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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.7.2026)

The Commission recognises the unique challenges faced by the outermost regions, particularly for young people, and is committed to continuing to address them, with a focus on the right to stay.

1. The forthcoming Right to Stay Strategy¹ and Outermost Regions Strategy² will be closely aligned and reinforce their respective objectives. Both strategies will have a clear focus on addressing key territorial challenges, such as economic development, skills, essential services, transport, and connectivity, and promoting place-based solutions to address them.
2. Both strategies will take the form of a Commission communication. The Right to Stay Strategy will not create new funding streams or legislative proposals.
3. The Right to Stay Strategy will support the attractiveness of territories, with particular focus on those with declining population and socio-economic challenges, including the outermost regions. It will provide guidance for programming and implementing EU funds, leverage existing EU policies and showcase examples of successful policy implementation. The strategy will also assist the concerned Member States and regions in embedding its objectives into their National Recovery and Resilience Plans and translating them into concrete measures, taking into account their structural social and economic situations in accordance with Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The outermost regions strategy will focus on enhancing competitiveness, resilience, regional integration and social fairness in the outermost regions. It will include commitments to support local employment, education and training, address the housing crisis, and encourage economic dynamism and diversification in these regions.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/whats-new/newsroom/05-05-2026-european-commission-launches-landmark-right-to-stay-strategy_en.

² https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/themes/outermost-regions_en.