

EN

E-002081/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.9.2026)

The Commission reaffirms the role of the Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) in promoting balanced regional development, addressing disparities, and strengthening the EU's engagement with citizens.

As every institution, the Commission continuously reflects on how best to organise itself to deliver effectively on its policy objectives. In this context, the President of the Commission tasked the Commissioner responsible for Budget, Anti-Fraud, Public Administration with conducting a large-scale review of the Commission's organisation and operations. The review is expected to result in a set of actionable recommendations by the end of 2026.

The proposals for the 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework¹, presented on 16 July 2025, aim to streamline the EU budget structure in order to maximise its impact in the face of the multiple challenges confronting Europe. Regions will continue to play a key role in shaping and implementing strategies and projects tailored to their specific needs, while maintaining direct contact with the Commission.

The Commission fully shares the view that cohesion policy must not be reduced to a centralised investment instrument. Its strength lies precisely in its capacity to respond to diverse territorial challenges, from demographic decline in rural areas to ensuring a just transition in industrial regions. Cohesion policy is firmly anchored in the EU Treaties and remains at the heart of the European project. In this context, the expertise of the colleagues working in DG REGIO, the institutional memory, and close cooperation with national, regional, and local stakeholders are important assets for delivering tangible results for citizens across Europe.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034_en.