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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.7.2026)

The proposal putting forward a single National and Regional Partnership Plan (NRPP)¹ for each Member State (and an additional Interreg Plan) aims to address the current fragmented implementation of resources with a single rulebook approach, thus enhancing synergies between policies, increasing flexibility in resource allocation and use, as well as simplifying access to funding for beneficiaries. The impact assessment² accompanying the Commission proposal for the NRPPs identified that combining the common agricultural policy, cohesion policy and other EU Funds in a single plan allowed Member States to provide the most effective and comprehensive support to rural areas, provided that appropriate strategies for rural areas are in place.

Fostering attractiveness of territories and improving living standards in rural areas feature explicitly in the objectives of the future NRPPs. A rural spending target of 10% of each Member State's envelope outside ringfenced amounts for the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy has been proposed to ensure continuity of investments in the development of rural territories. Member States and regions are expected to build a consistent agenda of measures on the basis of the reference framework set out in Article 22 of the proposal addressing rural areas' specific needs and challenges and concentrate resources to foster diverse and resilient rural economies and support generational renewal, contributing to the right to stay. The rural spending target should be seen as a tool to ensure a comprehensive approach to address the needs and opportunities of rural areas, including outside less developed regions.

¹ COM(2025) 565 final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0565>.

² Please see footnote 1.