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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.5.2026)

1. As part of the requirements of the National and Regional Partnership Plans¹, Member States must provide a comprehensive overview of how their plans support the different categories of regions. This includes information for each measure specifying the geographic areas targeted on the basis of their NUTS² classification and an overview of the financial allocations to the different categories of regions. The Commission proposal also foresees a minimum allocation of EUR 218 billion for less developed regions. This enables to maintain the long-term principle of concentrating resources in less developed regions.
2. The principles of cohesion policy – partnership, shared management and multi-level governance – will be maintained. The Commission will assess how relevant partners have been involved in the preparation of the plans, including stakeholder selection, representativeness and conflict of interest safeguards as part of the approval process of the plans. These partners need to be involved in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of chapters, including through participation in monitoring committees.
3. When calibrating the milestones and targets in their plans, Member States will need to take into account the time required for their achievement in view of decommitment rules. Member States will have flexibility regarding the choice of milestones and targets to be submitted in all payment applications, across all chapters of the plan. Before submitting payment applications to the Commission, Member States must carry out the necessary verifications to ascertain themselves that the milestones and targets included in the payment application were fulfilled and that the use of funds is in compliance with applicable law.

¹ Commission proposal for a Regulation governing the National and Regional Partnership Plans: ‘Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security for the period 2028-2034 and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 and Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509’, COM/2025/565 final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0565>.

² Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics.