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Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis
on behalf of the European Commission
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France has been subject to an Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP)[1] since July 2024 and, on 21 January 2025, the Council adopted a recommendation for France to correct its excessive deficit by 2029[2].

The effective action under the EDP is assessed based on the net expenditure indicator and its deviations from the net expenditure path recommended by the Council. The Commission does a preliminary assessment of effective action based on forecast data, which is reassessed based on outturn data. In the case of forecast data, a negative conclusion on effective action can only be reached in particularly serious cases of non-compliance. This is applicable for all Member States.

In spring 2026, the Commission provided its final assessment for 2025, based on outturn data, concluding that France had taken effective action under the EDP[3]. The Commission also assessed the forecast data for France for 2026 and 2027. The Commission will reassess the situation on effective action in its autumn 2026 surveillance round and will publish its assessment and recommendations for France and other Member States as part of the autumn European Semester package. The final assessment for 2026 will be performed in spring 2027, when the outturn data for 2026 become available.

Equal treatment among Member States is fundamental in the EU economic governance framework. The Commission ensures horizontal consistency in its assessments, so that Member States in similar situations are treated similarly, and transparency. The Commission's conclusions for each Member State are well-documented and made public, so as to ensure transparency and foster public scrutiny and accountability.

[1] The provisions governing the implementation of the excessive deficit procedure are laid down in Article 126 TFEU and in Regulation (EC) No. 1467/97 as amended by Council Regulations No. 1055/2005, No. 1177/2011 and 2024/1264.
[2] Council Recommendation of 21 January with a view to bringing an end to the situation of an excessive deficit in France : https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/01/21/stability-and-growth-pact-council-adopts-recommendations-to-countries-under-excessive-deficit-procedure/.
[3] COM(2026) 200 final, 2026 European Semester - Spring Package, p.36-37: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52026DC0200.