



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

Recovery & Resilience Task Force
The Director-General

Brussels,
SG.RECOVER.B.3/FP

Dear Mr Porawski,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 27 June, in which you inform me of the position of Polish local and regional self-government organisations on the Polish recovery and resilience plan.

I have duly taken note of your concerns and remarks. The Commission shares your view that the preparation of recovery and resilience plans should rely on an open and transparent process. The involvement of stakeholders in the recovery process is important for achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery in Europe. The recovery can only succeed if we act together, in close cooperation with social partners, civil society as well as representatives of local and regional authorities. We have frequently highlighted the importance of stakeholders' involvement in our exchanges with national authorities, including the Polish Government.

As required by the Regulation on the Recovery and Resilience Facility¹, the Polish plan includes a summary of the consultation process, conducted in accordance with the national legal framework, and an overview of how the input of the stakeholders is reflected in the plan. We note that the Polish Government has carried out stakeholder consultations through different platforms prior to the submission of its plan. In particular, a public consultation on the plan took place between 26 February and 2 April 2021.

With reference to one of your remarks, we also note that, in line with the Regulation, the Polish plan contains an explanation of its consistency with other plans and programmes, including for instance the National Energy and Climate Plan and the National Reform Programme. We also share the view that complementarity between that interventions of the Cohesion Policy funds and the Recovery and Resilience Facility is essential, given that both sources of funding intervene to support economic, social and territorial cohesion. The negotiations for the 2021-2027 programming period of the European Structural and Investment Funds are still ongoing and a Partnership Agreement will set out the principles of support.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility

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Please let me stress that the recovery and resilience plans are prepared by Member States and under their responsibility. They need to comply with the above mentioned Regulation. The Commission also published detailed Guidance to Member States² on the preparation of the plans.

After their formal submission, the Commission starts its in-depth assessment of the national recovery and resilience plans against the requirements of the Regulation. The Regulation formally envisages two months for the assessment of a plan and for the translation of its content into legally binding acts. In the case of the Polish plan, the Commission agreed with the Polish Government to extend this assessment period by one additional month.

The Commission's assessment of the Polish plan will address the criteria set out in the Regulation, several of which are relevant in view of the concerns that you conveyed. The Commission will notably review whether the plan is expected to effectively contribute to mitigating the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 crisis, thereby enhancing the economic, social and territorial cohesion and convergence within the Union. It will also assess whether the arrangements proposed are expected to ensure effective monitoring and implementation of the plan. This criterion includes a review of the envisaged timetable, milestones and targets, such as those related to the monitoring and consultation systems to be put in place by Poland to implement the recovery and resilience plan.

Having said this, I wish to underline that, based on the provisions of the Regulation, the Commission is not in a position to prescribe in detail the geographical allocation of funds or the governance structure to be put in place at the national level for the plan's implementation. In addition, while the formal assessment process is ongoing the Commission is not in a position to comment on individual measures or to provide a preliminary assessment of the plan.

We thank you again for your engagement and for informing us of your position and the outcome of your exchanges with the Polish Government. The Commission welcomes receiving relevant information from stakeholders, which also helps us in our assessment of the national plans. Let me assure you of our continued commitment to fully implement the provisions of the Regulation on the Recovery and Resilience Facility and to act in the best interest of all citizens.

Yours sincerely,

Céline Gauer

² Commission staff working document - Guidance to Member States - Recovery and Resilience Plans - Part 1, https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/document_travail_service_part1_v2_en.pdf