(English version)

Question for written answer E-001257/26
to the Commission
Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)
(25 March 2026)

Subject: EU funding cut puts social projects at risk in Slovakia

A legislative proposal in Slovakia, due to be adopted in April 2026, envisages a drastic reduction, of up to 40%, in compensation contributions for employers of persons with disabilities, reportedly linked to the end of EU funding. This coincides with a sharp increase in VAT, from 5% to 23%.

Social enterprises play a crucial role in integrating persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, including minorities, into the labour market. These measures would therefore not only undermine businesses, but directly threaten the social inclusion model that the EU itself promotes and co-finances.

Stakeholders warn that the combined impact of reduced support and increased taxation will be economically unsustainable and, in many cases, downright destructive, leading to closures and mass job losses among the most vulnerable.

1. Is the Commission aware of this situation and the Slovak Government's plans?

2. Does the Commission consider it acceptable and in line with EU objectives on sustainability, social inclusion and equal opportunities that support is reduced by 40% while tax burdens are simultaneously increased?

3. What concrete steps does the Commission intend to take to address this situation, including engaging with Slovak authorities, to prevent the dismantling of inclusive employment structures supported by EU policies?

Submitted: 25.3.2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(10 June 2026)

The Commission is aware of the proposal to adjust compensation contributions for employers of persons with disabilities. The Commission emphasises that social inclusion and the integration of vulnerable groups into the labour market, notably through social enterprises, are core objectives of the European Social Fund Plus ([1]) and they are supported as such by the Programme Slovakia. The national project 'Poskytovanie finančných príspevkov integračným podnikom' ([2]) is set to last until the end of 2029.

The Commission is not commenting on ongoing legislative negotiations at national level.

As underlined by the mid-term review of the Social Economy Action Plan, adopted on 30 March 2026 ([3]), the Commission continues to encourage the Member States to develop their social economy ecosystems to fully benefit from its potential to address societal challenges and deliver a positive social impact.

([1]) https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en.
([2]) https://www.upsvr.gov.sk/europsky-socialny-fond/narodne-projekty-v-programovom-obdobi-2021-2027/narodny-projekt-poskytovanie-financnych-prispevkov-integracnym-podnikom.html?page_id=1343060.
([3]) https://social-economy-gateway.ec.europa.eu/eu-initiatives/seap-mid-term-review_en.