

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002166/26
to the Commission
Virginie Joron (PFE)
(27 May 2026)**

Subject: EUR 10 billion of Spanish pensions funded by the country's European neighbours?

Spain is the second-largest recipient of EU post-COVID funds: EUR 60.5 billion in grants and EUR 17.3 billion in loans from the EUR 724 billion European recovery package. The Spanish Court of Auditors reported that in 2024, EUR 2.4 billion of 'surplus appropriations' from the EU recovery fund were used to meet unavoidable obligations related to civil service pensions.

In 2025, the Socialist Government apparently diverted at least another EUR 8.5 billion to fund pensions, minimum income benefits and other social spending ⁽¹⁾. The Court of Auditors also noted that the legal basis for those transactions should have been better justified ⁽²⁾.

1. Can the Commission confirm whether the Spanish Socialist Government used over EUR 10 billion from EU funds to pay its civil servants' pensions in 2024-2025?
2. How much of that EUR 10 billion sum was funded by France and the French people?
3. Does the Commission authorise the French Government to use EU funds from the post-COVID recovery plan to finance its pensions and social spending, and what would be the deadline for the last application?

Submitted: 27.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(18 September 2026)**

The Commission is aware of the observations made by the Spanish Court of Auditors in this report, particularly 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.

Payments to Member States under the RRF are financed through NextGenerationEU, with the Commission raising funds on capital markets on behalf of the EU. For grant payments, the funds are repaid by 2058 through the EU budget. For loan payments, Member States are responsible for repaying the RRF loans they receive.

¹ <https://www.elmundo.es/economia/2026/05/06/69fb8c83fdddf7128b4586.html>.

² <https://www.euractiv.com/news/spain-under-fire-for-using-eu-post-pandemic-fund-to-patch-pension-deficit/>.

⁽¹⁾ <https://tcu.es/export/sites/portal/repositorio2/DECLARACION-CUENTA-GENERAL-DEL-ESTADO/2026/I1677.pdf>, page 39.

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