

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000717/26
to the Commission
Elsi Katainen (Renew)
(19 February 2026)**

Subject: Commission action in favour of the eastern regions of the European Union

The eastern border regions of the European Union have faced a major economic shock since the start of Russia's large-scale war of aggression against Ukraine in February 2022. Economic development and demographics were already weaker in many eastern border regions than they were in other regions before the start of the war, and the prolonged war of aggression has compounded the situation.

Various Member States and regions of the European Union have received financial support amid major changes. For example, following the UK's withdrawal from the EU, the Union decided to establish the Brexit Adjustment Reserve, which provided EUR 5 billion to support the Member States and regions most affected by the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

On 18 February 2026, the Commission published the EU strategy for the eastern regions. The strategy identified the key problems in border areas, but unfortunately there is not enough funding to address them.

1. Will the Commission propose a separate instrument for the benefit of the eastern border regions, along the lines of the Brexit Adjustment Reserve?
2. Why did the Commission not propose targeted funding for the eastern border regions in its proposal on the multiannual financial framework?

Submitted: 19.2.2026

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

1. On 16 July 2025, the Commission adopted the proposals for the next multi-annual financial framework, including the proposal for the National and Regional Partnership plans⁽¹⁾. Instead of 14 separate frameworks, the latter provides for a more integrated approach enhancing synergies and making EU support more effective to address the challenges in a more comprehensive manner, including in Eastern border regions. The plans are required to take into account specific needs and challenges of Eastern border regions, particularly in the areas of security, border management and economic development. Those needs and challenges will have to be identified in the plans in line with Annex VII (e) of the proposal and should be matched by corresponding reforms and investments. The specific situation of Eastern border regions was also recognised with targeted measures as part of the mid-term review of cohesion policy, including a 9.5% increase in pre-financing and a higher 10% co-financing rate to programmes in these regions.
2. For home affairs policies in Member States bordering Russia and Belarus the proposal sets out additional targeted funding for the benefit of those regions. It is embedded in the allocation key, which includes criteria to address challenges in relation to security at the borders with Russia and Belarus. This results in additional resources for these regions.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0565>.