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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(21.5.2026)

The Commission is aware of the judicial investigations on the health equipment contracts in Canary Islands. In line with the shared management principle governing cohesion policy, the Commission has requested information to the Spanish Managing authorities on the possible support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding to these contracts. Member States bear the primary responsibility for the implementation and control of operations funded by the ERDF, including detecting and correcting irregularities. The Spanish authorities are therefore responsible for ensuring that contracts co-financed by ERDF comply with applicable procurement rules and that funds are used correctly. The Commission's role is supervisory ensuring that the national management and control systems provide the assurance that resources are used in compliance with EU law and the principle of sound financial management.

The procurement procedures for the specific contracts in the Canary Islands were not subject to the Commission's own verification. However, if irregularities were identified, either through national controls or investigations by the European Public Prosecutor's Office, the Commission would expect the Spanish authorities to take corrective measures, including financial corrections where necessary¹. Failing to take action at national level, the Commission would take appropriate action in order to ensure that EU funds are used in accordance with the applicable rules, including through the application of the appropriate financial corrections.

The Commission remains in contact with the Spanish authorities. Should new information emerge, the Commission will assess whether further action is required.

¹ in line with Article 69 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060; ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1060/oj>.