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Answer given by Mr Serafin
on behalf of the European Commission
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Cohesion policy and the common agricultural policy are at the heart of the next multi-annual financial framework (MFF) proposal. The National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPP) will allow simpler and more tailored implementation. The NRPP will build on the key success factors of cohesion policy: place-based approach, the partnership principle, multilevel governance and shared management. Regional and local authorities will continue to play a key role in the design and implementation of supported measures throughout the whole process. Member States will have the flexibility to structure the plans to reflect their own constitutional and administrative structures and preferences as it is already the case. Existing local cooperation instruments such as community-led local development or integrated territorial investments remain. All this will enable the active involvement of regional and local authorities.

By bringing together the combined envelope of EUR 865 billion under a coherent strategy, the NRPP will allow simpler and easier to access EU Funds implemented by Member States. Of this amount, EUR 453 billion will be for cohesion, rural development and fishing communities, broadly equivalent to that provided in the current MFF. Investment in the least developed regions will be ring-fenced with at least EUR 218 billion. Member States will have to demonstrate that the plan addresses the needs and challenges of all regions in an effective and balanced manner.