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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.10.2026)

To facilitate the timely implementation of the national and regional partnership (NRP) plans (plans), the Commission services have started engaging informally with national, regional and local authorities in preparing the plans, recalling the importance of a comprehensive involvement of relevant partners in these preparations. This is in line with the partnership principle as set out in the NRP plans proposal¹. Since July 2026, the Commission also provides guidance on preparation of the plans to support their timely adoption and ensure a level playing field across Member States and regions. Member States will need to ensure that the submitted plans are aligned with the final outcome of the co-legislative process.

Pursuant to the NRP plans proposal, the Commission shall ensure that Member States' plans comply with all NRP regulation requirements before adoption. In this context, the Commission will also assess the arrangements made to ensure a robust multi-governance system based on the partnership principle and the European Code of Conduct on Partnership², as well as the intervention strategy of each plan considering the specific needs and challenges of the Member State concerned, its regions and territories. If the plan does not comply with the requirements of the regulation, the Commission will communicate a duly justified reasoning to the Member State concerned.

Throughout implementation, the Commission will monitor the progress of the plans including the effective functioning of the partnership principle and the compliance with all regulatory requirements, taking action as needed. The Commission will also consult regularly organisations representing partners relevant to the plans at EU level.

¹ COM(2025)565. The proposal is under negotiation with the co-legislators.

² Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014.