows the implementation procedures of IPCEIs, for instance, by being ready to respond to requests from Member States and by participating in exchanges within the respective IPCEI governance body meetings.

Member States involved in IPCEIs need to submit annual reports, which were standardised and streamlined in 2025 to improve efficiency. Based on these reports the JEF-IPCEI is developing a dashboard to monitor the implementation of IPCEIs³.

For more information on aid granted by Member States, please see the State Aid Transparency website⁴.

¹ See European Court of Auditors' Special Report on 'The EU's industrial policy on renewable hydrogen', recital 76, https://www.eca.europa.eu/ECAPublications/SR-2024-11/SR-2024-11_EN.pdf.

² See i.e. Collection of national best practices https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/document/download/4bec8fa3-ff8b-4248-8522-b0534de6f46a_en?filename=JEF-IPCEI_National%20Best%20Practices%20Collection%20KPs%201%20to%208.pdf on national budgeting process available at the dedicated IPCEI website https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/state-aid/ipcei_en.

³ IPCEI website https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/state-aid/ipcei_en.

⁴ State Aid Transparency website <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/competition/transparency/public/search/home?lang=en>.