

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002996/26
to the Commission
Isabel Serra Sánchez (The Left)
(15 July 2026)**

Subject: Use of NextGenerationEU funds to finance the Benasque-Cerler cable car project ruled illegal by the Spanish courts

The territorial plans for sustainable tourism at Spanish destinations are included in Spain's Resilience and Recovery Plan under measure C14.I1, 'Transformation of the tourism model towards sustainability'. The measures calls for projects to follow the 'do no significant harm' principle and national and EU environmental legislation.

The Huesca Single Administrative Court has declared the cable car between Benasque and the ski resort of Cerler to be unlawful. The judgment identified serious irregularities: the terminal's location in an area prone to flooding from the River Ésera, shortcomings in the geotechnical studies and the lack of an economic viability report.

In response to a previous question ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾ from this Member, the Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms, Raffaele Fitto stated that the Spanish authorities could replace that project with another as long as it met the selection criteria under targets 217, 218 and 219. Nevertheless, as of 1 July 2026, when the implementation period for NextGenerationEU-funded projects ended, there was no evidence that the Spanish authorities had reallocated the funds.

In view of the above:

Does the Commission intend to claim the funds for the Benasque-Cerler cable car back from Spain, given that a judgment has found serious legal breaches and potential environmental damage that could be evidence that EU funds have been misused?

Submitted: 15.7.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(2 September 2026)**

The Commission has not yet received the submission of the seventh payment request, in which the Spanish authorities will outline the concrete activities that will be included as part of the evidence to demonstrate fulfilment of milestone 221. At this stage, the Commission is not aware of whether the project mentioned will be part of those activities.

To recall, the Recovery and Resilience Facility is a performance-based instrument. In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/241 ⁽¹⁾, the Commission disburses payments to Spain following a positive assessment of completion of the milestones and targets specified in the annex of the Council Implementing Decision ⁽²⁾ (CID) on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Spain.

The Spanish authorities are responsible for the completion of milestones and targets and requesting payments to the Commission as they are completed.

The Commission then assesses their implementation exclusively against the specific requirements set out in the annex of the CID, hence excluding any prior national measures or decisions.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-004932_EN.html.

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-004932-ASW_EN.html.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R0241>.

⁽²⁾ COM(2026) 257 Final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM:2026:257:FIN>.