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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.5.2026)

In light of the unprecedented geopolitical instability and the need for the Union to ensure its own defence and civil preparedness, the European Parliament and the Council, following a Commission proposal, have amended Regulation 2021/1058¹ of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund, to enable Member States and regions to mobilise cohesion policy funding to support investments in defence capabilities, prioritising the dual use of industrial capacities, technologies and infrastructure.

In the context of the mid-term review of 2021-2027 cohesion policy programmes, the Spanish authorities decided to amend the pluri-regional programme for Spain ERDF 2021-2027 to support the EU's emerging priorities. Among others, Spain decided to support dual use investments in several ways. First, EUR 113 million were allocated to investments enhancing industrial capacities of a dual-use nature, specifically the testing facilities for enterprises to develop 5G technologies related exclusively to dual use. In addition, the programme will support with EUR 104.5 million part of the assembly of the track of the high-speed train line Murcia-Almeria, a military corridor of dual use, serving the transport of both freight and passengers. Finally, over EUR 5.5 million will foster the robustness, resilience and security of Spain's national domain name system, a critical IT infrastructure to ensure technological sovereignty and national security.

To finance these new investments, the Spanish authorities have reduced the programme's initial allocations for digitisation and sustainable mobility. Nevertheless, these changes do not impact the overall strategy of the programme and its level of ambition.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 60), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1058/oj/eng>.