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INFORMATION

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Ad Hoc Working Party on the Multiannual Financial Framework (AHWP MFF)
Subject:	National and Regional Partnership Plans - Presentation by the Commission

Delegations will find attached the presentation prepared by the Commission on the National and Regional Partnership Plans for the meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Party on 25 July 2025.



National and Regional Partnership Plans

Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034

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MAIN FRAMEWORK

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC,
TERRITORIAL, SOCIAL,
RURAL AND MARITIME
SUSTAINABLE
PROSPERITY
AND SECURITY FUND

SECTOR-SPECIFIC RULES

**Regional
development
(EFRD & CF)**

**Migration,
borders,
security**

**Social
(ESF+)**

**Common
Agricultural
Policy**

**Fisheries
and
maritime**

PROGRAMMING

**NATIONAL AND
REGIONAL
PARTNERSHIP PLANS**

Climate and
environment target 43%
Social target 14%



EU FACILITY

SUPPORTED MEASURES

Reforms

↑
mutually
reinforcing
↓

**Investments and
other interventions**

**Transnational
projects**

Crisis response

**Ability to address
new crises and needs**

BENEFITS



Multi-level
governance and
partnership with
regions and
sectors



Simplification
Faster payments
Less burden



Strong safeguards
(Rule of Law,
EU Charter of
Fundamental
Rights)



Higher
EU added-value
of the budget



More flexibility to
respond to new
challenges and
needs

A faster, simpler and more impactful system

Ensuring better coherence between EU priorities and national and regional actions	Achieving simplification and better value for money	Addressing emerging policy priorities without putting at risk the fulfilment of long-term objectives	Fostering ownership at all levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stronger synergies between policies ➤ A more integrated programming process, allowing a more differentiated and qualitative approach to deliver on EU priorities, tailored to each Member State's national and regional challenges ➤ Investments + reforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A single rulebook + a large eligibility scope and toolbox (e.g. guarantees) ➤ Payments based on achievement of objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Progressive allocation: a higher flexibility amount (25%) set aside and available for crisis situations and the mid-term review. ➤ A dedicated financial capacity, the EU Facility, to steer action at EU-level and provide additional room to help Member States respond to crises (<i>e.g. natural disasters, market disturbances on agricultural markets</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong regional dimension and involvement of social partners ➤ Multi-level governance and partnership principle ➤ Continuity and predictability for managing authorities

I. Objectives

- **General objectives (art.2)** reflecting Treaty-based objectives and the NRP plans' legal architecture to be pursued through more comprehensive **specific objectives (art.3)** grouped around **5 pillars**:

General objectives (art.2)

Reduce regional imbalances, promote European territorial cooperation [ERDF/CF]

Support social policies [ESF] and a socially fair transition

Support the Implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy [CAP]

Support the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy [CFP]

Protect and strengthen democracy, uphold Union values



Specific objectives (art.3)

(a) Support the Union's sustainable prosperity across all regions

(b) Support the Union's defence capabilities and security

(c) Strengthen social cohesion (people, societies, social model)

(d) Sustain the quality of life in the Union

(e) Protect and strengthen fundamental rights, democracy, the rule of law, Union values

In a manner consistent with the objectives set out in the 3 HOME regulations



II. General Principles

- **Management of the Fund (art.5):**

- ❖ *NRP Plans* => shared (like under current cohesion/CAP programmes)
- ❖ *Interreg Plan* => shared (+indirect in the case of certain Interreg cooperation types)
- ❖ *EU Facility*: direct, shared and indirect (like under the current HOME thematic facility)

- **Partnership principle and multi-level governance (art.6) - derived from current CPR**

- ❖ Applicable to all Plans (incl. Interreg) + respect of the European code of conduct on partnership
- ❖ Partners (incl. regional and local authorities and social partners) to be **involved throughout the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the chapters**, including through participation in **monitoring committees** (art.55) and taking into account the corresponding territorial level and geographical coverage of each chapter.

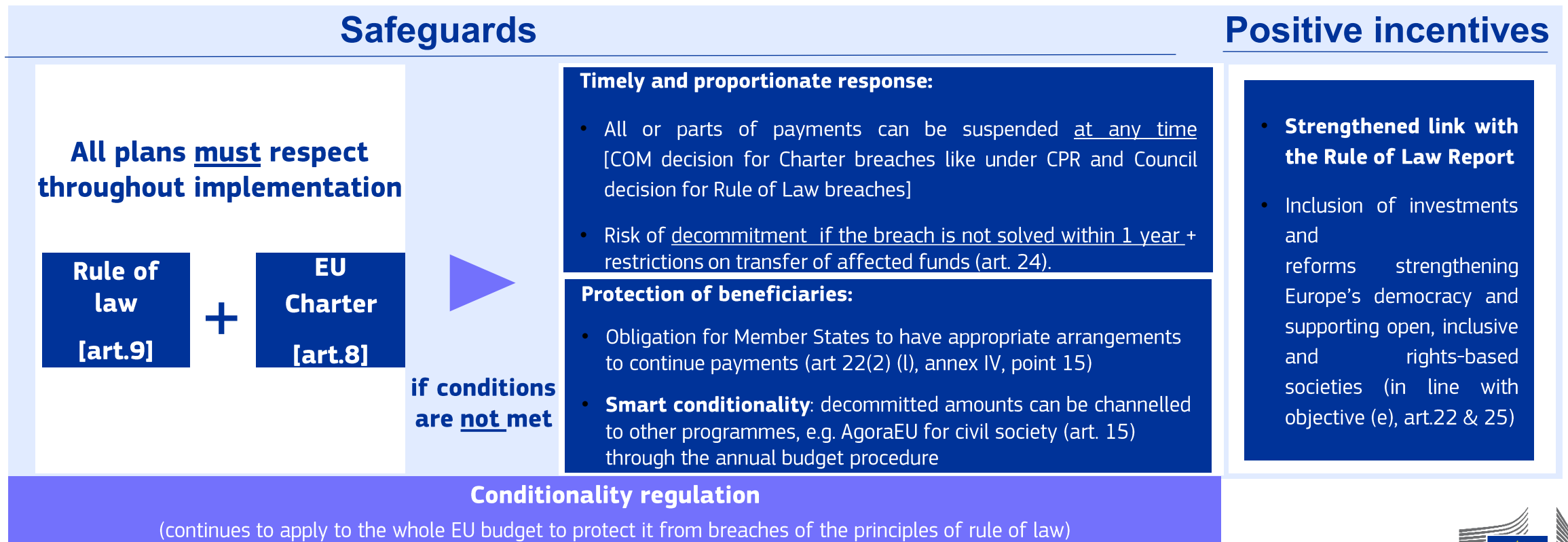
- **Horizontal principles (art.7) - derived mostly from current CPR**

- ❖ Respect of the **EU Charter** and of the **rule of law** [new] throughout the preparation and implementation of the Plans (cf. art.8 and 9)
- ❖ Prevention of discrimination + accessibility for persons with disabilities
- ❖ Compliance with '**farm stewardship**' for relevant CAP interventions
- ❖ Additionality of EU funding, synergies and avoidance of double funding



III. Rule of law and EU Charter conditionality

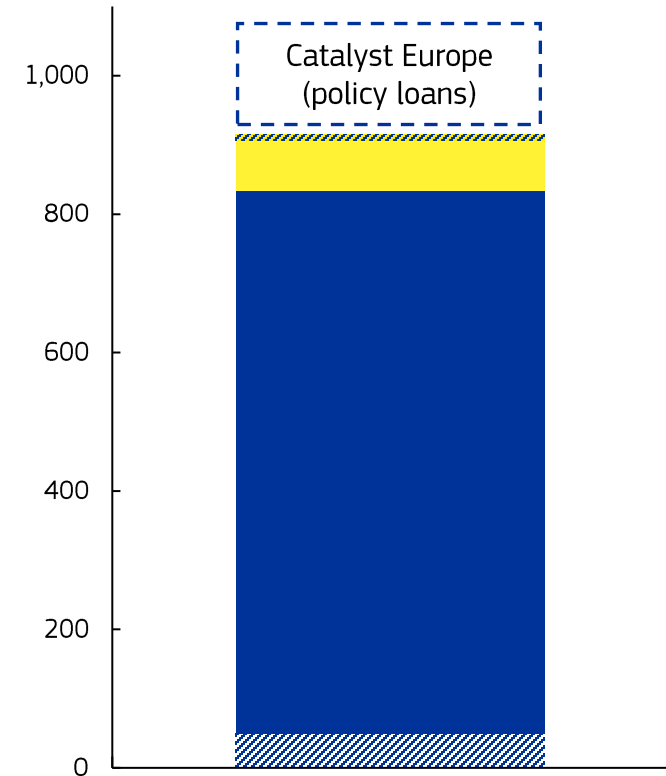
- **Proposal (art.8 and 9): common safeguards** to complement the general regime of Rule of Law Conditionality. Deterrent and supporting measures combined to effectively protect the EU budget from breaches, while investing in upholding the rule of law and fundamental rights.



IV. Financial framework (Art. 10 - Budget)

- **Total financial envelope: EUR 865 billion**
 - ❖ **EUR 783 bn for NRP Plans** based on the allocation set out in Annex I, of which:
 - at least **218 bn for less developed regions** (amounts per Member States in annex II)
 - at least **EUR 296 bn for farmers income support and fisheries**
 - at least **EUR 34 bn for home affairs**
 - ❖ **EUR 72 bn for the Facility**, of which (art.26):
 - 63 bn for Union actions (incl unity safety net, solidarity actions in case of natural disasters and home affairs)
 - 8,7bn for the emerging challenges and priority cushion
 - ❖ **EUR 10 bn for the Interreg Plan (amount in Annex III)**
- **Additional resources:**
 - ❖ **Integration of the Social Climate Fund (EUR 50bn in EAR)**
 - ❖ **EUR 150bn available in loans [Catalyst Europe]**
- **Social target => 14%** applicable to the financial envelope + loans excluding the minimum amounts ringfenced for CAP/CFP.

In EUR billion,
current prices



2028-2034

- ▨ Thematic facility-Cushion
- Thematic Facility
- Agriculture, Fisheries, Cohesion and Home Funds
- ▨ Social Climate Fund



IV. Financial framework

- **Funding for technical and administrative assistance:**
 - ❖ At the initiative of the Member State (art.13) => **simplified procedure: flat rate of up to 3% and 8-10% (respectively for NRPP and Interreg plans)** applied to the amount included in each payment application + possibility to request support to prepare reforms
- **Commitment and decommitment rules (art.14-16):** ensuring both predictability, timely implementation, flexibility and fairness
 - ❖ **Higher flexibility amount: 25%** of Union contribution – minus certain CAP interventions - set aside for programming at a later stage to be able to respond to crises during implementation (art.34) and finance new measures/priorities as part of the mid-term review.
 - ❖ **N+1 rule for decommitments** to speed up implementation and provide more predictability on annual payments. Facilitated by the Plan's high pre-financing rate and new delivery model (interim milestones and targets allowing for faster payments). Exceptions for force majeure (as under current CPR) and some CAP interventions.

IV. Financial framework

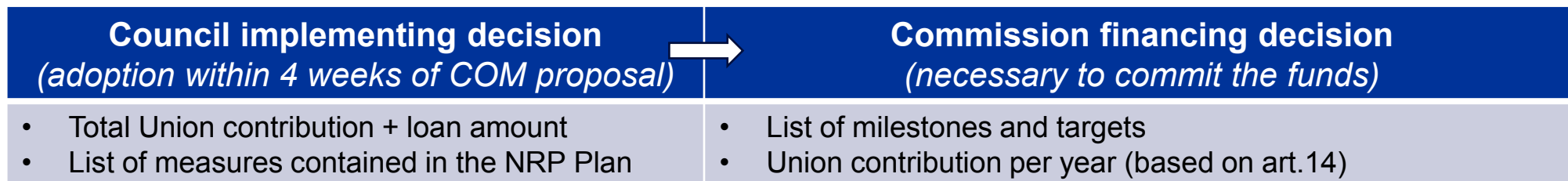
- **Higher pre-financing (art. 17)** to **speed up implementation** and help prefinance projects
 - ❖ NRP Plans: **10% in three tranches** (4% in 2028 if adopted by July 2028), 3% in 2029, 3% in 2030
- **'Catalyst Europe' policy loans (art. 18-19):** complementary tool
 - ❖ Loans available to cover additional financial needs - same assessment and payment procedures as for grants
 - ❖ Process: allocation based on equal treatment, proportionality, solidarity and transparency, possibility for COM to launch new calls for interest after 2028 if amounts remain available.
 - ❖ COM empowered to borrow the necessary funds on behalf of the Union
 - ❖ Detailed terms and conditions of support set out in loan agreements
- **Co-financing (art.20): minimum national contribution rates defined at regional level**
 - ❖ Rates aligned with current practices under cohesion policy with exceptions for certain CAP interventions
 - ❖ Compliance assessed **ex-ante** at the level of each measure **based on estimated costs**

Less developed region	Transition regions	More developed regions	If territorial split not available	Interreg
15%	40%	60%	Population weighted average of the applicable contribution rates of the MS' regions	20%



V. Preparation and adoption of the Plan

- **Objective:** simplifying programming + ensuring alignment with EU priorities and addressing each Member State's national and local needs and challenges in a tailored, coordinated and effective manner => one **National and Regional Partnership Plan (NRPP)** per MS
- **Preparation and submission of NRPP (Art. 21):** one **NRPP** with reforms, investments and other interventions, prepared and implemented in cooperation with **relevant partners**, including **regional and local authorities and economic, social and rural partners**
 - ❖ National, sectoral & regional and territorial chapters (where relevant, depending on each Member State's institutional set-up, as is currently the case under cohesion policy/CAP)
- **Assessment criteria (Art. 22(2) & template in Annex V)** - *more on next slide*
- **Adoption (Art. 23):** Commission to propose a **Council implementing decision** (within 4 months)



Requirements for NRPP (Art. 22(2) & Annex V):

Contributes to the **general and specific objectives** of the Fund (Art 2 and Art 3)

Effectively addresses all or a significant subset of challenges identified:

- (i) In the context of the **European Semester**
- (ii) In **other relevant documents** adopted or assessed by the Commission (CAP recommendations)
- (iii) In relevant documents and strategies **adopted by the Council or the Commission** in internal security, border management and visa policy and asylum and migration

Contains explanation how NRPP will, for example:

- (i) Be consistent with the **national medium-term fiscal structural plans**
- (ii) Contribute to the completion of the **Single Market**
- (iii) Detailed cost estimates (plausibility and reasonability)
- (iv) **Reduce economic, social and territorial disparities** in less developed, transition and more developed regions
- (v) **Concentrate resources** on key priorities
- (vi) Provide a self-assessment of the **compliance with the Charter horizontal condition** (Art 8)
- (vii) Arrangements in place to ensure sound financial management, PFIEU and payment continuity
- (viii) Ensure contribution to the **Union's social + climate and environmental objectives (allocation targets of at least 14% and 43% respectively)**

V. Revision of the Plan

- **Objective:** streamlined procedures and greater flexibility
- **Amendment procedure (Art. 24):**
 - ❖ Notification to the Commission sufficient for minor changes and clerical errors
- **Mid-term review (Art. 25):**
 - ❖ Elements to consider: socio-economic situation of MS or region, progress in achievement of measures, occurrence of any crisis, continuous compliance with Rule of law and the Charter horizontal conditions
 - ❖ Amended NRPP: updated estimated costs & programming of the flexibility amount, revised and/or new measures and corresponding milestones and targets

VI. EU Facility

- **Objective:** providing flexibility, financing actions of EU importance and related to crisis situations; inspired by Thematic Facility under HOME Funds
- **2 components:**
 - ❖ **Union actions (Annex XV)** – 63 bn EUR – e.g. Unity safety Net, Home affairs actions, LIFE actions, Solidarity Actions
 - ❖ **Emerging challenges and priorities cushion** (budget cushion) – 8,7 bn EUR
- **Management mode:** Shared, direct, indirect management
- **Budgetary guarantee** - Possible use of budgetary guarantees (under the ECF Regulation), financial instruments and blending operations
- **Budget cushion (Art. 33):**
 - ❖ EU response in the event of unforeseen circumstances
 - ❖ Promotion of new Union-led initiatives and priorities
 - ❖ Rules similar to the current budget cushion in external actions



VI. EU Facility

- **Union actions (Art. 31, Annex XV)** supporting: urban authorities, social innovation, bank guarantees in social area, implementation of CFP and ocean policy, interregional innovation investments, LIFE actions, veterinary and phytosanitary emergency measures etc., as well as **Unity Safety Net** and **Solidarity Actions** in case of natural disasters
- **Adoption:** COM financing decision: annual, multiannual; objectives and actions identified based on objective criteria ensuring balanced distribution; specific rules on allocating HOME affairs funds
- **Top-up of the NRPP – fast track (Art. 31(7)):** COM allocating the funds to the Plan, new measures by Member States; notification by COM => NO adoption by COM or Council
- **Unity Safety Net (Art. 31 (2), 32):** based on CMO comitology
- **Solidarity Actions (natural disasters): cascade mechanism with 4 stages but 1 Plan amendment** (Art. 31 (8), 34) + criteria in Annex XV part 2:
 1. Reprogramming
 2. Flexibility amount
 3. Union actions under EU Facility
 4. Budget cushion



VII. Common Agricultural Policy

- **Simplified Common Agricultural Policy** with a streamlined set of interventions, using synergies with other policies in the NRPP – general rules set out in the NRP Regulation, complemented by additional sectoral provisions in the CAP Regulation
- **Types of interventions** eligible for Union support to pursue the objectives of the CAP (**Art 35**) & **specific requirements** for CAP interventions (**Art 36**)
- **Rules on monitoring** of agricultural resource (**Art 37**)
- **Rules on crisis payments** to farmers following natural disasters, adverse climate events and catastrophic events (**Art 38**)
- **Specific rules for certain territories:**
 - ❖ Support for the smaller Aegean islands (Art 42-45).
 - ❖ Outermost regions (Art 46-48)



VIII. Governance of the Plan

- **Objective:** continuity with the existing governance structures + coordinating authority to ensure coherence of the Plan
- All institutions, including at regional level will continue to interact with COM
- **Coordinating authority (Art 50):**
 - ❖ submitting payment applications and management declarations, providing payment forecasts, guaranteeing that MAs receive their Union contribution irrespective of the progress made on national reforms (**Art. 50(1)g**)
- **Managing authority (Art. 51):**
 - ❖ sign management verifications to ensure fulfilment of M/Ts and compliance with the applicable law; ensuring timely payments to beneficiaries; submitting information on progress in implementation (**Annex IX**)
- **Paying agencies (Art. 52):**
 - ❖ implementation of measures under **Article 35(1)** and Union actions (h) – farm-level data on sustainability and (j) – market disturbance; some functions of Managing Authorities
- **Audit authority (Art. 53):** audits on M/T and system audits in order to provide assurance on:
 - ❖ Fulfilments of M/Ts + effective functioning of M&C system – whether it ensures legality and regularity of transactions and effective and timely protection of the Union's financial interests
- **Monitoring and coordinating committees (Art. 54-57)**



IX. Social Climate Fund and Modernisation Fund

- **Social Climate Plan Chapter (Art. 80-81):** NRPP should contain a separate **Social Climate Plan (SCP) chapter** with the measures and investments contained in the SCP previously submitted by the MS:
 - ❖ **MS's current allocations under the SCF continue to apply**
 - ❖ Possibility to programme all or part of available SCF resources to other measures contributing to the objectives laid down in Article 3, point (c)(vi) within the SCP chapter.



Rationale: *More efficient use of Union funds, more coherent delivery of the Fund's objectives, improved policy planning and consistency*

- **Modernisation Fund (Art. 82): synergies** between Modernisation Fund (MF) and NRPPs encouraged through coordinated programming to ensure better complementarity and policy coherence
 - ❖ Beneficiaries of MF will be required to describe planned investments for next 3 years under MF and synergies with NRPP in their NRP Plans.



THANK YOU

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