

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-003230/25
to the Commission
Kosma Złotowski (ECR)
(13 August 2025)**

Subject: Irregularities in the expenditure of funds from the National Recovery Plan (NRP) for the HoReCa sector in Poland

The scandal surrounding the National Recovery Plan (NRP) has caused widespread outrage in Poland in recent days. The government's map of subsidies for the HoReCa industry (hotels, restaurants, catering) includes unusual projects, such as the purchase of mobile coffee machines, yachts, sunbeds and the financing of virtual shooting ranges. This raises questions about the compatibility of such expenditure with the original objectives of the NRP.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk pointed out in a recent speech that the programme to compensate businesses in this sector for losses incurred during the pandemic was devised by the previous government, which is now in opposition. He stated that after the change of government, the current government had to allocate funds from the NRP under time pressure, which could have led to irregularities in the process of granting funding.

In light of the above:

1. Is it true that the programme to compensate for losses incurred by businesses in the HoReCa sector during the pandemic was devised by the Polish Government, or was this type of financial support explicitly provided for in the Recovery and Resilience Facility as part of NextGenerationEU?
2. Have other Member States also allocated resources from this fund for similar purposes, and if so, have similar irregularities been reported in their cases?
3. What specific explanations did the Commission request, what measures can it take if it turns out that the Polish authorities have not implemented effective corrective measures, and is it possible to immediately suspend payments or initiate a recovery procedure?

Submitted: 13.8.2025

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(24 September 2025)**

In the Polish recovery and resilience plan ⁽¹⁾ (RRP), the HoReCa (hotels, restaurants, catering) sector is supported by measure A1.2.1. The measure does not compensate firms for losses but aims to support the resilience of firms by encouraging upscaling and diversification of activities.

The measure was included in the Council Implementing Decision (CID) adopted on 17 June 2022 (number 9728/22) ⁽²⁾ and was part of the Polish submission from 3 May 2021.

The RRP was assessed as being in line with the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) Regulation ⁽³⁾. Support for the HoReCa sector is not explicitly required by the regulation, but is an option, provided it fits the objectives and conditions of the RRF.

Measures to support the HoReCa sector are present in some, but not all, national RRP's. Examples of Member States with HoReCa include Italy and Spain.

The respective measures are being assessed by the Commission in the context of Member States' payment requests and are subject to the RRF audit and control framework.

Targets under measure A1.2.1 are part of the 6th and 9th instalments of the Polish RRP. So far Poland has not submitted payment requests for these instalments and the Commission has therefore not assessed the satisfactory fulfilment of the targets nor disbursed any funds for this measure.

Any RRF disbursement requires a satisfactory fulfilment of the conditions set out in the CID in line with the RRF Regulation. In case of possible irregularities, the Commission may suspend all or part of the financial contribution (per Article 24), request recovery of funds already paid, and reduce future disbursements.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/polands-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/7120e605-3b02-11f0-8a44-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/241/oj/eng>.