

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002000/26
to the Commission
Friedrich Pürner (NI)
(13 May 2026)**

Subject: Spain — possible misappropriation of COVID aid

Several media reports ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾ allege that Spain may have misappropriated around EUR 10 billion in EU funds (COVID recovery programme) to plug holes in its national finances, most notably in its pensions system. If these accounts are found to be true, difficult questions would have to be asked about the regularity of the use of EU funds and scrutiny by the relevant EU bodies and institutions. The proper use of EU funds is crucial for the credibility and effective operation of the EU.

1. Is the Commission aware of such operations or the suspicions against Spain, and has an audit on the use of the funds concerned already been carried out or got underway?
2. What control mechanisms are currently in place for the reliable prevention or early detection of the improper use of EU funds by Member States?
3. What would be the repercussions if the suspicion were found to be true, and is there legal provision for the possible repayment of funds to the EU budget?

Submitted: 13.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(8 July 2026)**

The Commission is aware of the observations made by the Spanish Court of Auditors in its report, particularly of their finding that the legal grounds for certain internal budgetary transfers ‘should have been more thoroughly justified’ ⁽¹⁾.

These observations do not call into question the lawful use of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) under EU law. Rather, they pertain to procedural requirements under Spanish budgetary law, which are a matter of domestic accountability.

Under the RRF Regulation ⁽²⁾, Member States receive EU funds following the achievement of milestones and targets, which reflect progress in carrying out eligible reforms and investments, in line with requirements laid down in Council implementing decisions.

In the Spanish Recovery and Resilience Plan there is no milestone or target related to pension expenditures, since those are ineligible under the RRF.

Additionally, the Recovery and Resilience framework ensures the protection of the financial interests of the EU through strict checks. In this regard, every payment request has been thoroughly and transparently assessed before the related disbursement, so as to always safeguard the financial interests of the EU.

¹ <https://www.welt.de/politik/ausland/article6a01cda77b6d0cd4a33ace55/spanien-soll-zehn-milliarden-euro-aus-corona-fonds-zweckentfremdet-haben-skandal-erster-ordnung.html>.

² <https://www.bild.de/politik/ausland-und-internationales/eu-milliarden-zweckentfremdet-madrid-stopft-rentenloecher-absolut-inakzeptabel-6a018b3bcd4a28c470023584>.

³ <https://www.elmundo.es/economia/2026/05/06/69fb8c83fdddf7128b4586.html>.

⁽¹⁾ <https://tcu.es/export/sites/porta/portal/repositorio2/DECLARACION-CUENTA-GENERAL-DEL-ESTADO/2026/I1677.pdf>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/241/oj/eng>.