



Brussels, 19 May 2026
(OR. en)

9422/26

**Interinstitutional File:
2025/0240 (COD)**

COH 83
SOC 270
AGRI 386
AGRIFIN 97
PECHE 180
FIN 700
JAI 611
SAN 313
CODEC 946
CADREFIN 222
POLGEN 123
IA 123

COVER NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security for the period 2028-2034 and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 and Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 - Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions

Delegations will find attached a copy of the above-mentioned opinion.

This opinion is available in all language versions on the following website:

[NRPP Fund Regulation | European Committee of the Regions](#)



**European Committee
of the Regions**

COTER-VIII/009

171st plenary session, 6-7 May 2026

OPINION

NRPP Fund Regulation

THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS (CoR)

- stresses that all European regions should remain eligible for funding and calls for clarification on the percentages of national financial envelopes benefiting less developed, transition and more developed regions in each Member State;
- stresses that the participation of sub-national levels of government must be ensured, with strong and binding legislative safeguards in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the NRPPs. These new legislative safeguards should be enshrined in new articles concerning the ‘multilevel governance assessment’ and the ‘subsidiarity clause’
- calls for a requirement for each Member State to include at least one regional or territorial chapter in its NRPP, in line with the multilevel governance assessment and the subsidiarity clause;
- calls for a minimum target of 20% of national allocations for integrated territorial development strategies [...] as a guarantee of a genuinely place-based approach that empowers local communities and stakeholders;
- calls for each Member State to conduct a territorial impact assessment of their NRP Plan [...];
- calls on the Commission to assess the plans submitted by Member States against a policy reference framework to identify the specific territorial challenges of each Member State grounded in a solid territorial analysis;
- points out that economic, social and territorial cohesion is a core Treaty objective. The ‘do no harm to cohesion’ principle must therefore be placed at the top of the NRPP Fund’s hierarchy of objectives.

Rapporteurs:

Vasco Alves Cordeiro (PT/PES), Member of the Parliament of the Autonomous Region of the Azores
Emil Boc (RO/EPP), Mayor of Cluj-Napoca

Reference document:

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security for the period 2028-2034 and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 and Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 - COM/2025/565 final/2

Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions – NRPP Fund Regulation

I. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AMENDMENTS

Amendment 1

Article 2 – General objectives of the Fund

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>1. With the overall aim of promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion, the sustainable development and competitiveness of the Union, its security and its preparedness, the Fund shall support the following general objectives:</p> <p>(a) ...</p> <p>(b) ...</p> <p>[...]</p>	<p><i>The ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund, the EAFRD, the EAGF, the EMFAF, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF) shall support the following policy objectives:</i></p> <p>1. With the overall aim of promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion, the sustainable development and competitiveness of the Union, its security and its preparedness, the Fund shall support the following general objectives:</p> <p>(a) ...</p> <p><i>(aa) to support the Union’s sustainable prosperity and the just transition of all regions, and to ensure that the conditions necessary for the competitiveness of the Union’s industry exist in accordance with Part Three, Title XVII of the TFEU;</i></p> <p>(b) ...</p> <p>[...]</p>

<i>Reason</i>
<p>Reintroduces the funds supporting the NRPPs. It also reintroduces the just transition, adds a general objective on competitiveness in line with the relevant Treaty basis, clarifies that all regions should be supported by the policy and introduces coherence in relation to Article 3.</p>

Amendment 2

Article 2.1 – General objectives of the Fund

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>Amendment</i>
<p>(b) to support quality employment, education and skills and social inclusion in accordance with Part Three, Title XI and Title XVIII of Part Three of the TFEU (‘European Social Fund’) and to contribute to a socially fair transition towards climate neutrality in accordance with Article 91(1), point (d), Article 192(1) and Article 194(2) TFEU;</p>	<p>(b) to support quality employment, education and skills and social inclusion in accordance with Part Three, Title XI and Title XVIII of Part Three of the TFEU (‘European Social Fund’), <i>to eliminate inequalities, and to promote gender equality in accordance with Article 8 of the TFEU</i>, and to contribute to a socially fair transition towards climate neutrality in accordance with Article 91(1), point (d), Article 192(1) and Article 194(2) TFEU;</p>

Amendment 3

Article 3.1 – Specific objectives of the Fund

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>1. The general objectives referred to in Article 2 shall be pursued across all regions through the following specific objectives:</p> <p>(a) to support the Union’s sustainable prosperity across all regions by: [...]</p> <p>(b) to support the Union’s defence capabilities and security across all regions by: [...]</p> <p>(c) to strengthen social cohesion by supporting people and strengthening the Union’s societies and the Union’s social model by: [...]</p> <p>(d) to sustain the quality of life in the Union by: [...]</p> <p>(e) to protect and strengthen fundamental rights, democracy, the rule of law and to uphold Union values by: [...]</p>	<p>1. The general objectives referred to in Article 2 shall be pursued across all regions through the following specific objectives:</p> <p>(a) to reduce disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions and the just transition of all regions by: [...]</p> <p>(b) to ensure that the conditions necessary for the competitiveness of the Union’s industry exist by:</p> <p>(i) strengthening the Union’s industrial base, place-based innovation, regional innovation ecosystems, smart specialisation strategies and resilient supply chains and boosting sustainable and competitive manufacturing, in particular in the areas of net zero and critical raw materials technologies, with special attention to the competitiveness of small- and medium-sized enterprises, by fully integrating environmental and climate ambitions to accelerate a clean industrial transition;</p> <p>(ii) supporting research, development and innovation, including the diffusion of innovation across all regions and interregional cooperation;</p> <p>(iii) supporting measures, including reforms to further the Savings and Investment Union and foster the development of market-based funding options;</p> <p>(c) to raise the standard of living in the Union and support quality employment, education and skills and inclusion:</p> <p>(i) supporting investment in social infrastructure, including the renovation of buildings such as hospitals or schools; [...]</p> <p>(d) to support the implementation of the CAP of the Union by: [...]</p> <p>(e) to support the implementation of the common fisheries policy by:</p>

	<p>[...]</p> <p><i>(f) to constitute an area of freedom, security and justice with respect for fundamental rights by:</i></p> <p>[...]</p> <p><i>(g) to support the Union’s defence capabilities and security across all regions by: [...]</i></p>
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Reason
Reorganises priorities and objectives in line with Article 2.

Amendment 4

Article 3.1

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
(vii) supporting social and affordable housing;	(vii) supporting <i>building and renovations for</i> social and affordable, <i>sustainable and decent</i> housing;

Reason
Expands housing support to include sustainability and quality standards, ensuring affordable housing also delivers environmental performance and decent living conditions.

Amendment 5

Article 4 - Definitions

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions apply:</p> <p>(2) ‘applicable law’ means Union law and the national law directly relating to its application;</p> <p>(3) ‘beneficiary’ means:</p> <p>(a) a public or private law body, an entity with or without legal personality, or a natural person who is not a participant, responsible for initiating or both initiating and implementing an operation under the NRP Plan and the Interreg Plan and to whom the document setting out the conditions for support has been provided;</p> <p>(b) in the context of financial instruments, the body that implements the holding fund or, where there is no holding fund structure, the body that implements the specific fund or, where the managing authority manages the financial instrument, the managing authority;</p> <p><i>(c) in the context of the CAP, a farmer who is:</i></p>	<p>For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions apply:</p> <p>(2) ‘applicable law’ means Union law and the national law directly relating to its application;</p> <p>(3) ‘beneficiary’ means:</p> <p>(a) a public or private law body, an entity with or without legal personality, or a natural person who is not a participant, responsible for initiating or both initiating and implementing an operation under the NRP Plan and the Interreg Plan and to whom the document setting out the conditions for support has been provided;</p> <p>(b) in the context of financial instruments, the body that implements the holding fund or, where there is no holding fund structure, the body that implements the specific fund or, where the managing authority manages the financial instrument, the managing authority;</p>

<p><i>(i) a natural or legal person whose holding is situated in the Union and whose principal activity is agricultural activity in accordance with the criteria defined by the Member States in line with this Regulation; or</i></p> <p><i>(ii) natural person or small legal person, whose principal activity is not agriculture, but who is engaged in at least a minimum level of agricultural activity, as defined by Member States.</i></p> <p>(4) ‘chapter of the NRP Plan’ means a part of the NRP Plan focusing on a specific challenge, sector, policy or geographic area,</p> <p>(5) ‘contractor’ means an entity or a natural person with whom the beneficiary or the recipient enters into a contract for the specific purpose of implementing one or more operations or a part thereof;</p> <p>(6) ‘recipient’ means an entity with or without legal personality, or a natural person, who is not a participant, receiving resources from the Union budget through a beneficiary;</p> <p>(7) ‘final recipient’ means an entity with or without legal personality or a natural person who is not a participant, receiving support under a financial instrument and who is understood as a recipient for the purposes of Article 38(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509;</p> <p>(8) ‘participant’ means a natural person benefiting directly from an operation without initiating or implementing the operation;</p> <p>(9) ‘operation’ means:</p> <p>(a) a project, contract, action or group of projects or group of actions selected in the context of implementing a measure in the Plan;</p> <p>(b) in the context of financial instruments, a contribution from the NRP Plan and the Interreg Plan to a financial instrument and the subsequent financial support provided to final recipients by that financial instrument;</p> <p><i>(c) in the context of the CAP, a payment granted to farmers under area- and animal-based CAP income support interventions referred to in Article 35(1) [Types of intervention], points (a) to (g), (o) and (p).</i></p>	<p>(4) ‘chapter of the NRP Plan’ means a part of the NRP Plan focusing on a specific challenge, sector, policy or geographic area,</p> <p><i>(5) A ‘territorial chapter’ means a part of the NRP plan setting out investments and reforms for a specific type of territory or a specific territorial unit as defined in Regulation (EU) 2017/2391.</i></p> <p>(6) ‘contractor’ means an entity or a natural person with whom the beneficiary or the recipient enters into a contract for the specific purpose of implementing one or more operations or a part thereof;</p> <p>(7) ‘recipient’ means an entity with or without legal personality, or a natural person, who is not a participant, receiving resources from the Union budget through a beneficiary;</p> <p>(8) ‘final recipient’ means an entity with or without legal personality or a natural person who is not a participant, receiving support under a financial instrument and who is understood as a recipient for the purposes of Article 38(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509;</p> <p>(9) ‘participant’ means a natural person benefiting directly from an operation without initiating or implementing the operation;</p> <p>(10) ‘operation’ means:</p> <p>(a) a project, contract, action or group of projects or group of actions selected in the context of implementing a measure in the Plan;</p> <p>(b) in the context of financial instruments, a contribution from the NRP Plan and the Interreg Plan to a financial instrument and the subsequent financial support provided to final recipients by that financial instrument;</p> <p>(11) ‘measure’ means a reform, an investment or another intervention at national or sub-national level supported under the NRP Plan or the Interreg Plan;</p> <p>(12) ‘milestone’ means a qualitative achievement used to measure progress towards the achievement of a measure;</p> <p>(13) ‘target’ means a quantitative achievement used to measure progress towards the achievement of a measure;</p> <p>(14) ‘pay-out value’ means the amount to be paid by the Commission to the Member State for the</p>
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(10) ‘measure’ means a reform, an investment or another intervention at national or sub-national level supported under the NRP Plan or the Interreg Plan;

(11) ‘milestone’ means a qualitative achievement used to measure progress towards the achievement of a measure;

(12) ‘target’ means a quantitative achievement used to measure progress towards the achievement of a measure;

(13) ‘pay-out value’ means the amount to be paid by the Commission to the Member State for the progress achieved in the implementation of the measures of the Plan, taking into account the amounts set aside for reforms;

(14) ‘Agricultural Knowledge and Information system’ or ‘AKIS’ means the combined organisation and knowledge flows between persons, organisations and institutions who use and produce knowledge and innovations for agriculture and interrelated fields referred to in Article 20 of Regulation (EU) 202X/XXXX [CAP Regulation].

(15) ‘organic farming’ means organic production system certified in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council[1];

(16) ‘holding’ means all the units used for agricultural activities and managed by a farmer and situated within the territory of the same Member State, within the territorial scope of the Treaties, as defined in Article 52 TEU in conjunction with Articles 349 and 355 TFEU;

(17) ‘the smaller Aegean islands’ means any islands in the Aegean Sea except the islands of Crete and Evia.

(18) ‘seals’ means Seals of Excellence and Sovereignty Seals granted in the implementation of Union programmes in the 2021 to 2027 programming period and Seals granted under Union programmes implemented in direct management in the 2028-2034 period such as the Competitiveness seal;

(19) ‘subcontractor’ means a person or entity with whom the contractor has concluded a contract to perform part of a contract for the specific purpose

progress achieved in the implementation of the measures of the Plan, taking into account the amounts set aside for reforms;

(15) ‘seals’ means Seals of Excellence and Sovereignty Seals granted in the implementation of Union programmes in the 2021 to 2027 programming period and Seals granted under Union programmes implemented in direct management in the 2028-2034 period such as the Competitiveness seal;

(16) ‘subcontractor’ means a person or entity with whom the contractor has concluded a contract to perform part of a contract for the specific purpose of implementing one or more operations or a part thereof;

(17) ‘crisis’ means crises as defined in Article 2, point (22) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509;

(18) ‘pillar assessment’ means the assessment referred to in Articles 157(3) and (4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509;

(19) ‘public expenditure’ for the purposes of the CAP, means any contribution to the financing of operations the source of which is the budget of the national, regional and local public authorities, the budget of the Union made available to the Fund, the budget of public law bodies or the budget of associations of public authorities or public law bodies;

(20) ‘support rate’ for the purposes of the CAP, means the rate of public expenditure to an operation; in the context of financial instruments it refers to the gross grant equivalent of the support as defined in Article 2, point (20) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 702/2014;

(21) ‘irregularity’ means any breach of applicable law, which has, or would have, the effect of prejudicing the budget of the Union by receiving unjustified reimbursement based on milestones, targets and outputs to that budget;

(22) ‘holding fund’ means a funds set up under the responsibility of a managing authority under one or more chapters of the Plan;

(23) ‘specific fund’ means a fund through which a managing authority or a holding fund provides financial products to final recipients;

of implementing one or more operations or a part thereof;

(20) ‘crisis’ means crises as defined in Article 2, point (22) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509;

(21) ‘pillar assessment’ means the assessment referred to in Articles 157(3) and (4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509;

(22) *Member States shall further establish in their NRP Plans the definitions of ‘agricultural activity’, ‘agricultural area’, ‘eligible hectare’, and ‘young farmer’ in accordance with objective and non-discriminatory criteria and the principle of proportionality.*

(a) *‘agricultural activity’ shall be determined through one or both of the following activities:*

(i) *production of agricultural products, which consists of all activities aimed at obtaining those products; where agricultural products means products listed in Annex I to the TFEU, with the exception of fishery products, as well as cotton and short rotation coppice;*

(ii) *maintenance of agricultural areas, which consists of the activities aiming at keeping the land in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation; where duly justified for animal welfare or environmental reasons, extensive grazing of an agricultural area that does not result in an increase of agricultural production for the farmers concerned may also be considered ‘maintenance’.*

(b) *‘agricultural area’ shall be defined in such a way as to comprise only land which is used for agricultural activities, including when it forms agroforestry systems.*

(c) *‘eligible hectare’ shall be defined in such a way as to comprise only areas which are at the farmers’ disposal and which comprise:*

(i) *agricultural areas on which an agricultural activity is performed under the farmer’s control in terms of management, benefits and financial risks. If non-agricultural activities are also performed on these areas, the agricultural activity shall be predominant.*

(ii) *areas for which support is provided under Article 35(1) points (a) and (g) [degressive*

(24) ‘body implementing a financial instrument’ means a body, governed by public or private law, carrying out tasks of a holding fund or specific fund.

(25) ‘less developed regions’ means regions whose GDP per capita is less than 75% of the average GDP per capita of the EU-27 (‘less developed regions’);

(26) ‘transition regions’ means regions whose GDP per capita is between 75% and 100% of the average GDP per capita of the EU-27 (‘transition regions’);

(27) ‘more developed regions’ means regions whose GDP per capita is above 100% of the average GDP per capita of the EU-27 (‘more developed regions’).

The classification of regions under one of the three categories of region shall be determined on the basis of how the GDP per capita of each region, measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2021-2023, relates to the average GDP per capita of the EU-27 for the same reference period. The Commission shall adopt a decision, by means of implementing act, setting out the list of regions fulfilling the criteria of one of the three categories of region set out in points 38 to 40 and of Member States fulfilling the criteria set out in paragraph 2(a) of Article 22.

That list shall be valid from 1 January 2028 to 31 December 2034.

income support, small farmers] of this Regulation, or under the basic income support for sustainability under Title III, Chapter II, Section 2, Subsection 2, [BISS [all incl. entitlements], small farmers scheme], of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, where agricultural activity is not performed due to commitments and obligations arising from Union or national interventions or other programmes which contribute to the environmental and climate-related CAP specific objectives

(iii) Member States may decide to include in the notion of ‘eligible hectare’ landscape features, not covered by the commitments and schemes referred to in point (ii), provided that these landscape features do not significantly hamper the performance of agricultural activity and are not predominant on the agricultural parcel

(d) ‘young farmer’ shall be defined in such a way as to fulfil at least the following conditions:

(i) an upper age limit set between 35 years and 40 years;

(ii) being ‘head of the holding’.

Where a farmer is deemed to fall within the definition of ‘young farmer’ at the moment of first access to support, that status shall be maintained for the full duration of the period of eligibility established under the relevant support scheme, irrespective of the farmer subsequently exceeding the upper age limit.

(23) ‘new farmer’ shall be determined in such a way as to refer to a farmer other than a young farmer and who is head of the holding for the first time.

(24) ‘public expenditure’ for the purposes of the CAP, means any contribution to the financing of operations the source of which is the budget of the national, regional and local public authorities, the budget of the Union made available to the Fund, the budget of public law bodies or the budget of associations of public authorities or public law bodies;

(25) ‘support rate’ for the purposes of the CAP, means the rate of public expenditure to an operation; in the context of financial instruments it refers to the gross grant equivalent of the support

as defined in Article 2, point (20) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 702/2014;

(26) ‘small-scale coastal fishing’ means fishing activities carried out by:

(a) marine and inland fishing vessels of an overall length of less than 12 metres and not using towed gear as defined in Article 2, point (1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006⁽²⁸⁾; or

(b) fishers on foot, including shellfish gatherers;
(27) ‘fisher’ means any natural person engaging in commercial fishing activities, as recognised by the Member State concerned;

(28) ‘fishing’ means any natural person engaging in commercial fishing activities, as recognised by the Member State concerned;

(29) ‘sustainable blue economy’ means all sectoral and cross-sectoral economic activities throughout the internal market relating to ocean, seas, coasts and inland waters, covering the Union’s insular and outermost regions and landlocked countries, including emerging sectors and non-market goods and services, aimed at ensuring environmental, social and economic sustainability in the long term and which are consistent with the SDGs, and in particular SDG 14, and with Union environmental legislation;

(30) ‘maritime policy’ means Union policy that aims to foster integrated and coherent decision making to maximise the sustainable development, economic growth and social cohesion of the Union, particularly of the coastal and insular areas and of the outermost regions, and of the sustainable blue economy sectors, through coherent maritime-related policies and relevant international cooperation;

(31) ‘maritime security and surveillance’ means activities carried out in order to understand, prevent wherever applicable and manage in a comprehensive way all the events and actions related to the maritime domain which would impact the areas of maritime safety and security, law enforcement, defence, border control, protection of the marine environment, fisheries control, trade and economic interest of the Union;

(32) ‘European marine observation and data network’ or ‘EMODnet’ means a partnership assembling marine data and metadata in order to make those fragmented resources more available and usable by public and private users by offering quality-assured, interoperable and harmonised marine data;

(33) ‘maritime spatial planning’ means a process by which the relevant Member State’s authorities analyse and organise human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives;

(34) ‘ocean observation’ means the foundation of all marine knowledge. It forms the basis of understanding of marine ecosystems and factors that influence them. It provides critical data for weather forecasting, climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, extreme events monitoring, civil security – sea condition, floods-, maritime shipping, offshore energy, fisheries and aquaculture and increasingly security and defence. It creates the foundation for evidence-based decision-making and it provides crucial information on how human activities influence ocean health and what services the ocean provides to societies.

(35) ‘irregularity’ means any breach of applicable law, which has, or would have, the effect of prejudicing the budget of the Union by receiving unjustified reimbursement based on milestones, targets and outputs to that budget;

(36) ‘holding fund’ means a funds set up under the responsibility of a managing authority under one or more chapters of the Plan;

(37) ‘specific fund’ means a fund through which a managing authority or a holding fund provides financial products to final recipients;

(38) ‘body implementing a financial instrument’ means a body, governed by public or private law, carrying out tasks of a holding fund or specific fund.

(39) ‘less developed regions’ means regions whose GDP per capita is less than 75% of the average GDP per capita of the EU-27 (‘less developed regions’);

<p>(40) ‘transition regions’ means regions whose GDP per capita is between 75% and 100% of the average GDP per capita of the EU-27 (‘transition regions’);</p> <p>(41) ‘more developed regions’ means regions whose GDP per capita is above 100% of the average GDP per capita of the EU-27 (‘more developed regions’).</p> <p>The classification of regions under one of the three categories of region shall be determined on the basis of how the GDP per capita of each region, measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2021-2023, relates to the average GDP per capita of the EU-27 for the same reference period. The Commission shall adopt a decision, by means of implementing act, setting out the list of regions fulfilling the criteria of one of the three categories of region set out in points 38 to 40 and of Member States fulfilling the criteria set out in paragraph 2(a) of Article 22. That list shall be valid from 1 January 2028 to 31 December 2034.</p> <p>[1] Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 (OJ L 150 14.6.2018, p. 1)</p>	
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Reason
Transfer of the deleted paragraphs to the CAP and CFP regulations.

Amendment 6

Article 6 - Partnership and multi-level governance

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>2. The partnership established in accordance with paragraph 1 shall operate in accordance with the multi-level governance principle and a bottom-up approach. The Member State shall involve partners referred to in each subparagraph of paragraph 1 in the preparation of the Plan and throughout the preparation, implementation and evaluation of chapters, including through participation in monitoring committees in accordance with Article 55.</p>	<p>2. The partnership established in accordance with paragraph 1 shall operate in accordance with the multi-level governance principle and a bottom-up approach. The Member State shall involve partners referred to in each subparagraph of paragraph 1 in the preparation of the Plan and throughout the preparation, implementation and evaluation of chapters, including through participation in monitoring committees in accordance with Article 55.</p>

<p>3. The organisation and implementation of the partnership shall be carried out in accordance <i>with the European code of conduct on partnership established by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014</i>.</p> <p>4. Regarding the partners referred to in paragraph 1, point (a), the Member State shall ensure that all authorities concerned by the relevant chapters of the Plan are appropriately represented in accordance with the corresponding territorial level and the geographical coverage of the chapter, as appropriate.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>6. At least once a year, the Commission shall consult organisations which represent partners at Union level on the implementation of the Plans.</p>	<p><i>In that context, Member States shall, in line with their internal political and constitutional organisation, allocate an appropriate share of the resources coming from the Fund for the administrative capacity building of regional and local authorities;</i></p> <p>3. The organisation and implementation of the partnership shall be carried out in accordance <i>with Article XXX on the subsidiarity clause and respecting the principle of partnership ensuring the consultation of civil society and relevant socio-economic stakeholders;</i></p> <p>4. Regarding the partners referred to in paragraph 1, point (a), the Member State shall ensure that all authorities concerned by the relevant chapters of the Plan are appropriately represented in accordance with the corresponding territorial level and the geographical coverage of the chapter, as appropriate.</p> <p><i>Such representation shall ensure the direct involvement of competent regional and local authorities in the design, programming, implementation and monitoring of the measures concerned.</i></p> <p>[...]</p> <p>6. At least once a year, the Commission shall consult organisations which represent partners at Union level on the implementation of the Plans, <i>and shall report on the outcome of those consultations to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Committee of the Regions.</i></p> <p><i>7. For the purpose of the consultations of the partners mentioned in paragraph 1, point a), the European Commission may delegate those consultations to the European Committee of the Regions.</i></p>
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Reason
<p>Strengthens Article 8 to embed multilevel governance in the NRPPs. Requires partnerships with territorial authorities and civil society, replaces the code of conduct with a multilevel governance assessment and restores support for partners' capacity.</p>

Amendment 7
Article 7.1 – Horizontal

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
	<i>(c) the principles enshrined in the European Pillar of Social Rights;</i>

<i>Reason</i>
Anchors the provision in the European Pillar of Social Rights, ensuring that implementation is guided by common EU principles on fairness, inclusion, and equal opportunities, and strengthening the social dimension of the framework.

Amendment 8
Article 10 – Budget

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>2. The financial envelope shall be allocated as follows:</p> <p>(a) EUR 782 879 000 000 shall be allocated to the NRP Plans referred to in Title III in accordance with Annex I [Allocation key], of which:</p> <p>(I) At least EUR 217 798 000 000 for less developed regions by establishing minimum amounts per Member State based on the methodology set out in Annex II;</p> <p>(II) At least EUR 295 700 000 000 for CAP interventions referred to in Article 35(1) [types of support], paragraph 1, points (a) to (k) and (r) and paragraph 10 and for interventions listed in article 35 paragraph 11;</p> <p>(III) At least EUR 34 215 510 000 as follows: EUR 11 975 428 500 as set out in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 202X/XXX [establishing the Union support for asylum, migration and integration for the period from 2028 to 2034], EUR 15 396 750 000 as set out in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 202X/XXX [Establishing the Union support for the Schengen area, for European integrated border management and for the common policy on visas for the period from 2028 to 2034] and EUR 6 843 331 500 as set out in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 202X/XXX [establishing the Union support for internal security for the period from 2028-2034] for the objectives set out in Article 3 of those Regulations.</p>	<p>2. The financial envelope shall be allocated as follows:</p> <p>(a) EUR 910 490 000 000 in current prices shall be allocated to the NRP Plans referred to in Title III in accordance with Annex I [Allocation key], of which:</p> <p>(i) The budget for cohesion policy (i.e. a total of EUR 431 120 000 000 000 in current prices) shall be allocated as follows:</p> <p>EUR 248 370 000 000 for the ERDF- EUR 46 990 000 000 for the Cohesion Fund - EUR 124 190 000 000 for the European Social Fund - EUR 11 570 000 000 shall be allocated to the Interreg Plan referred to in Chapter II of Regulation XX [Regional development, Interreg Plan]</p> <p>Cohesion policy will support all three categories of regions according to an allocation methodology to be defined by co-legislators: - XXX% for less developed regions - XXX% for transition regions - XXX% for more developed regions EUR [XXX] as additional funding for the outermost regions identified in Article 349 TFEU and the NUTS 2 level regions fulfilling the criteria laid down in Article 2 of Protocol No 6 to the 1994 Act of Accession;</p> <p>(ii) EUR 320 300 000 000 000 in current prices for CAP interventions referred to in Article 35(1) [types of support], paragraph 1, points (a) to (k) and</p>

<p>(b) EUR 71 933 000 000 shall be allocated to the Facility referred to in Title IV;</p> <p>(c) EUR 10 264 000 000 shall be allocated to the Interreg Plan referred to in Chapter II of Regulation XX [Regional development, Interreg Plan];</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>5. At least 14 % of the financial envelope referred to in paragraph 2 and of the amount referred to in paragraph 4 shall be dedicated to <i>meeting the Union’s social objectives, calculated by using the coefficients referred to in Article 6(1) of Regulation (EU) [Performance Regulation]. The amount set out in paragraph 2, point (a) letter (ii), as well as the external assigned revenue from the Social Climate Fund, shall be excluded from the basis for the calculation of this minimum allocation.</i></p> <p>[...]</p>	<p>(r) and paragraph 10 (<i>income support measures</i> for CAP interventions). EUR 7 330 000 000 shall be allocated to keep the POSEI agricultural programme for the outermost regions under the same conditions as established in Regulation (EU) No 228/2013;</p> <p>(iii) EUR 106 410 000 000 000 in current prices for intervention in rural areas;</p> <p>(iv) EUR 38 040 000 000 000 in current prices as follows: EUR 13 310 000 000 as set out in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 202X/XXX [establishing the Union support for asylum, migration and integration for the period from 2028 to 2034], EUR 17 120 000 000 as set out in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 202X/XXX [Establishing the Union support for the Schengen area, for European integrated border management and for the common policy on visas for the period from 2028 to 2034] and EUR 7 610 000 000 as set out in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 202X/XXX [establishing the Union support for internal security for the period from 2028-2034] for the objectives set out in Article 3 of those Regulations.</p> <p>(v) EUR 7 290 000 000 000 in current prices to support interventions listed in article 35 paragraph 11 (common fisheries policy);</p> <p>(vi) At least 20% of the financial envelope referred to in paragraph 2 (a) (i), in paragraph 2 (a) (iii), in paragraph 2 (a)(v), and of the amount referred to in paragraph 4 shall be dedicated to the territorial initiatives and local cooperation dimension 01, 02 and 03 (Integrated territorial and urban development; Community-led local development / LEADER; Other territorial tools) as referred to in Part I of Annex II of Regulation (EU) [Performance Regulation].</p> <p>[...]</p>
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Reason
<p>Based on the 2021-2027 CPR to establish a similar budgetary framework with EU-level guarantees for cohesion policy support to all regions. Reintroduces the special allocations to northern sparsely populated areas (NSPA) and to outermost regions.</p>

Amendment 9

Article 13.2 - Technical assistance at the initiative of the Member State

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
Technical assistance to each NRP Plan and each Interreg Plan chapter shall be established as a flat rate of up to 3% and 8% respectively, applied to the amount included in each payment application pursuant to Article 65 [payment applications]. The flat rate shall be 10% for the Interreg Plan chapters supporting outermost cooperation and cooperation on external borders.	Technical assistance to each NRP Plan and each Interreg Plan chapter shall be established as a flat rate of up to 5% and 8% respectively, applied to the amount included in each payment application pursuant to Article 65 [payment applications]. The flat rate shall be 10% for the Interreg Plan chapters supporting outermost cooperation and cooperation on external borders.

Reason

3% rate may not cover the significant adjustment costs associated with the new implementation model, which entails additional requirements in terms of coordination, development of new IT systems, establishment of control mechanisms and overall strengthening of administrative capacity.

Amendment 10

Article 13.3 - Technical assistance at the initiative of the Member State

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<i>In the event of a reduction of the Union financial contribution, including due to de-commitment or a financial correction, the Member State shall, at the closure of the NRP Plan, return to the Union budget any resources paid for technical assistance in accordance with paragraph 1 which exceed the percentage of the Union financial contribution set out in paragraph 2.</i>	

Reason

Technical assistance finances the fixed costs of management and control systems, regardless of the level of financial implementation. The obligation to proportionally return funds reduces the predictability of financing and may negatively affect the administrative capacity of Member States.

Amendment 11

Article 14.2

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
2. A flexibility amount, corresponding to 25% of the Union financial contribution of a Member State as set out in Annex I [allocation method], shall only be available for programming as follows:	2. A flexibility amount, corresponding to 10% of the Union financial contribution of a Member State as set out in Annex I [allocation method], shall only be available for programming as follows:

<p>(a) Up to one fifth may be requested by a Member State in accordance with Article 34 (Amendment of the plan in case of crisis situations), with the remaining amount to be programmed in accordance with Article 25 (mid-term review);</p> <p>(b) three fifths may be requested by a Member State in accordance with Article 25 [midterm review] of which a part may be requested before the mid-term review in duly justified and exceptional circumstances;</p> <p>(c) one fifth may only be requested by the Member State as of 2031, in accordance with Article 34 (Amendment of the plan in case of crisis situations). As of 30 June 2033, any unprogrammed amount shall be available for programming for any amendment of the Plan.</p>	<p>(a) Up to one fifth may be requested by a Member State in accordance with Article 34 (Amendment of the plan in case of crisis situations), with the remaining amount to be programmed in accordance with Article 25 (mid-term review);</p> <p>(b) three fifths may be requested by a Member State in accordance with Article 25 [midterm review] of which a part may be requested before the mid-term review in duly justified and exceptional circumstances;</p> <p>(c) one fifth may only be requested by the Member State as of 2031, in accordance with Article 34 (Amendment of the plan in case of crisis situations). As of 30 June 2033, any unprogrammed amount shall be available for programming for any amendment of the Plan.</p>
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Reason
<p>While the Regions recognise the value of flexibility provisions, they also point out that too much flexibility is not compatible with a long-term policy and that the flexibility amount of 25% is far too high. The flexibility amount should be reduced to 10% like in the 2021-2027 mid-term review.</p>

Amendment 12

Article 14 add new paragraph 3 (after paragraph 2) – Budgetary commitments

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
	<p>[...]</p> <p>3. Access to the flexibility amount referred to in paragraph 2 shall be conditional upon Member State demonstrating that:</p> <p>(a) competent regional authorities and other partners referred to in Article 6 were meaningfully involved in the preparation, justification and territorial allocation of the flexibility amount;</p> <p>(b) the programming or re-programming of the flexibility amount, affecting allocations of local and regional authorities, including integrated territorial instruments, should only be made with the consent of territorial partners, in line with the principles of subsidiarity, partnership and multi-level governance;</p> <p>(c) the proposed use of the flexibility amount is consistent with the governance and territorial</p>

	<p><i>responsibilities verified during the multilevel governance assessment as defined in Article X;</i></p> <p><i>(d) any changes to the Plan associated with the use of the flexibility amount have been reflected in an updated Regional Check Report, submitted to the Commission together with the request.</i></p> <p><i>The Commission shall refuse a request to programme or amend the Plan using the flexibility amount where the Member State has not fulfilled the requirements of this paragraph.</i></p>
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<i>Reason</i>
Obligation for Member States to consult and involve regional authorities in the process of tapping into the 25% flexibility amount, as per the multilevel governance assessment.

Amendment 13

Article 17

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>1. Subject to the adoption by the Council of the implementing decision referred to in Article 23 and to the availability of funds, the Commission shall make a pre-financing payment. The amount of pre-financing shall be 10% of the Union financial allocation referred to in Article 14 [budgetary commitments] and shall be paid in tranches over three consecutive years, as follows: 4% in 2028, 3% in 2029, and 3% in 2030. Where the implementing decision is adopted by the Council after 31 July 2028, only the tranches of 2029 and 2030 shall be paid.</p>	<p>1. Subject to the adoption by the Council of the implementing decision referred to in Article 23 and to the availability of funds, the Commission shall make a pre-financing payment. The amount of pre-financing shall be 13% of the Union financial allocation referred to in Article 14 [budgetary commitments] and shall be paid in tranches over three consecutive years, as follows: 4% in 2028, 3% in 2029, and 3% in 2030. Where the implementing decision is adopted by the Council after 31 July 2028, only the tranches of 2029 and 2030 shall be paid.</p>

Amendment 14

Article 20.4

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>4. No national contribution shall be requested for interventions referred to in Article 35, points (a), (b), (c) and (g). No additional national financing shall be provided for those interventions. Any contribution rate derogating from those of paragraph 1 set out for interventions referred to in Title V, including where no national contributions are requested, shall only apply to a total amount of</p>	<p>4. No national contribution shall be requested for interventions referred to in Article 35, points (a), (b), (c), (g) and (r). No additional national financing shall be provided for those interventions. Any contribution rate derogating from those of paragraph 1 set out for interventions referred to in Title V, including where no national contributions are requested, shall only apply to a total amount of</p>

interventions not exceeding the Member State's share of the amount set out in Article 10(2), point (a)(ii), as laid down in Annex I.	interventions not exceeding the Member State's share of the amount set out in Article 10(2), point (a)(ii), as laid down in Annex I.
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Reason
To preserve a stable and harmonised financing framework, the integrity of the single market and a European level playing field for producers. This amendment proposes to maintain the long-standing principle that sectoral interventions are financed entirely from the EU budget.

Amendment 15

New article Title III, Chapter 1, before article 21 – *Multilevel governance assessment*

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
	<p>1. As a first procedural step in the preparation of the National and Regional Partnership Plan (NRPP), each Member State shall conduct, according to its internal constitutional, political and territorial organisation as guaranteed under Article 4(2) TEU, a comprehensive assessment to ensure the early, structured and meaningful involvement of the competent sub-national authorities identified in accordance with Article 6 of this Regulation.</p> <p>2. The assessment shall verify that:</p> <p>(a) the relevant sub-national authorities are involved from the earliest stages of drafting the NRPP, including the territorial analysis, needs assessment, prioritisation of objectives, resource allocation and the design of governance and delivery structures;</p> <p>(b) the principles of subsidiarity, proportionality, partnership and multilevel governance have been fully applied in determining the allocation of responsibilities between national and sub-national levels, including regional levels;</p> <p>(c) sub-national authorities have had timely access to all relevant preparatory documents and are granted sufficient time and accessible channels to contribute effectively;</p> <p>(d) Member States have duly considered contributions from sub-national authorities and explained how these contributions were reflected in the NRPP;</p> <p>(e) the governance arrangements proposed in the NRPP enable sub-national authorities to exercise</p>

the responsibilities falling within their competences;

3. The outcomes of the assessment shall be documented in a dedicated report prepared in accordance with paragraph 8 of this Article and included in Annex [XX].

4. In accordance with their internal constitutional, political and territorial organisation as guaranteed under Article 4(2) TEU, Member States shall designate these competent sub-national authorities as managing authorities for the dedicated NRPP regional or territorial chapters, in line with their constitutional arrangements. Such designation shall reflect the principles of subsidiarity and territorial proximity, ensuring that decisions are taken at the level closest to the citizens and territories concerned.

5. Where regional authorities do not exist or do not hold competences relevant to the NRPP, Member States shall ensure that appropriate sub-national structures are involved in the governance, design and delivery of the NRPP.

7. The consultation process shall include:

(a) timely disclosure of relevant information and access to draft NRPP documents;

(b) adequate time for partners to analyse and comment on all key elements of the NRPP;

(c) accessible channels for submitting contributions and receiving proof of how these have been taken into account;

(d) the publication of the outcomes of the consultation.

8. The assessment shall cover at least the following dimensions of the NRPP:

(a) the territorial analysis underpinning the NRPP, including disparities, development needs and territorial potential;

(b) the selection and territorial justification of NRPP objectives;

(c) the indicative allocation of resources to each region or territory, at least at NUTS 2 level;

(d) the NRPP governance model, including designation of managing, coordinating and implementing bodies at national and regional level;

	<p><i>(e) the mechanisms ensuring coordination with other Union and national instruments;</i></p> <p><i>(f) the approach to integrated, place-based and territorial development;</i></p> <p><i>(g) the design, content and implementation arrangements of the integrated territorial dimension as referred to in Article 10, paragraph 6;</i></p> <p><i>(h) measures addressing areas facing persistent poverty, exclusion or discrimination;</i></p> <p><i>(i) the implementation of horizontal principles, including gender equality, non-discrimination, accessibility, sustainable development and climate mainstreaming.</i></p> <p><i>9. The Commission shall assess compliance with this Article as part of its examination of the NRPP. Where the Commission identifies deficiencies, contradictions or insufficient application of subsidiarity, it may request the Member State to amend its NRPP or its governance arrangements prior to approval, in accordance with Article XXX ‘Subsidiarity clause’.</i></p>
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<i>Reason</i>
Builds on the ‘regional check’ concept proposed by the European Commission President to define clear Member State requirements on involving regions in the NRPPs. Introduces key aspects of the European Code of Conduct on partnership.

Amendment 16

New article Title III, Chapter 1, article 20c – Subsidiarity clause

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
	<p><i>1. The preparation, governance and delivery of the National and Regional Partnership Plan (NRPP) shall respect the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5(3) TEU, ensuring that decisions are taken as closely as possible to the citizens and that competences are exercised at the most appropriate territorial level.</i></p> <p><i>2. The distribution of responsibilities between national and sub-national authorities within the NRPP, including design, monitoring, audit and payment applications shall reflect the allocation of competences under the Member State’s</i></p>

	<p><i>constitutional arrangements, in accordance with Article 4(2) TEU.</i></p> <p><i>3. When assessing the NRPP under Articles X and Z of this Regulation, the Commission shall verify whether:</i></p> <p><i>(a) the NRPP entrusts the preparation, coordination, management and delivery tasks to competent regional authorities where they hold relevant legislative or administrative competences;</i></p> <p><i>(b) the Member State has demonstrated that decisions are exercised at a level consistent with subsidiarity and proportionality as required by Article 5 TEU;</i></p> <p><i>(c) national-level intervention has been justified where regional or sub-national authorities hold relevant functions;</i></p> <p><i>(d) the multilevel governance assessment shows meaningful and effective involvement of regional authorities and partners within the scope of Article X;</i></p> <p><i>(e) the NRPP governance structure enables the Commission to fulfil its obligations under Articles 174 and 175 TFEU relating to economic, social and territorial cohesion.</i></p> <p><i>4. The Commission shall also verify whether the NRPP allows it to fulfil its responsibilities for the execution of the Union budget under Article 317 TFEU, including sound financial management, transparency and accountability at all levels of implementation. The Commission should collect all the data that allows comparative and overall monitoring of the progress towards treaty objectives of economic social and territorial cohesion.</i></p> <p><i>5. The Commission shall refuse to approve the NRPP where the Member State has not ensured compliance with the principle of subsidiarity under Article 5 TEU, in particular where:</i></p> <p><i>(a) competent regional authorities have not been entrusted with responsibilities that fall within their constitutional competences and have activated the subsidiarity clause;</i></p> <p><i>(b) centralised governance is proposed demonstrating that the objectives of the NRPP cannot be sufficiently achieved at regional level;</i></p>
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	<p><i>(c) the Member State has failed to complete the multilevel governance assessment, or the multilevel governance assessment report shows substantial shortcomings as defined in Article X;</i></p> <p><i>(d) the NRPP governance system prevents the Commission from ensuring effective coordination and fulfilment of cohesion policy under Articles 174 and 175 TFEU;</i></p> <p><i>(e) the proposed implementation arrangements undermine multilevel governance or representative participation as referred to in Article 10 TEU;</i></p> <p><i>(f) when the sub-national authorities concerned activate the subsidiarity clause.</i></p> <p><i>6. In such cases, the Commission shall notify the Member State of the specific subsidiarity-related deficiencies and request corrective measures.</i></p> <p><i>7. The NRPP shall not be approved until the Member State has addressed the identified shortcomings to the satisfaction of the Commission.</i></p> <p><i>8. This Article shall be applied with full respect for the Member State’s constitutional structures under Article 4(2) TEU.</i></p> <p><i>9. Where justified under Article 5(4) TEU, the Commission may accept proportionate adaptations after verifying that the essential requirements of subsidiarity, multilevel governance and effective territorial involvement remain fulfilled.</i></p> <p><i>10. Where an NRPP is refused on subsidiarity grounds, the Commission shall publish a summary of its assessment, specifying the legal reasons for refusal under this Article and Article 5 TEU.</i></p>
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Reason
<p>Substantiates the concept of ‘regional checks’ proposed by the European Commission President. Details the legal basis which would lead to the NRP plans being rejected on the grounds of subsidiarity. Clarifies the responsibilities distributed between national and sub-national authorities. The Commission should be able to monitor data relating to investments at European level.</p>

Amendment 17

Article 15.1 – Decommittment

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
<p>1. The Commission shall decommit any amount in an NRP Plan and the Interreg</p>	<p>1. The Commission shall decommit any amount in an NRP Plan and the Interreg Plan chapter which has</p>

Plan chapter which has not been used for pre-financing, in accordance with Article 17 [pre-financing] or for which a payment application has not been submitted in accordance with Articles 65 [submission and assessment of payment applications], by 31 October of the calendar year following the year of the budgetary commitments.	not been used for pre-financing, in accordance with Article 17 [pre-financing] or for which a payment application has not been submitted in accordance with Articles 65 [submission and assessment of payment applications], by 31 December of the second calendar year following the year of the budgetary commitments.
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Reason
Extends the decommitment from N+10 months to N+2 years (like the decommitment rule before the COVID pandemic).

Amendment 18

Article 20 add new paragraph 5 (after paragraph 4) – National contribution to estimated costs

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
	<p>[...]</p> <p>5. Member States may allow private co-financing for interventions supported under the Plan, provided that such contributions complement, and do not replace, public national funding, and are mobilised in a manner consistent with the territorial development objectives of the Plan, ensuring that private investment contributes to long-term regional development, strengthens local economic ecosystems and supports cohesion objectives rather than short-term commercial interests. Private contributions shall be transparent, traceable and consistent with State-aid rules and public-interest considerations.</p>

Reason
Reintroduces the possibility of private co-financing following the broad lines of the CoR opinion ‘Exploring the role of the private sector in reinforcing cohesion policy post-2027’.

Amendment 19

Article 21.2 – Preparation and submission of the Plan

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
2. Each Member State shall prepare and implement the Plan in partnership with partners as set out in Article 6 [Partnership], including regional and local authorities, and in accordance with their institutional, legal and financial	2. Each Member State shall prepare and implement the Plan in partnership with partners as set out in Article 6 [Partnership], including regional and local authorities, and in accordance with their institutional, legal and financial framework.

framework. The Plan shall include national, sectoral and, <i>where relevant</i> , regional and territorial chapters.	<i>Regional and local authorities shall be fully involved in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the NRP Plan in accordance with Article XXX ‘Multilevel governance assessment’.</i> The Plan shall include national, sectoral and regional or territorial chapters.
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<i>Reason</i>
Builds on one of the proposals appended to the letter sent by the Commission President in November 2024 for regional and local authorities to be ‘involved’. Refers to a new article on ‘Multilevel governance assessment’.

Amendment 20

New article Title II, Chapter 1, article 20a – Additionality

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
	<p><i>1. In accordance with Article 174 TFEU, support provided under the National and Regional Partnership Plan shall respect the principle of additionality.</i></p> <p><i>2. EU funding under the NRPP shall not replace or reduce equivalent national, regional or local public expenditure, but shall complement it and contribute to strengthening long-term economic, social and territorial cohesion. Member States shall ensure that investments supported under the NRPP generate genuine added value at territorial level, in line with the objectives and priorities set out in the Plan.</i></p>

<i>Reason</i>
Introduces the concept of additionality of EU funding, as this is not present in the 2028-2034 NRPP Fund regulation proposal.

Amendment 21

Article 22.1

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
1. Each NRP Plan shall be duly reasoned and substantiated and shall set out the elements referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, in accordance with the template set out in Annex V.	1. Each NRP Plan shall be duly reasoned, <i>based on a proper territorial impact assessment</i> and substantiated and shall set out the elements referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, in accordance with the template set out in Annex V.

<i>Reason</i>
Each Member State should perform a territorial impact assessment to assess the impact of the NRP plans on regions, cities and municipalities in the country.

Amendment 22

Article 22.2

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
(b) effectively address all or a significant subset of challenges identified: (i) in the context of the European Semester, in particular in the relevant country-specific recommendations addressed to the Member State, including those related to the European Pillar of Social Rights;	(b) effectively address all or a significant subset of challenges identified: (i) in the context of the European Semester, in particular in the relevant country-specific recommendations addressed to the Member State, including those related to the European Pillar of Social Rights <i>and taking into account the territorial dimension, the internal division of institutional competences within the Member State, and partnership with regional authorities;</i>

<i>Reason</i>
The European Semester should take into account a territorial dimension in partnership with regional authorities in respect of their competences.

Amendment 23

Article 22.2 – Requirements for the NRP plan

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>2. The NRP Plan shall: [...]</p> <p>(c) provide the list and description of measures grouped in chapters, including the general and specific objectives that each of them primarily pursues and the list of envisaged milestones and targets, with their indicative completion date during the programming period, including the additional measures and related milestones and targets in case the Member State concerned requests loan support.</p> <p><i>(d) set out the total estimated costs of the measures in accordance with the template set out in Annex V, as part of the Plan or of a request for its amendment, for a total amount at least equivalent to the sum of the Union financial contribution, any requested loans, and national contribution, together with information on</i></p>	<p>2. The NRP Plan shall: [...]</p> <p><i>(c) detail how integrated territorial initiatives in accordance with Article 10, paragraph 6 [20% for territorial initiatives] will be implemented. In the absence of regional chapters, in accordance with Article [Multilevel governance assessment], paragraph 5 [Regional and Territorial chapters], the NRP Plan shall include in its National and Regional Partnership Plan at least one Territorial Chapter representing 20% of its funds and linked to the territorial initiative and local cooperation dimension 01, 02 and 03 (Integrated territorial and urban development; Community-led local development / LEADER; Other territorial tools) and addressing specific territorial development needs and potentials.</i></p>

<p><i>existing or planned Union financing where relevant, backed up by appropriate justification and by explanations of how it is plausible and reasonable and in line with the principle of cost efficiency, sound financial management and commensurate to the expected economic and social impact. The non-programmed amount set aside as flexibility amount shall be considered as part of the total estimated costs of the measures;</i></p> <p>[...]</p> <p>(i) which stakeholders have been consulted, how these were selected, how their representativeness and prevention of conflict of interest has been ensured and how their input is reflected in the Plan <i>in line with the code of conduct on partnership 22, and by including a summary of the consultation process conducted for the preparation of the Plan and each chapter;</i></p>	<p><i>The territorial chapter shall be co-designed and co-implemented with the competent regional and local authorities, in accordance with the principles of partnership, multilevel governance and subsidiarity. Its preparation and implementation shall comply with the requirements set out in Article XXX ‘Multilevel governance assessment’, ensuring early, meaningful and structured involvement of territorial partners.</i></p> <p>(d) provide the list and description of measures grouped in chapters, including the general and specific objectives that each of them primarily pursues and the list of envisaged milestones and targets, with their indicative completion date during the programming period, including the additional measures and related milestones and targets in case the Member State concerned requests loan support. <i>Milestones and targets shall be designed in a manner that reflects the distribution of legislative, administrative and financial competences across levels of government within the Member State. As regards territorial chapters of NRP plans, milestones shall be explicitly aligned with the competences and implementation responsibilities of the relevant sub-national authorities and chosen by those authorities. For interventions implemented at sub-national level, milestones shall include qualitative implementation steps that correspond to the governance, coordination, institutional capacity or delivery functions exercised by regional and local authorities. Such milestones shall be developed in close cooperation with the competent regional authorities and other partners identified pursuant to Article 6 and in accordance with Article XXX ‘Multilevel governance assessment’. Milestones and targets shall not be limited to quantitative financial or output indicators. They shall also incorporate qualitative dimensions reflecting progress in institutional capacity building, governance reforms, multilevel coordination structures, community involvement and the development of long-term territorial innovation ecosystems.</i></p> <p>[...]</p>
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	(i) which stakeholders have been consulted, how these were selected, how their representativeness and prevention of conflict of interest has been ensured and how their input is reflected in the Plan <i>in accordance with the multilevel governance assessment as per Article XXX;</i>
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<i>Reason</i>
Builds on the CoR opinion on <i>Cohesion policy as a key engine in achieving EU goals and reforms</i> to ensure that milestones and targets reflect regional realities. Adds a requirement for Member States to develop at least one territorial chapter.

Amendment 24

Article 22.2

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
(e) set out clear arrangements for the effective monitoring and implementation of the Plan by the Member State concerned, including the responsible authorities and monitoring committees reflecting the objective of establishing a robust multi governance system based on the partnership principle, the envisaged approach to communication and visibility, an identification of potential technical support needs, as well as clear and effective arrangements between the national and regional authorities in terms of responsibilities for programming, implementation, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of the Member State; (f) reduce economic, social and territorial disparities in less developed, transition and more developed regions, in particular by: (i) allocating <i>resources</i> to less developed, transition and more developed regions, in accordance with their specific challenges, to be reported in Annex V based on methodology set out in Annex VII; (ii) concentrate resources on less developed regions by establishing minimum amounts per Member State based on methodology set out in Annex II; (iii) focusing on the specific needs of border regions, northern sparsely populated regions, rural and urban areas, areas affected by industrial transition, islands, to be reported in Annex V based on methodology set out	(e) set out clear arrangements for the effective monitoring and implementation of the Plan by the Member State concerned, including the responsible authorities, <i>including regions</i> , and monitoring committees reflecting the objective of establishing a robust multi governance system based on the partnership principle, the envisaged approach to communication and visibility, an identification of potential technical support needs, as well as clear and effective arrangements between the national and regional authorities in terms of responsibilities for programming, implementation, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of the Member State; (f) reduce economic, social and territorial disparities in less developed, transition and more developed regions, in particular by: (i) allocating <i>minimum amounts to each category of regions</i> – less developed, transition and more developed regions, in accordance with their specific challenges, to be reported in Annex V based on methodology set out in Annex VII; (ii) concentrate resources on less developed regions by establishing minimum amounts per Member State based on methodology set out in Annex II; (iii) focusing on the specific needs of border regions, northern sparsely populated regions, rural and urban areas, areas affected by industrial transition,

in Annex VII; (iv) strengthening the economic and social development of outermost regions; to be set out in dedicated measures for the territories concerned in accordance with Article 46; (g) concentrate resources on: (i) supporting generational renewal in the agricultural sector, in accordance with Article 8 of Regulation XX [CAP, generational renewal], as well as in the fisheries and aquaculture sector; (ii) social measures in accordance with Annex VI [social allocations]. (iii) supporting fisheries, aquaculture and maritime activities, including small scale fishing, the implementation of the CFP as set out in Regulation EU XX [CFP] as well as the European Ocean Pact in accordance with Annex V [Plan's template]. (h) effectively contribute to: (i) promoting the use of cooperation interventions as referred to in Article 74 [cooperation interventions], including integrated territorial investment in cities, urban, rural and coastal areas, community-led local development, or other territorial tools including just transition and smart specialisation strategies, as well as LEADER as referred to in Article 77 [LEADER]; (ii) improving farm resilience and management of risks at farm level and supporting the digital and data-driven transition of agriculture and rural areas to enhance their competitiveness, sustainability and resilience; (iii) the environmental and climate priority areas set out in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 202X/XXXX [CAP – Environment and climate priority areas]. (i) promote partnership, knowledge exchange and as relevant distribution of agricultural products by setting out: (i) which stakeholders have been consulted, how these were selected, how their representativeness and prevention of conflict of interest has been ensured and how their input is reflected in the Plan in *line* with ***the code of conduct on partnership, and by including a summary of the consultation process conducted for the preparation of the Plan and each chapter***; (ii) an Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System including its organisation set-up in accordance with Article 20 of Regulation (EU) 202X/XXXX [CAP Regulation – Agricultural knowledge and innovation systems and farm

islands, to be reported in Annex V based on methodology set out in Annex VII; (iv) strengthening the economic and social development of outermost regions; to be set out in dedicated measures for the territories concerned in accordance with Article 46; (g) concentrate resources on: (i) supporting generational renewal in the agricultural sector, in accordance with Article 8 of Regulation XX [CAP, generational renewal], as well as in the fisheries and aquaculture sector; (ii) social measures in accordance with Annex VI [social allocations]. (iii) supporting fisheries, aquaculture and maritime activities, including small scale fishing, the implementation of the CFP as set out in Regulation EU XX [CFP] as well as the European Ocean Pact in accordance with Annex V [Plan's template]. (h) effectively contribute to: (i) promoting the use of cooperation interventions as referred to in Article 74 [cooperation interventions], including integrated territorial investment in cities, urban, rural and coastal areas, community-led local development, or other territorial tools including just transition and smart specialisation strategies, as well as LEADER as referred to in Article 77 [LEADER]; (ii) improving farm resilience and management of risks at farm level and supporting the digital and data-driven transition of agriculture and rural areas to enhance their competitiveness, sustainability and resilience; (iii) the environmental and climate priority areas set out in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 202X/XXXX [CAP – Environment and climate priority areas]. (i) promote partnership, knowledge exchange and as relevant distribution of agricultural products by setting out: (i) which stakeholders have been consulted, how these were selected, how their representativeness and prevention of conflict of interest has been ensured and how their input is reflected in the Plan in *accordance* with the ***multilevel governance assessment as per Article XXX***; (ii) an Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System including its organisation set-up in accordance with Article 20 of Regulation (EU) 202X/XXXX [CAP Regulation – Agricultural knowledge and innovation systems

advisory services]; (iii) the modalities for the EU school scheme in accordance with Title I, Part II, Chapter IIa of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.(j) specify the way in which the NRP Plan and its implementation comply with the principle set out in Article 6(3), including a description of the protective practices referred to in Article 3(4) of Regulation (EU) 202X/XXXX [CAP Regulation], their territorial scope, farmers and other beneficiaries subject to the practice and a summary of the protective practice, and complementarity between the elements of the farm stewardship and the relevant measures supported under the NRP Plan; (k) explain how the Member State’s system and arrangements are sufficient to ensure a regular, effective and efficient use of Union resources, in compliance with sound financial management **and** the protection of the financial interests of the Union, based on the key requirements laid down in Annex IV [key requirements], together with measures to address potential deficiencies; (l) specify the arrangements in place to ensure that in the event of interruption of payment deadlines or suspension of Union funding, financial corrections or other measures to ensure the protection of Union’s financial interests, the Member States will comply with their obligations to continue the payments to beneficiaries, recipients, final recipients, contractors and participants;

and farm advisory services]; (iii) the modalities for the EU school scheme in accordance with Title I, Part II, Chapter IIa of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.(j) specify the way in which the NRP Plan and its implementation comply with the principle set out in Article 6(3), including a description of the protective practices referred to in Article 3(4) of Regulation (EU) 202X/XXXX [CAP Regulation], their territorial scope, farmers and other beneficiaries subject to the practice and a summary of the protective practice, and complementarity between the elements of the farm stewardship and the relevant measures supported under the NRP Plan; (k) explain how the Member State’s **and the region’s** system and arrangements are sufficient to ensure a regular, effective and efficient use of Union resources, in compliance with sound financial management, **the implementation of simplification measures while ensuring** the protection of the financial interests of the Union, based on the key requirements laid down in Annex IV [key requirements], together with measures to address potential deficiencies; (l) specify the arrangements in place to ensure that in the event of interruption of payment deadlines or suspension of Union funding, financial corrections or other measures to ensure the protection of Union’s financial interests, the Member States will comply with their obligations to continue the payments to beneficiaries, recipients, final recipients, contractors and participants. **The managing authorities will only comply with these obligations regarding the milestones and targets they set up and are responsible for in their respective chapters;**

Reason

The proposal aims at: reinforcing the role of the region in the requirements for the NRPP; ensuring a dedicated budget for each category of regions; calling for simplification (sound financial management); separating the responsibilities between managing authorities (milestones/targets)

Amendment 25

Article 22.2

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>(p) specify the way in which the Plan and its envisaged implementation ensure the respect of the Rule of Law horizontal condition referred to in Article 9 [RoL horizontal condition], including the follow-up given to the country-specific recommendations issued in the framework of the latest Rule of Law Report and European Semester, together with measures to address those identified country-specific challenges.</p>	<p>(p) specify the way in which the Plan and its envisaged implementation ensure the respect of the Rule of Law horizontal condition referred to in Article 9 [RoL horizontal condition], including the follow-up given to the country-specific recommendations issued in the framework of the latest Rule of Law Report and European Semester, together with measures to address those identified country-specific challenges. <i>Where the country-specific recommendations have no relationship with the competences of regional authorities, the chapters they are responsible for as managing authorities should not be penalised.</i></p>

<i>Reason</i>
Self-explanatory.

Amendment 26

Article 23

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>1. The Commission shall assess the Plan or the amended Plan submitted by the Member State and its compliance with this Regulation within four months of its submission and <i>make a proposal for a Council</i> implementing decision. When carrying out the assessment, the Commission shall ensure that the NRP Plan complies with all requirements laid down in this Regulation, in particular in Article 22.</p> <p>2. The Commission may make observations to <i>Member States</i> and request additional information. In duly justified cases, the Commission may request the inclusion of additional measures or the modification of measures proposed <i>by the Member State. The Member State</i> shall provide the requested additional information and, if needed, review its Plan, taking into account the observations and requests made by the Commission. The deadline set out in paragraph 1 shall be interrupted from the</p>	<p>1. The Commission shall assess the Plan or the amended Plan submitted by the Member State and its compliance with this Regulation within four months of its submission and <i>adopt an</i> implementing decision. When carrying out the assessment, the Commission shall ensure that the NRP Plan complies with all requirements laid down in this Regulation, in particular in Article 22.</p> <p>2. The Commission may make observations to <i>coordinating authorities and/or managing authorities</i> and request additional information. In duly justified cases, the Commission may request the inclusion of additional measures or the modification of measures proposed <i>in the NRP Plan. Coordinating authorities and/or managing authorities</i> shall provide the requested additional information and, if needed, review its Plan, taking into account the observations and requests made by the Commission. The deadline set out in paragraph 1 shall be interrupted from the working</p>

working day following the date following that on which Commission sends its observations or a request for revised documents to *the Member State* and *until the Member State responds to the Commission*.

3. Where the Plan does not comply with the requirements referred to in paragraph 1, the Commission shall communicate a duly justified reasoning to the Member State concerned within the deadline set out in paragraph 1.

4. Where the Commission concludes that the Plan complies with the requirements referred to in paragraph 1, the Commission *proposal for a Council* implementing decision shall lay down: (a) the total Union contribution. (b) the amount of the loan support where the Member State concerned makes such a request; and the related amount of pre-financing, as well as the availability period of the loan; (c) the list of measures covered by the Union contribution and loans contained in the NRP Plan;

5. In duly justified cases, where the Commission concludes that one or more measures of the Plan do not comply with the requirements referred to in paragraph 1, and that a corresponding request made in accordance with paragraph 2, second subparagraph, has not been satisfactorily addressed by the Member States, it may include in the Commission proposal referred to in paragraph 4 an identification of the deficiencies affecting those measures.

6. The *Council* shall adopt the implementing decisions referred to in paragraph 1, as a rule, within four weeks *of the adoption of the Commission proposal*.

7. Once the *Council* has adopted an implementing decision as referred to in paragraph 6, the Commission shall adopt a financing decision within the meaning of Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, including the following: (a) the milestones and targets in relation to the implementation of measures contained in the NRP Plan, and for each of them, the corresponding pay-out value; (b) the Union contribution per year, based on the percentages set out in Article 14(1) [commitments]; The notification of that

day following the date following that on which Commission sends its observations or a request for revised documents to *coordinating authorities* and/or *managing authorities*.

3. Where the Plan does not comply with the requirements referred to in paragraph 1, the Commission shall communicate a duly justified reasoning to the Member State concerned within the deadline set out in paragraph 1.

4. Where the Commission concludes that the Plan complies with the requirements referred to in paragraph 1, the Commission *adopts an* implementing decision *that* shall lay down: (a) the total Union contribution. (b) the amount of the loan support where the Member State concerned makes such a request; and the related amount of pre-financing, as well as the availability period of the loan; (c) the list of measures covered by the Union contribution and loans contained in the NRP Plan;

5. The *Commission* shall adopt the implementing decisions referred to in paragraph 1, as a rule, within four weeks.

6. Once the *Commission* has adopted an implementing decision as referred to in paragraph 6, the Commission shall adopt a financing decision within the meaning of Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, including the following: (a) the milestones and targets in relation to the implementation of measures contained in the NRP Plan, and for each of them, the corresponding pay-out value; (b) the Union contribution per year, based on the percentages set out in Article 14(1) [commitments]; The notification of that Commission decision to the Member State concerned shall constitute a legal commitment. Where Article 4(2), point (b), of the MFF Regulation applies, that financing decision may be amended in accordance with the outcome of the annual budgetary procedure.

7. Payment applications for the specific measures affected by deficiencies identified in the implementing decisions adopted by the *Commission* may be submitted by the Member State concerned, but the Commission shall not make the corresponding payments until the deficiencies have been remedied.

<p>Commission decision to the Member State concerned shall constitute a legal commitment. Where Article 4(2), point (b), of the MFF Regulation applies, that financing decision may be amended in accordance with the outcome of the annual budgetary procedure.</p> <p>8. Payment applications for the specific measures affected by deficiencies identified in the implementing decisions adopted by the Council may be submitted by the Member State concerned, but the Commission shall not make the corresponding payments until the deficiencies have been remedied.</p>	
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Reason
<p>This is a proposal for simplification. The adoption of implementing decisions by the Council would extend the process unnecessarily. The proposal aims to keep the current 2021-2027 process.</p>

Amendment 27

Article 24

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>1. A Member State may submit to the Commission a reasoned request for an amendment of its NRP Plan, together with the amended NRP Plan, setting out the expected impact of that amendment on the achievement of the objectives laid down in Articles 2 and 3.</p>	<p>1. A Member State may submit to the Commission a reasoned request for an amendment of its NRP Plan, together with the amended NRP Plan, setting out the expected impact of that amendment on the achievement of the objectives laid down in Articles 2 and 3. <i>The Member State involves managing authorities to prepare an amendment of its NRP Plan.</i></p>

Reason
<p>Managing authorities should be involved in any change or amendment of the NRP plan of the Member State.</p>

Amendment 28

Article 25 add new paragraph 2 (after paragraph 1) – Mid-term review

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>1. The Member State shall review their NRP Plans, taking into account the following elements: (a) the challenges identified in accordance with Article 22(2), points (a), (b) and (c) [Requirements of the Plan];</p>	<p>1. The Member State shall review their NRP Plans, taking into account the following elements: (a) the challenges identified in accordance with Article 22(2), points (a), (b) and (c) [Requirements of the Plan];</p>

<p>(b) the socio-economic situation of the Member State or region concerned, with special emphasis on territorial needs, taking into account any major negative financial, economic or social development;</p> <p>(c) the main results of relevant interim assessment reports;</p> <p>(d) the progress towards the achievement of measures, taking into account major difficulties encountered in the implementation of the NRP Plan;</p> <p>(e) Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) and projects that have been awarded a Seal;</p> <p>(f) occurrence of any crisis;</p> <p>(g) the need to ensure continuous compliance of the Rule of Law and the Charter horizontal conditions in the implementation of the Plan, taking into consideration in particular the country-specific challenges identified in the context of the Rule of Law Report and the European Semester.</p> <p>2. The Member State shall submit an amended NRP Plan presenting the outcome of the mid-term review, including a review of the estimated total costs of the measures covered by the Plan and a proposal for additional measures to be supported by the flexibility amount referred to in Article 14(2) by 31 March 2031.</p> <p>3. The amended NRP Plan shall include the following:</p> <p>(a) revised or new measures;</p> <p>(b) the updated estimated total costs of the Plan and the flexibility amount requested;</p> <p>(c) revised or new milestones and targets.</p>	<p>(b) the socio-economic situation of the Member State or region concerned, with special emphasis on territorial needs, taking into account any major negative financial, economic or social development;</p> <p>(c) the main results of relevant interim assessment reports;</p> <p>(d) the progress towards the achievement of measures, taking into account major difficulties encountered in the implementation of the NRP Plan;</p> <p>(e) Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) and projects that have been awarded a Seal;</p> <p>(f) occurrence of any crisis;</p> <p>(g) the need to ensure continuous compliance of the Rule of Law and the Charter horizontal conditions in the implementation of the Plan, taking into consideration in particular the country-specific challenges identified in the context of the Rule of Law Report and the European Semester.</p> <p>2. For the purpose of the mid-term review, regional authorities shall be responsible for reviewing and updating the regional or territorial chapters corresponding to their territory. This review shall take into account territorial developments, implementation progress, emerging socio-economic needs and newly identified challenges relevant to the region concerned;</p> <p>3. The Member State shall submit an amended NRP Plan presenting the outcome of the mid-term review, including a review of the estimated total costs of the measures covered by the Plan and a proposal for additional measures to be supported by the flexibility amount referred to in Article 14(2) by 31 March 2031.</p> <p>The amended NRP Plan shall include the following: (a) revised or new measures; (b) the updated estimated total costs of the Plan and the flexibility amount requested; (c) revised or new milestones and targets.</p>
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<i>Reason</i>
Provides an obligation for Member States with regional chapters to delegate responsibility to regional authorities for preparing and submitting reviewed regional chapters as part of the NRP plans mid-term review process.

Amendment 29

Article 26– General provision on the implementation of the EU Facility

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>[...]</p> <p>5. The Commission shall establish the overall amount to be made available for the Facility under the annual appropriations of the Union budget.</p> <p>6. Union actions as referred to in paragraph 1, point (c) of Annex XV [Union actions supported by the EU Facility, social investment and skills policy window] shall be implemented in accordance with paragraphs 7, 8, 9 of this Article and Article 27 [Implementation in the form of budgetary guarantees, financial instruments and blending operations].</p>	<p>[...]</p> <p>5. The Commission shall establish the overall amount to be made available for the Facility under the annual appropriations of the Union budget. <i>The EU Facility shall support innovative place-based initiatives listed in Annex XV under the “Union actions” compartment. The Interregional Investments Initiative (I3), European Urban Initiative, including the support to urban authorities, LIFE or the EaSI/social innovation shall be allocated a secure specific ringfenced and multiannual budgetary allocation;</i></p> <p><i>6. The European Committee of the Regions shall be involved in the governance of the EU Facility by providing input on territorial needs, multilevel governance aspects and the suitability of proposed support measures, taking into account the ‘do no harm to cohesion’ principle. The Commission shall take the utmost account of the views expressed by the European Committee of the Regions when preparing guidance, work programmes or calls for proposals under the EU Facility.</i></p> <p>7. Union actions as referred to in paragraph 1, point (c) of Annex XV [Union actions supported by the EU Facility, social investment and skills policy window] shall be implemented in accordance with paragraphs 7, 8, 9 of this Article and Article 27 [Implementation in the form of budgetary guarantees, financial instruments and blending operations].</p>

<i>Reason</i>
Provides a formal role for the CoR as part of the EU Facility, and for regional managing authorities in the framework of their regional chapter.

Amendment 30

Article 35

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p><i>1. In line with the interventions listed in Article XX [types of support] of Regulation (EU) 202X/XXXX [CAP Regulation], the following CAP interventions are set out: (a) degressive area-based income support; (b) coupled income support; (c) crop specific payment for cotton; (d) payment for natural and other area specific constraints; (e) support for disadvantages resulting from certain mandatory requirements; (f) agri-environmental and climate actions; (g) support for small farmers; (h) support for risk management tools; (i) support for investments for farmers and forest holders; (j) support for the setting-up of young farmers, new farmers, rural businesses and start-ups and development of small farmers; (k) support for farm relief services; (l) LEADER; (m) Support for knowledge sharing and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas; (n) Territorial and local cooperation initiatives; (o) interventions in outermost regions referred to in Article 46; (p) interventions in smaller Aegean islands referred to in Article 42; (q) EU school scheme referred to in Title I, Part II, Chapter IIa, of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013; (r) Support for interventions in certain sectors referred to in Title X of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013. 2. The interventions referred to in paragraph 1, points (a), (b), (c) and (g) shall not apply to outermost regions referred to in Title IV. 3. Interventions referred to in paragraph 1, points (a) to (k) and (r) shall be income support interventions to be financed from the Fund in accordance with Article 10(2), point (a) (ii) [Budget]. The planned average aid per hectare for degressive area-based income support referred in the first subparagraph shall not be less than EUR 130 and not more than EUR 240 for each Member State. For cotton, the aids are defined in Article 38. 4. Subject to compliance with Article 20(4) [national contribution to the estimated costs], the</i></p>	<p><i>Interventions pertaining to rural areas will be supported by territorial instruments as part of the NRPP as referred to in Article 74: a) Community Led Local Development, including LEADER b) Territorial and local cooperation initiatives.</i></p>

minimum national contribution to the interventions referred to in paragraph 1 points (d) to (k) shall be no less than 30% of the total estimated costs of each intervention. The maximum support rate applicable to the interventions referred to in paragraph 1 point (l) [investments for farmers] shall be 75% of the total eligible costs of each intervention. However, the maximum support rate applicable to the interventions referred to in paragraph 1, point (i), targeting young farmers shall be 85% of the eligible public expenditure. 5. The financial allocation to coupled income support interventions as referred to in paragraph 1, point (b) shall be limited to a maximum of 20% of the Union contribution set out by the Member State in the NRP Plan for CAP income support interventions referred to in paragraph 1, points (a), (c), (f) and (g). This percentage may be increased by a maximum of 5 percentage points, provided that the amount corresponding to the percentage exceeding 20% is allocated to protein crops, farmers combining the production of crops and livestock or agricultural areas at a risk of abandonment of agricultural production in particular in the Eastern border regions, defined in the Plans. For the purposes of this Article, Eastern border regions means Union NUTS2 regions bordering the Russian Federation, Belarus or the Ukraine, by land or sea, not covering the entire territory of the Member State concerned. 6. The minimum national contribution to the total eligible public expenditure of the EU school scheme interventions referred to in Title, Part II, Chapter IIa of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 shall be 30% of the total eligible public expenditure of each intervention. Member States may, in addition to Union financial assistance and the national contribution to the costs of the interventions referred to in the first subparagraph, grant additional national financing. The amount of Union financial assistance set out the NRP Plan for the awareness-raising interventions referred to in Article 29 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 shall

not exceed 15% of the total amount of the Union financial assistance and the national contribution set out in the NRP Plan for the EU school scheme interventions referred to in the first subparagraph. The amount of Union financial assistance set out in the NRP Plan for the supply and distribution of products containing free sugars or having a fat content above 4% shall not exceed 10% of the total amount of the Union financial assistance and the national contribution set out in the NRP Plan for the interventions referred to in the first subparagraph. 7. The EU school scheme shall be without prejudice to any separate national school schemes which are compatible with Union legislation. Union funding may be used to extend the scope or effectiveness of any existing national school schemes or school distribution schemes providing fruit, vegetables and milk in educational establishments but shall not replace funding for those existing national schemes, except for free distribution of meals to children in educational establishments. 8. Subject to compliance with Article 20(4) [national contribution to the estimated costs], the minimum national contribution to the eligible public expenditure of the interventions in certain sectors referred to in Title I, Part II, Chapter IIa, of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 shall be 30% of the eligible public expenditure of each intervention. The maximum support rate applicable to those interventions shall be 75% of the total eligible costs of each intervention. By way of derogation from the first and second subparagraph, the minimum national contribution to the eligible public expenditure of interventions in the apiculture sector implemented by beneficiaries other than producer organisations, associations of producer organisations or identified producer groups shall be at least equal to the Union financial assistance granted for these interventions. By way of derogation from the second subparagraph, Member States may decide to increase the maximum support rate to up to 95% of the total eligible costs of each intervention for

interventions linked to generational renewal, research and innovation, risk management or environment and climate, and for producer organisations implementing operational programmes for the first time. By way of derogation from the second subparagraph, Member States may also decide to compensate producers for loss of revenue due to the implementation of the interventions referred to in Article 31, point (n), of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, by covering up to 100% of the relevant loss for a maximum period of three years. By way of derogation from second subparagraph, Member States may decide to increase the maximum support rate for interventions concerning market withdrawals for free distribution to 100% for market withdrawals which do not exceed 5% of the volume of the production marketed by a producer organisation. The volume of the production shall be calculated as the average of the overall volumes of products for which the producer organisation is recognised and which are marketed by the producer organisation during the three previous years. Member States shall ensure that the compensation granted for market withdrawals does not exceed the market price of the withdrawn products. 9. Subject to compliance with Article 20(4), the Union financial assistance to be granted to recognised producer organisations, associations of producer organisations or identified producer groups implementing interventions in certain sectors referred to in Article 31 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 shall be limited to: (a) 4.1% of the value of the marketed production of each producer organisation; (b) 4.5% of the value of marketed production of each association of producer organisations; (c) 5% of the value of marketed production of each transnational producer organisation or transnational association of producer organisations. Those limits may be increased by 0,5 percentage points, where the operational programme comprises one or more interventions linked to generational renewal, research and innovation, risk

management or environment and climate, provided the amount in excess of the relevant percentage set out in the first subparagraph, points (a), (b) or (c), is used solely to finance expenditure related to the implementation of these interventions. Member States shall establish in their NRP Plans rules relating to the calculation of the support for distillation of by-products of wine, ensuring a fair compensation to both distillers and wine producers. If Member States establish in their NRP Plans that the entities referred to in Article 32(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 may be beneficiaries of the interventions in certain sectors referred to in Article 31 of that Regulation, Member States shall also provide support for the setting-up of producer organisations in accordance with Article 74 [cooperation] in addition to the support provided for the implementation of the intervention. The Union financial assistance and national contribution to each intervention in certain sectors referred to in Article 31 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 shall together not exceed 100% of actual costs of the intervention.

10. Support for the interventions referred to in paragraph 1 may only be provided under the conditions laid down in this Title. Any amount relative to claim year 2027 set out in Annex V of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 as well as claims related to types of interventions referred to in Article 42 of Regulation (EU) 2021/215, claims related to Regulations (EU) 228/2013 and 229/2013 shall be counted as part of -budgetary commitments- for the financial year 2028 as laid down in Article 14(1), point(a). By derogation from Article 23(7) of this Regulation, the financing decision within the meaning of Article 110 of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 may be adopted for the amount referred to in the first sub-paragraph and the amount may be committed and paid before the adoption of the implementing decision referred to in Article 23(6) of this regulation.

11. Interventions of the Common Fisheries Policy include (a) support for sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources,

<p><i>energy transition of fisheries and aquaculture as well as actions improving safety; (b) support for the innovation for more selective fishing activities and for the conservation, protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems; (c) support for the Common Market Organisation (CMO); (d) support to fishers or aquaculture producers for the compensation to operators of the fishery and aquaculture sector for their income foregone or additional costs and compensation to recognised producer organisations and associations of producer organisations which store fishery products listed in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013, provided that those products are stored in accordance with Articles 30 and 31 of that Regulation. When determining amounts to be paid out for support provided for CAP interventions as referred to in Article 35 paragraph 1, points (a) to [h] and [j], [k] and [r], and paragraph 11, payout values shall be computed without setting aside amounts for reforms.</i></p>	
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Amendment 31

Article 36 to 45

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p><i>Article 36 - Specific requirements for CAP interventions</i> [...] <i>Article 37 – Monitoring of agricultural resources</i> [...] <i>Article 38 — Crisis payments to farmers</i> [...] <i>Article 38 — Crisis payments to farmers</i> [...] <i>Article 39 – Specific aid for cotton</i> [...] <i>Article 40 — WTO internal support</i> [...] <i>Article 41 – Implementation of the memorandum of understanding on oilseeds</i> [...]</p>	

<p><i>Article 42 – Scope and common requirements (support for smaller Aegean islands)</i> [...]</p> <p><i>Article 43 – Specific supply arrangements (support for the smaller Aegean islands)</i> [...]</p> <p><i>Article 44 — Support for local agricultural products (support for the smaller Aegean islands)</i> [...]</p> <p><i>Article 45 – Controls and sanctions</i> [...]</p>	
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Reason
Transfer of the articles to the CAP regulation

Amendment 32

Article 47

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p><i>1. Specific supply arrangements may be established for the products listed in Annex I to the TFEU which are essential in the outermost regions for human consumption, for the manufacture of other products or as agricultural inputs.</i></p> <p><i>2. The Member State concerned shall establish, at the geographical level which it deems most appropriate, a maximum volume of each product listed in Annex I to the TFEU, to quantify the annual supply requirements for each outermost region. The maximum volume of products shall comprise also the volumes of those products required by undertakings packaging and processing products intended for the local market, for consignment to the rest of the Union or for export to third countries as part of regional trade or within the context of traditional trade flows. The maximum volume of the products shall be established taking into account in particular the quantities of those products established in the supply forecast balance sheets in the previous programming period. A separate forecast supply balance may be established to cover the requirements of undertakings packaging and processing products intended for</i></p>	

the local market, for consignment to the rest of the Union or for export to third countries as part of regional trade or within the context of traditional trade flows.

3. No customs duties shall apply to direct imports from third countries into the outermost regions of products covered by the specific supply arrangements that fall within the maximum volume established in the NRP Plans in accordance with paragraph 2. Products which have entered the Union's customs territory under inward processing or customs warehousing arrangements shall be considered for the purposes of this Article to be direct imports from third countries.

4. Support shall be granted to supply the outermost regions with Union products to ensure special supply requirements established in accordance with paragraph 2 in terms of price and quality, while maintaining the Union's share in the supplies of those products. No support shall be granted for the supply of products which have already benefited from the specific supply arrangements in another outermost region.

5. Only products of sound, fair and marketable quality shall benefit from the specific supply arrangements. Products from third countries shall provide an equivalent level of guarantees to those produced under the Union's veterinary and plant health standards.

6. In implementing the specific supply arrangements, Member States shall take account in particular of the need to ensure that existing local production is not destabilised nor obstructed in its development and of the requirement laid down in paragraph 6.

7. Member States shall conduct verifications by means of administrative, physical and on-the-spot checks. The administrative checks carried out on the import, entry, export and dispatch of products shall be exhaustive and shall involve cross-checks with the supporting documents. The physical checks carried out in the outermost region concerned on the import or entry of products shall involve a representative sample

<i>amounting to at least 5 % of the licences and certificates.</i>	
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<i>Reason</i>
This measure, which is part of the Community <i>acquis</i> for the outermost regions, needs to be incorporated into the framework of the CAP and, more specifically, the specific regulation adapting the CAP to the outermost regions, Regulation 228/2013, in its current form, and reinstated there.

Amendment 33

Article 47

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
	<i>Member States may, within the framework of the programmes provided for in Title III of this Regulation, execute support measures complementary to those already existing under Regulation 228/2013, for the production, processing, marketing and transport of raw and processed agricultural products in the outermost regions.</i>

<i>Reason</i>
To make it possible for new measures supporting agriculture in the outermost regions to be incorporated in addition to those already in place thanks to the POSEI programme being kept as an instrument outside the NRP Plans.

Amendment 34

Article 48

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>1. Each Member State concerned shall determine, in line with the criteria laid down in accordance with paragraph 7 of this Article, for each outermost region, the list of <i>agricultural</i>, fishery and aquaculture products and the quantity of those products eligible for compensation of the additional costs incurred by operators.</p> <p>2. The list referred to in paragraph 1 shall comprise at least the following elements:</p> <p>(a) a description of the interventions envisaged;</p> <p>(b) <i>a list of the aid constituting income support interventions in accordance with Article 35(1);</i></p> <p>(c) the aid amount established for each intervention and the provisional amount for each</p>	<p>1. Each Member State concerned shall determine, in line with the criteria laid down in accordance with paragraph 7 of this Article, for each outermost region, the list of fishery and aquaculture products and the quantity of those products eligible for compensation of the additional costs incurred by operators.</p> <p>2. The list referred to in paragraph 1 shall comprise at least the following elements:</p> <p>(a) a description of the interventions envisaged;</p> <p>(b) the aid amount established for each intervention and the provisional amount for each action in order to achieve one or more objectives for the programme.</p>

<p>action in order to achieve one or more objectives for the programme.</p> <p>3. The interventions may consist of support for production, processing, marketing and transport of raw and processed <i>agricultural</i>, fisheries and aquaculture products in the outermost regions. When establishing the lists and the quantities referred to in paragraph 1, Member States shall take into account all relevant factors, in particular the additional costs incurred by operators in the outermost regions, and the need to ensure that the compensation is compatible and consistent with the rules of the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy.</p> <p>4. <i>Member States shall provide for a fair distribution of payments. Member States may cap the amount of the support to be granted to a beneficiary in a given calendar year or use degressive payments.</i></p> <p>5. The compensation shall not be granted for fishery and aquaculture products:</p> <p>(a) caught by third country vessels, with the exception of fishing vessels which fly the flag of Venezuela and operate in Union waters, in accordance with Council Decision (EU) 2015/1565 (37);</p> <p>(b) caught by Union fishing vessels that are not registered in a port of one of the outermost regions;</p> <p>(c) imported from third countries. 6. Paragraph 5, point (b), shall not apply if the existing capacity of the processing industry in the outermost region concerned exceeds the quantity of raw material supplied.</p> <p>7. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts, in accordance with Articles 86 and 87, to supplement this Regulation by laying down the criteria for the calculation of the additional costs resulting from the special characteristics of the regions concerned.</p>	<p>3. The interventions may consist of support for production, processing, marketing and transport of raw and processed fisheries and aquaculture products in the outermost regions. When establishing the lists and the quantities referred to in paragraph 1, Member States shall take into account all relevant factors, in particular the additional costs incurred by operators in the outermost regions, and the need to ensure that the compensation is compatible and consistent with the rules of the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy.</p> <p>4. The compensation shall not be granted for fishery and aquaculture products:</p> <p>(a) caught by third country vessels, with the exception of fishing vessels which fly the flag of Venezuela and operate in Union waters, in accordance with Council Decision (EU) 2015/1565 (37);</p> <p>(b) caught by Union fishing vessels that are not registered in a port of one of the outermost regions;</p> <p>(c) imported from third countries. 5. Paragraph 4, point (b), shall not apply if the existing capacity of the processing industry in the outermost region concerned exceeds the quantity of raw material supplied. 6. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts, in accordance with Articles 86 and 87, to supplement this Regulation by laying down the criteria for the calculation of the additional costs resulting from the special characteristics of the regions concerned.</p>
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<p><i>Reason</i></p> <p>In line with the previous amendment, the references to agriculture in the outermost regions are deleted and should be included in the CAP framework and, more specifically, in the specific regulation adapting the CAP to the outermost regions, Regulation 228/2013 (POSEI Regulation).</p>
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Amendment 35

Article 49 add new paragraphs 2 and 3 (after paragraph 1) – Plan Authorities

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>1. For the purposes of Article 63(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, each Member State shall identify one or more managing authorities, one or more paying agencies and one or more audit authorities for the Plan. The authorities identified shall fulfil the relevant key requirements set out in Annex IV to this Regulation. All authorities identified for the purposes of this Article shall have the possibility for exchanges with the Commission.</p> <p>2. Where a Member State entrusts the implementation of the Plan to authorities in charge of implementing cohesion policy, the CAP or European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund in the 2021-2027 programming period and based on all available audit results the Commission did not question the effective functioning of these authorities, these authorities shall be deemed to comply with the key requirements.</p>	<p>1. For the purposes of Article 63(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, each Member State shall identify one or more managing authorities, one or more paying agencies and one or more audit authorities for the Plan. The authorities identified shall fulfil the relevant key requirements set out in Annex IV to this Regulation. All authorities identified for the purposes of this Article shall have the possibility for exchanges with the Commission.</p> <p><i>2. In Member States where sub-national authorities hold legislative, administrative or financial competences relevant to the NRPP, the Member State shall designate the competent sub-national authority as managing authorities for the corresponding regional or territorial chapters. These sub-national managing authorities shall be responsible for the preparation, implementation, monitoring and review of their respective regional or territorial chapters, in accordance with this Regulation.</i></p> <p><i>3. The designation of authorities under this Article shall ensure full consistency with Article XXX ‘Multilevel governance assessment’. In particular, the Member State shall ensure that the sub-national managing authorities designated under paragraph 2 are systematically involved in:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(a) the preparation of the NRPP, including territorial analysis, governance structures and resource allocation;</i> <i>(b) any amendments to the NRPP, including the mid-term review under Article 25;</i> <i>(c) the programming or reprogramming of flexibility amounts under Article 2;</i> <i>(d) the formulation and adaptation of milestones and targets at regional level under Article 22;</i> <i>(e) the management and the monitoring;</i> <i>(f) submitting payment applications;</i> <i>(g) the audit.</i> <p><i>When the Plan consists of regional or territorial chapters pursuant to Article 21(2), the relevant</i></p>

	<p><i>(regional) managing authorities responsible for their design, programming, management and implementation, including auditing and payment applications, shall be responsible for interacting directly with the Commission.</i></p> <p>4. Where a Member State entrusts the implementation of the Plan to authorities in charge of implementing cohesion policy, the CAP or European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund in the 2021-2027 programming period and based on all available audit results the Commission did not question the effective functioning of these authorities, these authorities shall be deemed to comply with the key requirements.</p>
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Reason	
<p>Provides legal clarity regarding sub-national managing authorities being designated as bodies for dealing with their respective regional chapter and all related responsibilities. Strengthens the European Commission President’s proposal for regional managing authorities ‘interacting directly’ with the Commission.</p>	

Amendment 36

Article 51

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>1. The managing authority shall be responsible for managing the Plan or a part of the Plan with a view to delivering its objectives. It shall have the following functions:(a) selecting operations with a view to maximising the contribution of the Plan towards the achievement of the objectives of the Fund, defined at the level of its chapters and measures by establishing and applying criteria and procedures which are non-discriminatory and transparent;(b) carrying out management verifications to ensure the fulfilment of the milestones and targets set out in the Plan and the effective use of funds in compliance with applicable law; for the purposes of drawing up the management declaration, the managing authority is not expected to verify the underlying costs of the operations;</p>	<p>1. The managing authority shall be responsible for managing the Plan or a part of the Plan with a view to delivering its objectives. It shall have the following functions:(a) selecting operations with a view to maximising the contribution of the Plan towards the achievement of the objectives of the Fund, defined at the level of its chapters and measures by establishing and applying criteria and procedures which are non-discriminatory and transparent;(b) <i>selecting and setting qualitative milestones and quantitative targets, as well as their corresponding indicative completion dates, and the selected output indicators;</i> (c) carrying out management verifications to ensure the fulfilment of the milestones and targets set out in the Plan and the effective use of funds in compliance with applicable law; for the purposes of drawing up the management declaration, the managing authority is not expected to verify the underlying</p>

	costs of the operations; <i>(d) submitting payment applications to the Commission in accordance with Article 65;</i>
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Reason
The regional managing authorities should be responsible for all dimensions including setting qualitative milestones and quantitative targets, and submitting payment applications to the Commission.

Amendment 37

Article 53

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
4. The audit authority <i>is not expected to</i> verify the underlying costs of the operations for the purpose of its audit work.	4. The audit authority <i>shall</i> not verify the underlying costs of the operations for the purpose of its audit work.

Reason
This is a proposal for simplification to ensure that audits and controls only focus on the achievements of milestones and targets and not go further by requesting additional justifications of expenses, thus creating unnecessary administrative burden.

Amendment 38

Article 54

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
1. Each Member State shall set up one <i>or more</i> monitoring <i>committees</i> for <i>the chapters</i> of the NRP Plan, <i>as appropriate in function of the chapter concerned</i> . All chapters of the Plan shall be covered. The same monitoring committee may cover more than one chapter.	1. Each Member State shall set up one monitoring <i>committee</i> for <i>each chapter</i> of the NRP Plan. All chapters of the Plan shall be covered. The same monitoring committee may cover more than one chapter.

Reason
Proposal for clarification.

Amendment 39

Article 55

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
1. Each Member State shall determine in a public procedure and based on objective and transparent criteria, the composition and the size of the monitoring committee, ensuring a balanced representation of the relevant Member State authorities and intermediate bodies and of	1. Each Member State shall determine in a public procedure and based on objective and transparent criteria, the composition and the size of the monitoring committee, ensuring a balanced representation of the relevant Member State authorities and intermediate bodies and of

<p>representatives of the partners referred to in Article 6 [partnership]. The number of such partners shall be equal or superior to members belonging to authorities or intermediate bodies. The composition of the monitoring committee shall take into account the chapter or the chapters of the Plan the monitoring committee is responsible for. The composition and size of the monitoring committee shall enable the committee to carry out its work efficiently and effectively. Each member of the monitoring committee shall have a vote. The Member State shall publish and annually update the list of the members of the monitoring committee on the website referred to in Article 64.</p>	<p>representatives of the partners referred to in Article 6 [partnership]. The number of such partners shall be equal or superior to members belonging to authorities or intermediate bodies. The composition of the monitoring committee shall take into account the chapter or the chapters of the Plan the monitoring committee is responsible for. The composition and size of the monitoring committee shall enable the committee to carry out its work efficiently and effectively. Each member of the monitoring committee shall have a vote. <i>Where regions are managing authorities of the regional chapters, they should have their own monitoring committee and be responsible for interacting directly with the European Commission.</i> The Member State shall publish and annually update the list of the members of the monitoring committee on the website referred to in Article 64.</p>
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<i>Reason</i>
The regional managing authorities should be responsible for all aspects linked with the responsibilities of a managing authority.

Amendment 40

Article 55.1 – Composition of the monitoring committee

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>1. Each Member State shall determine in a public procedure and based on objective and transparent criteria, the composition and the size of the monitoring committee, ensuring a balanced representation of the relevant Member State authorities and intermediate bodies and of representatives of the partners referred to in Article 6 [partnership]. The number of such partners shall be equal or superior to members belonging to authorities or intermediate bodies. The composition of the monitoring committee shall take into account the chapter or the chapters of the Plan the monitoring committee is responsible for. The composition and size of the monitoring committee shall enable the committee to carry out its work efficiently and effectively. Each member of the monitoring committee shall</p>	<p>1. Each Member State shall determine in a public procedure and based on objective and transparent criteria, the composition and the size of the monitoring committee, ensuring a balanced representation of the relevant Member State authorities and intermediate bodies and of representatives of the partners referred to in Article 6 [partnership]. The number of such partners shall be equal or superior to members belonging to authorities or intermediate bodies. The composition of the monitoring committee shall take into account the chapter or the chapters of the Plan the monitoring committee is responsible for. The composition and size of the monitoring committee shall enable the committee to carry out its work efficiently and effectively. Each member of the monitoring committee shall have a vote.</p>

<p>have a vote. The Member State shall publish and annually update the list of the members of the monitoring committee on the website referred to in Article 64.</p>	<p>The Member State shall publish and annually update the list of the members of the monitoring committee on the website referred to in Article 64. <i>Each Member State shall ensure a balanced representation of the relevant Member State authorities, including regional and local authorities.</i></p> <p><i>Each member of the monitoring committee shall have a vote. The results of the vote shall be published on the website referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 64.</i></p>
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<i>Reason</i>
<p>Incorporates the proposal from the European Commission President on increasing transparency and referring to LRAs.</p>

Amendment 41
Article 57

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p><i>1. Each Member State shall, at the latest 12 months after the approval by the Commission of the Plan, establish and support a national network for CAP ('national CAP network') for the networking of organisations and administrations, advisors, researchers and other innovation actors, and other actors in the field of agriculture and rural development at national level. The national CAP networks shall build on the existing networking experience and practices in the Member States.</i></p> <p><i>2. The Commission shall establish a European network for the Common Agricultural Policy ('European CAP network') to link national networks, organisations, and administrations in the field of agriculture and rural development at Union level.</i></p> <p><i>1. The objectives of the national and European CAP networks shall be to:</i></p> <p><i>(a) involve stakeholders in the design and implementation of the CAP interventions of the NRP Plan;</i></p> <p><i>(b) support Member State administrations in implementing the CAP interventions;</i></p>	

<p><i>(c) improve the quality of the NRP Plans and in particular their measures related to agriculture and disseminate results;</i></p> <p><i>(d) foster innovation, peer-to-peer learning, and knowledge-sharing;</i></p> <p><i>(e) enhance monitoring and evaluation capacities;</i></p> <p><i>(f) disseminate information on the CAP and funding opportunities;</i></p> <p><i>(g) contribute to further development of the CAP.</i></p> <p>2. To achieve the objectives referred to in paragraph 6, the networks shall:</p> <p><i>(a) collect, analyse, and disseminate information on good practices concerning the CAP as well as analysis on developments in agriculture and rural areas;</i></p> <p><i>(b) build capacity for Member States' administrations and other actors involved in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NRP Plans concerning the CAP;</i></p> <p><i>(c) facilitate exchanges, peer-to-peer learning, and networking, including where relevant exchanges with networks in third countries;</i></p> <p><i>(d) support the networking of funded cooperation projects, such as local action groups under Article 77 [LEADER], EIP-AGRI operational groups referred to in Article 19 of Regulation (EU) 202X/XXXX [CAP Regulation] and promote links to other Union-funded strategies.</i></p> <p><i>The European CAP network and the national CAP networks shall collaborate and carry out joint activities in the achievement of the objectives referred to in paragraph 3. The European CAP network shall use a distinctive visual identity.</i></p>	
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<i>Reason</i>
Transfer to the CAP regulation

Amendment 42
Article 58

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
1. The Member States shall take appropriate measures to protect the financial interests of the	1. The Member States shall take appropriate measures to protect the financial interests of the

<p>Union and to ensure that the use of funds in the implementation of the Plans complies with the applicable law, including applicable public procurement and State aid rules. They shall in particular ensure the prevention, detection, correction and reporting of irregularities, including fraud, corruption and conflicts of interest.2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, the Member States shall:(a) establish effective and efficient management and control systems for their Plans in accordance with the key requirements set out in Annex IV and ensure their proper functioning in accordance with the principle of sound financial management;</p>	<p>Union and to ensure that the use of funds in the implementation of the Plans complies with the applicable law, including applicable public procurement and State aid rules. They shall in particular ensure the prevention, detection, correction and reporting of irregularities, including fraud, corruption and conflicts of interest. <i>These responsibilities are developed and implemented by each managing authority when the NRPP has designated several, in conjunction with the coordinating authority.</i> 2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, the Member States, <i>and/or their managing authorities,</i> shall:(a) establish effective and efficient management and control systems for their Plans, <i>and/or chapters,</i> in accordance with the key requirements set out in Annex IV and ensure their proper functioning in accordance with the principle of sound financial management;</p>
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Reason
<p>The regional managing authorities should be responsible for all aspects linked with the responsibilities of a managing authority. Management and control systems could be developed at the level of each chapter and not necessarily at the level of the plan.</p>

Amendment 43

Article 61

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>4. The Commission and the audit authority <i>may decide</i> not to audit milestones and targets in any year where they have already been subject to an audit by the European Court of Auditors.</p>	<p>4. The Commission and the audit authority <i>shall</i> not audit milestones and targets in any year where they have already been subject to an audit by the European Court of Auditors.</p>

Reason
<p><i>Proposal for simplification.</i></p>

Amendment 44

Article 62

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p><i>1. Member States shall as part of the controls referred to in Article 58 [Responsibilities of Member States] verify the compliance of beneficiaries with the requirements of the farm</i></p>	

stewardship referred to in Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 202X/XXXX [CAP Regulation] and with Article XX paragraph XX of Regulation (EU) 202X/XXXX [CFP Regulation].

Where the area eligible for the support referred to in the first subparagraph, as declared in the geo-spatial application referred to in Article 70 [IACS], does not exceed 10 hectares, the beneficiaries shall be exempted from controls and penalties under this Article.

Where a beneficiary has been selected for an on-the-spot check on an aid application or on a payment claim, Member States shall, to the extent possible and taking account of the associated risks, not select that beneficiary for a subsequent check and control sample for that year, except when the circumstances require more than one on-the-spot check in order to ensure the effective protection of the financial interests of the Union. This provision shall not reduce the level of checks.

2. Member States shall make use of their control and enforcement systems in the areas of climate and environment, public health, plant health and animal welfare, social and employment legislation, applicable labour standards, fisheries and aquaculture to ensure that beneficiaries of the support comply with the requirements set out in the first paragraph.

3. The managing authority or paying agency shall be notified where relevant at least once a year of cases of non-compliance where enforceable decisions in that respect have been made under the applicable control and enforcement systems referred to in paragraph 2. That notification shall include an assessment and grading of the severity, extent, permanence or reoccurrence and intentionality of the non-compliance concerned. 4. The administrative penalties referred to in paragraph 5 shall only apply to non-compliance with the requirements of the farm stewardship referred to in Article 3 of Regulation XX [CAP, farm stewardship] where that non-compliance is the result of an act or omission directly attributable to the beneficiary concerned, and where one or both of the

following conditions are met: (a) the non-compliance is related to the agricultural activity of the beneficiary, as defined by Member States in their NRP Plans in accordance with Article 4, point (21), point (a) [framework definition of agricultural activity];

(b) the non-compliance concerns the holding as defined in Article 4(15) [definitions - holding] or other areas managed by the beneficiary situated within the territory of the same Member State.

However, if the non-compliance concerns forest areas, the penalties referred to in paragraph 5 shall not be applied where no support is claimed for the area concerned.

5. Member States shall set up a system of administrative penalties applying to beneficiaries referred to in paragraph 4 who do not comply, at any time in the calendar year concerned, with the requirements of the farm stewardship.

The penalties shall consist of the reduction or exclusion of the total amount of the payments under measures listed in Article 35(1), points (a) to (f), and (o) and (p) to the extent they concern support for local agricultural products, of Regulation (EU) 202X/XXXX [CAP Regulation] granted or to be granted to the beneficiary concerned in respect of aid applications that the beneficiary has submitted or will submit in the course of the calendar year of the finding of the non-compliance. The penalties shall be calculated on the basis of the payments granted or to be granted in the calendar year in which the non-compliance occurred. However, where it is not possible to determine the calendar year in which the non-compliance occurred, the reductions or exclusions shall be calculated on the basis of the payments granted or to be granted in the calendar year of the finding of the non-compliance.

For the calculation of those penalties, account shall be taken of the severity, extent, permanence or reoccurrence and intentionality of the non-compliance determined, in line with the assessment referred to in paragraph 3. A penalty imposed pursuant to the national legislation implementing the legal acts listed in Annex I,

parts A and B, to Regulation XX [CAP] for the same act or omission of a farmer or other beneficiary shall be taken into account in the calculation of penalties referred to in the first subparagraph. The expenditure which has been reduced as a result of the application of a penalty shall be considered legal and regular. The reduction shall, as a general rule, be 3% of the total amount of the payments. In the case of intentional non-compliance, the reduction shall be at least 15% of the amount of those payments. Member States shall provide that no administrative penalty shall be imposed if:

(a) The non-compliance is due to force majeure or exceptional circumstances;

(b) The non-compliance is due to an order from a public authority.

6. In case of a non-compliance with Article XX of Regulation (EU) XX [Common Fisheries Policy], the support paid to the beneficiary shall be recovered and an application for support submitted by a beneficiary shall be inadmissible for a specified period of time laid down pursuant to paragraph 8 of this Article, if it has been determined through a final decision by the competent authority concerned that the beneficiary has committed fraud.

7. Where a case as listed in Article XX of Regulation (EU) XX [Common Fisheries Policy] occurs between in the period of application and the five years after the final payment, the support paid to the beneficiary shall be recovered. The recovery shall be proportionate to the nature, gravity, duration and repetition of the serious infringements or offences by the beneficiary concerned and the importance of support to the economic activity of that beneficiary.

8. In order to ensure a level playing field among Member States and the effectiveness, proportionality and dissuasive effect of the penalties referred to in paragraph 5 and recoveries and inadmissibility referred to Article XX of Regulation EU XX [Common Fisheries Policy], and in paragraph 6 and 7 of this Article, the Commission is empowered to adopt delegated

<p><i>acts in accordance with Article 86 supplementing this Regulation with</i></p> <p><i>(a) detailed rules on the application and calculation of the penalties;</i></p> <p><i>(b) the identification of the threshold triggering, and the period of time of, the inadmissibility as well as the arrangements for recovering the support granted, including thresholds triggering it.</i></p>	
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Reason
Transfer to the CAP and CFP regulations.

Amendment 45

Article 64 add new paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 (after paragraph 3)– Transparency

<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>3. The Member State shall, before publication takes place in accordance with paragraph 2, inform the beneficiaries and request them to inform recipients, final recipients, contractors and subcontractors that the data will be made public.</p> <p>4. The Commission shall publish the data as referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article on the centralised website referred to in Article 12 [Single Gateway] of the Regulation [Performance Regulation]. [...]</p> <p>For the purposes of the first subparagraph, the Commission shall publish the share of the Union contribution in the amounts referred to in Article 63 [Data collection and recording]. The Union contribution shall be established by multiplying the amounts referred to in Article 63 [Data collection and recording] to the co-financing rate applicable to the associated Chapter of the Plan. Amounts in currency other than euro shall be converted to euro by using the monthly accounting exchange rate referred to in Article 19(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. [...]</p>	<p>[...]</p> <p>3. The Member State shall, before publication takes place in accordance with paragraph 2, inform the beneficiaries and request them to inform recipients, final recipients, contractors and subcontractors that the data will be made public.</p> <p><i>4. In addition to the obligations laid down in paragraphs 1 and 2, Member States shall ensure clear, accessible and proactive communication on the impact and achievements of cohesion policy interventions carried out under the National and Regional Partnership Plan. Such communication shall highlight territorial results, improvements in governance, contributions to economic, social and territorial cohesion, and the added value generated at regional and local level.</i></p> <p><i>5. The communication activities referred to in paragraph 3 shall be designed and implemented in close cooperation with regional managing authorities and other authorities designated under Article 49, ensuring that achievements at regional and local level are duly represented. Member States shall make use of digital tools, open data platforms and targeted territorial communication channels to reach citizens, stakeholders and local communities.</i></p> <p><i>6. The obligations set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 shall be complementary to the requirements established in Article 18 of the Performance</i></p>

	<p><i>Framework Regulation, and shall ensure that communication on cohesion policy impact and achievements reflect both the performance monitoring requirements and the territorial dimension of the National and Regional Partnership Plans.</i></p> <p>7. The Commission shall publish the data as referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article on the centralised website referred to in Article 12 [Single Gateway] of the Regulation [Performance Regulation].</p> <p>For the purposes of the first subparagraph, the Commission shall publish the share of the Union contribution in the amounts referred to in Article 63 [Data collection and recording]. The Union contribution shall be established by multiplying the amounts referred to in Article 63 [Data collection and recording] to the co-financing rate applicable to the associated Chapter of the Plan. Amounts in currency other than euro shall be converted to euro by using the monthly accounting exchange rate referred to in Article 19(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. [...]</p>
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<i>Reason</i>
<p>Proposes additional requirements for communication and information about the specific impact and achievements of cohesion policy, going beyond the requirements of Article 18 of the Performance Framework Regulation.</p>

Amendment 46

Article 65 add new paragraph 5 (after paragraph 4) – Payment applications

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>[...]</p> <p>4. Payment applications shall be submitted by the Member States to the Commission in accordance with the template set out in Annex XI up to six times a year by 31 October.</p> <p>5. Payment applications shall not be admissible if the latest assurance package due has not been submitted yet in accordance with Article 59 [annual assurance package] and until such time that it is submitted.</p> <p>[...]</p>	<p>[...]</p> <p>4. Payment applications shall be submitted by the Member States to the Commission in accordance with the template set out in Annex XI up to six times a year by 31 October.</p> <p>5. <i>For measures implemented through regional or territorial chapters, payment applications submitted by the Member State shall demonstrate progress towards the milestones and targets established at regional level in accordance with Article 22. Such progress shall include both quantitative indicators and the qualitative implementation steps relevant to regional</i></p>

	<p><i>governance, institutional capacity, multi-level coordination and long-term territorial development.</i></p> <p><i>Regional managing authorities designated under Article 49 shall provide the national coordinating authority with the necessary evidence and documentation to substantiate the achievement of regional milestones and qualitative progress. The Member State shall ensure that these contributions are accurately reflected in the payment application submitted to the Commission.</i></p> <p>6. Payment applications shall not be admissible if the latest assurance package due has not been submitted yet in accordance with Article 59 [annual assurance package] and until such time that it is submitted.</p>
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Reason	
Integrates previous amendments regarding milestones and targets set at regional level.	

Amendment 47

Article 70

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p><i>1. Each Member State shall set up and operate an integrated administration and control system (the ‘integrated system’). It shall apply to the interventions listed in Article 35(1), points (a) to (g).</i></p> <p><i>1. To the extent necessary, the integrated system shall also be used for the management of [farm stewardship] referred to in Article XX of Regulation XX [CAP], and in all appropriate cases to the measures referred to in Title VI [provisions on support for outermost regions].</i></p> <p><i>2. The integrated system shall comprise the following elements:</i></p> <p><i>(a) an agriculture monitoring system (AMS). The AMS is a procedure of regular and systematic observation, tracking and assessment of agricultural activities and practices by technological means, including Copernicus Sentinels satellite data;</i></p> <p><i>(b) a geo-spatial and animal-based application system (GSA). The GSA is a digital application</i></p>	

tool for the beneficiary to declare agricultural activities and practices of the holding;

(c) a land parcel identification system (LPIS);

(d) a system for the identification and registration of animals;

(e) a system for the identification of beneficiaries of the interventions listed in paragraphs 1 and 2;

(f) a control and penalty system. Member States shall annually carry out administrative checks on the aid application and payment claims to verify legality and regularity. Those checks shall be supplemented by on-the-spot checks, which may be executed remotely with the use of technology. However, Member States may choose not to carry out on the spot checks where the eligibility conditions of measures are monitored under the agriculture monitoring system referred to in point (a) of this Article.

3. Member States shall annually assess the quality of the elements of the integrated system referred to in paragraph 3, points (a), (b) and (c), in accordance with the methodology set up at Union level. Where the assessment reveals deficiencies in the elements of the integrated system, Member States shall adopt appropriate remedial actions or, failing that, shall be requested by the Commission to set up a roadmap detailing the timeline for implementing the outstanding remedial actions.

An assessment report and, where appropriate, the remedial actions and the timetable for their implementation shall be submitted to the Commission by 15 February following the calendar year concerned.

4. The Commission shall supply the satellite data, required for the agriculture monitoring system, free of charge to the authorities competent for the agriculture monitoring system or to suppliers of services authorised by those authorities to represent them. For the purpose of the quality assessment of the integrated system referred to in paragraph 4, the Commission shall provide them, free of charge, the necessary Very High Resolution imagery. The Commission shall remain the owner of the satellite data and imagery.¹⁵ Without prejudice to the responsibilities of the Member States for the

implementation and application of the integrated system Member States shall establish the European land monitoring system. It shall provide information to farmers to support sustainable management of their holdings. Furthermore, it shall provide data for CAP policy development and monitoring, and promote sharing of farm sustainability data.

6. The European land monitoring system shall comprise at least the data related to the elements of the integrated system referred to in paragraph 3 and, where applicable, data shared by farmers with public authorities in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EU) 202X/XXXX [CAP Regulation]. The Member States may provide additional services to enhance the European land monitoring system with other sources of information to the benefit of the farmers.

7. Where necessary to ensure that the integrated system provided for in this Chapter is implemented in an efficient, coherent and non-discriminatory way which protects the financial interests of the Union, the Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 87, supplementing this Regulation with:

(a) rules on the methodology set up at Union level for the annual quality assessment of the elements of the integrated system, referred to in paragraph (3), points (a), (b) and (c);

(b) rules on the LPIS, referred to in paragraph 3, point (c).

8. The Commission may adopt implementing acts laying down rules on:

(a) the form and content of, and arrangements for transmitting or making available to the Commission of:

(i) the assessment report referred to in paragraph (4);

(ii) the remedial actions provided by Member States;

(b) basic features of, and rules on:

(i) AMS;

(ii) GSA;

(iii) LPIS

(iv) the European land monitoring system.

<i>Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 87(3) [committee procedure, examination procedure].</i>	
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<i>Reason</i>
Transfer to the CAP regulation.

Amendment 48

New article after Art.76 – *Support for place-based innovation and smart specialisation*

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
	<p><i>1. As part of the EU's ambition to promote competitiveness and close the innovation divide in Europe's regions, Member States shall support place-based innovation via renewed smart specialisation strategies, developed at the most appropriate level, which are transformational in ambition.</i></p> <p><i>2. The support should include investment in innovation infrastructure, promotion of effective collaboration of the quadruple helix and the development of holistic strategies to improve regional innovation performance towards societal goals. The European Commission should support the creation of European value chains based on the Smart specialisation strategies and the optimisation of regional innovation ecosystems.</i></p> <p><i>3. Special attention should be given to promoting innovation-driven territorial transformation, linking EU priorities with the European Competitiveness Fund's dedicated instrument.</i></p>

<i>Reason</i>
Introduces the possibility of support for place-based innovation, building on S3 strategies and making a link with the ECF.

Amendment 49

New article after Art.76 – *Territorial just transition strategies*

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
	<i>1. Member States shall prepare, together with the relevant local and regional authorities of the</i>

	<p><i>territories concerned, one or more territorial just transition strategy within their NRP territorial chapter(s), covering one or more affected territory corresponding to NUTS 3 level regions or parts thereof, in accordance with the template set out in Annex XXX to this Regulation.</i></p> <p><i>2. Those territories shall be those most negatively affected, based on the economic and social impacts resulting from the transition, in particular with regard to the expected adaptation of workers or job losses in fossil fuel production and use and the transformation needs of the production processes of industrial facilities with the highest greenhouse gas intensity.</i></p> <p><i>3. A territorial just transition strategy shall contain elements present in Annex XXX to this Regulation.</i></p>
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Reason
Reintroduces ‘territorial just transition plans’ as ‘territorial just transition strategies’, as a territorial tool dedicated to supporting territories most affected by the green, digital and demographic transitions.

Amendment 50
Articles 84 and 85

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p><i>Article 84 – Rules applicable to undertakings (competition rules</i> <i>[...]</i></p> <p><i>Article 85 – State aid</i> <i>[...]</i></p>	

Reason
Transfer to the CAP and CFP regulations

Amendment 51
Annex VII

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
For the purpose of Article 22(2), point (h), Member States shall allocate resources to the below categories of regions, taking into account: [...] e) the specific needs and challenges of Eastern border regions (NUTS 2 regions that have borders with Russia and Belarus), particularly in the areas	For the purpose of Article 22(2), point (h), Member States shall allocate resources to the below categories of regions, taking into account: [...] e) the specific needs and challenges of Eastern border regions (NUTS 2 regions that have borders with Russia, Belarus and Ukraine), particularly in

of security, border management and economic development; [...]	the areas of security, border management and economic development; [...]
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<i>Reason</i>
<p>The proposed amendment ensures consistency with the European Commission Communication of 18 February 2026 on eastern border regions, which covers regions bordering not only Russia and Belarus but also Ukraine. Limiting the definition solely to borders with Russia and Belarus does not reflect the current geopolitical context nor the actual scope of challenges and functions of these territories. Eastern border regions perform a dual role within the Union: on the one hand, they are areas requiring enhanced resilience and security (the ‘shield’ function); on the other hand, they act as key nodes for connectivity and for economic, logistical and humanitarian flows, particularly in relation to Ukraine (the ‘gateway’ function). Both functions coexist and should be adequately reflected in the definition and in the Union’s policy approach. These regions incur both ‘passive costs’ resulting from their peripheral location (such as lower accessibility, demographic pressure and limited investment attractiveness) and increasing ‘active costs’ linked to their stabilising and operational role for the Union as a whole, including the handling of logistical flows, support to Ukraine, pressure on infrastructure and public services, and increased administrative burden. Including regions bordering Ukraine in the definition of eastern border regions is therefore necessary to ensure policy coherence at Union level, to properly reflect their role and to adequately target support under the NRPP framework.</p>

Amendment 52

Annex XVII

<i>Text proposed by the European Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<i>ANNEX XVII WTO domestic support [...]</i>	

<i>Reason</i>
Transfer to the CAP regulation.

II. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS (CoR)

1. points to its long-standing positions on the future of cohesion policy, as laid out in the two opinions on the Future of Cohesion Policy (Boc-Cordeiro 2023 and 2024), as well as on the future architecture and governance of EU investment policies, as set out notably in its opinion on Cohesion policy and performance (Boudineau, 2025), which collectively stress the need for a strengthening of cohesion policy based on its fundamental principles, whilst underlining the central role of cohesion, partnership and territorial impact in any future EU investment framework;
2. further points to the key messages of the CoR resolution adopted on 15 May in view of the post-2027 MFF in anticipation of the Commission proposals for the National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPP) Regulation, stressing the need for a place-based, multi-level approach that strengthens rather than replaces the foundations of cohesion policy;
3. emphasises that this opinion aims to address the broad political orientation, structure and governance of the proposed NRPP Regulation, ensuring its alignment with the Treaties, the principles of shared management and the needs of local and regional authorities across the Union;
4. points out that economic, social and territorial cohesion is a core Treaty objective. The ‘do no harm to cohesion’ principle must therefore be placed at the top of the NRPP Fund’s hierarchy of objectives; notes that the first pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy and the Cohesion Policy, which includes the European Social Fund and the second pillar of the CAP, are the cornerstones of the EU single market and contribute to the long-term development of all European regions, thereby strengthening overall European competitiveness; stresses that these essential policies must be provided with sufficient, long-term and clearly dedicated funding;
5. regrets that, in line with the key conclusions of the assessment of the NRPP Fund Regulation carried out by the CoR Subsidiarity Expert Group, no robust territorial impact analysis was conducted prior to the publication of the Commission proposal for a NRPP Fund Regulation, and that the impact assessment accompanying the proposal fails to demonstrate the extent to which the proposed changes regarding governance, management and delivery would lead to increases in efficiency;

General provisions

6. points to the CoR opinion on the next multiannual financial framework (MFF), which calls for the first pillar of the MFF to be structured around sub-headings that clearly identify dedicated and clearly labelled budget lines for cohesion, agriculture and fisheries, and security;
7. shares the European Commission’s objective to modernise and increase the efficiency and flexibility of the Union’s main investment policies, in particular cohesion policy and the common agricultural policy;

8. acknowledges that, with effective multilevel governance, national and regional partnership plans (NRPPs) could enhance synergies among the shared management funds, in particular the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF+) and the future rural fund;
9. calls for the objective of the Just Transition to be explicitly reintegrated into the specific objectives of the Fund, ensuring that cohesion policy can continue to play a critical role to ensure that no one is left behind in the transition to a climate neutral economy and advocate for a clear, transparent and EU-wide definition of regions in transition, taking into account time criteria that enable levels of urgency to be identified, in order to ensure that these regions can continue to receive a top-up of European funds to face their particular challenges;
10. proposes that specific communication, evaluation and visibility requirements are introduced to promote the impact of cohesion policy as a distinct EU policy, with clear references to all funds under shared management, in full complementarity with requirements laid out in the Performance Framework Regulation;

On governance

11. notes with satisfaction the references to the partnership principle, the European Code of Conduct on Partnership and the principle of multilevel governance; notes, however, the distinction between partnership principles – which aims to involve representatives from civil society, businesses, trade unions and all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of EU investments – and multilevel governance, which refers to the cooperation among all levels of government within a Member State;
12. stresses, therefore, that the participation of sub-national levels of government must be ensured, with strong and binding legislative safeguards, in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the NRPPs. These new legislative safeguards should be enshrined in new articles concerning the ‘**multilevel governance assessment**’ and the ‘**subsidiarity clause**’ of the present regulation;
13. underscores that, in response to the European Commission President’s informal proposal for a ‘regional check’, a formal ‘**multilevel governance assessment**’ must be established to verify that preconditions are met regarding both the consultation of local and regional authorities and in full respect of their competences;
14. emphasises that, once this check is completed, the ‘**subsidiarity clause**’ applies: if a Member State’s internal constitutional organisation explicitly attributes competences to regions and local authorities linked to the implementation of NRPPs, the creation of regional and/or territorial chapters shall be mandatory, and no plan may be approved without the explicit agreement of the regions concerned. Sub-national authorities concerned can alert the European Commission officially if they consider they have not been sufficiently consulted;
15. calls for a requirement for each Member State to include at least one regional or territorial chapter in its NRPP, in line with the multilevel governance assessment and the subsidiarity clause;

16. calls for each Member State to conduct a territorial impact assessment of their NRP Plan in order to identify the impact of their planned interventions envisaged to respond to the challenges identified at EU level on the basis of article 22.2 (Requirements for the NRP plan) on social, economic and territorial cohesion and specifying how potential negative territorial consequences of certain EU priorities will be addressed. Member States shall submit territorial impact assessments to the European Commission in accordance with article 21 (Preparation and submission of the Plan). Member States shall also submit territorial impact assessments to the European Commission in due time to inform the mid-term review process in accordance with article 25 (Mid-term review);
17. calls on the Commission to assess the plans submitted by Member States against a policy reference framework to identify the specific territorial challenges of each Member State grounded in a solid territorial analysis. Such a policy reference framework will ensure that interventions and reforms foreseen in Member States' NRP plans address long term considerations linked to territorial cohesion whilst enforcing the 'do no harm to cohesion' principle;
18. believes that NRPP Fund Regulation should foresee the possibility of separate approval of chapters, including territorial chapters. This would allow well-prepared territorial chapters to progress without being delayed by unresolved issues in unrelated areas, supporting the timely adoption of the Plan;

Financial framework

19. points out the absence of clear allocations within the EU budget for the objective of economic, social and territorial cohesion, as set out in Part Three, Title XVIII of the TFEU, beyond the minimum allocation to less developed regions; stresses that all European regions should remain eligible for funding and calls for clarification on the percentages of national financial envelopes benefiting less developed, transition and more developed regions in each Member States; proposes, therefore, to reintroduce distinct budget lines for all categories of regions (less developed, transition and more developed) by setting minimum percentages of the overall cohesion policy resources, as in the 2021-2027 period;
20. welcomes the ring-fencing of funding for migration, border management and internal security and urges the co-legislators to protect this minimum level of financing, especially to foster integration measures in cities and regions and to tackle irregular migration;
21. welcomes the intention to introduce flexibility within the NRPP, but stresses that flexibility must not be a one-way instrument in the hands of central governments only; proposes a clear mechanism through which the 10% flexibility margin is accessed on the same basis as the programming (i.e., multi-level governance assessment and subsidiarity clause), based on clear and transparent criteria and supporting the multilevel governance and partnership principles;
22. calls for the mid-term review of NRP plans to include a mandatory requirement for Member States to formally involve regional authorities to better align NRPP investments with new and emerging priorities, as per the multilevel governance assessment and subsidiarity clause;

23. stresses that flexibility must not undermine predictability for beneficiaries or the long-term nature of EU structural investment; calls, therefore, for decommitments to take place 24 months after the year of the budgetary commitment;
24. emphasises that the proposed EU Facility is a new strand pooling together a variety of existing instruments under the MFF 2021-2027 that do not have the same objectives in terms of timing, nor the same management mode. Underlines that such consolidation might increase the competition between these instruments and weaken their respective visibility and impact, since some instruments covered by the EU Facility are meant to provide extra financial means to Member States and subnational authorities to respond to crisis and unforeseen events, whilst others are meant to support innovative place-based initiatives in a longer time perspective;
25. notes that the implementation of the EU Facility will grant a wide margin of manoeuvre in the hands of the Commission via the adoption of annual or multiannual work programmes embedded in implementing acts and that it will be mobilised by the two arms of the budget authority annually against the new steering mechanisms foreseen in the interinstitutional agreement on cooperation in budgetary matters; underlines that this new steering mechanism will identify political priorities defined on the basis of a strategic report building upon processes that do not inherently address long term considerations linked to territorial cohesion and do not address the 'do no harm to cohesion' principle;
26. calls on the co-legislators to ensure that actions to support innovative place-based initiatives listed in Annex XV under the 'Union actions' compartment, such as the Interregional Investments Initiative (I3), Urban, LIFE or the Easi/social innovation be implemented on the basis of work programmes that duly reflect the experiences and needs of local and regional authorities;
27. strongly believes that the budgetary allocations for some of the actions listed in Annex XV, in particular the Interregional Investments Initiative (I3), Urban, LIFE and the Easi/social innovation need to be ringfenced and referred to in the relevant fund-specific regulations;
28. calls on the co-legislators to ensure that crisis response instruments are mobilised smoothly and under lean procedures that take fully into account the needs of subnational authorities without jeopardising long-term investments under the NRP plans;

On milestones and targets

29. raises several doubts about the performance-based delivery mode; stresses that milestones and targets set in the context of the NRPs must be designed in a way that reflects the distribution of competences across levels of government;
30. proposes that milestones related to parts of NRPPs implemented at sub-national level be explicitly aligned with regional competences and implementation responsibilities;
31. calls for milestones to be clearly linked to qualitative implementation steps, not only quantitative financial or output indicators, in line with the approach advocated in the CoR's Boudineau opinion;

On specific types of territories

32. notes that outermost regions, northern sparsely populated areas and areas affected by industrial transition are explicitly recognised in the Treaties and in cohesion policy as deserving of specific attention and support;
33. underlines that the NRPPs must address both urban and rural challenges in a balanced, integrated way, in line with the EU Agenda for Cities and the Long-term Vision for Rural Areas; stresses that strengthening rural areas is indispensable for the EU's strategic autonomy, particularly in food production, and highlights the importance of supporting small and medium farms and SMEs as pillars of the rural economy and ensuring sustainable generational renewal;
34. welcomes the recognition of the challenges faced by eastern border regions and stresses that regions bordering Russia, Belarus and Ukraine should be recognised as territories of particular strategic importance for the Union. They require targeted support under the NRPP, in particular to strengthen resilience and security, develop transport and institutional connectivity, and increase capacity and the ability to handle strategic economic and humanitarian flows;
35. calls for a minimum target of 20% of national allocations for integrated territorial development strategies (integrated territorial investments, community-led local development, LEADER or other territorial tools designed by Member States) in urban or rural areas, as a guarantee of a genuinely place-based approach that empowers local communities and stakeholders.

On the link with the common agriculture policy (CAP)

36. calls on the CAP-specific articles (1st pillar) in the NRPP Fund Regulation to be transferred to the CAP Regulation, and for rural development to be specifically supported under the NRPPs. At least 20% of the financial envelope foreseen for intervention in rural areas as referred to in paragraph 2(a)(iii) shall be dedicated to the territorial initiatives and local cooperation dimension (Community-led local development / LEADER; other territorial tools) as referred to in Part I of Annex II of Regulation (EU) [Performance Regulation];
37. acknowledges that greater flexibility for Member States and regions within the CAP is essential to tailor interventions to local needs, as long advocated by the CoR, but warns that this risks creating disparities in support levels for farmers across the EU. Without common safeguards, such flexibility could distort competition, undermining the single market's level playing-field and eroding trust in the fairness of EU agricultural policies;
38. asks, therefore, the European Commission to ensure a level playing-field among Member States and regions by including quantified targets to be met by all Member States as proposed in the CoR's previous opinion on the reform of the CAP;
39. recommends that the European Commission introduce measurable and comprehensive impact indicators at the heart of the CAP policy design to strengthen the comparability and validity of

the overall policy and to ensure transparency and comparability of policy performance across the Union.

Brussels, 6 May 2026.

*The President
of the European Committee of the Regions*

Kata Tüttő

*The Secretary-General
of the European Committee of the Regions*

Petr Blížkovský

III. PROCEDURE

Title	NRPP Fund Regulation
Reference(s)	COM/2025/565 final/2 Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security for the period 2028-2034 and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 and Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509
Legal basis	Art. 307, paragraph 1.
Procedural basis	Rule 41(a) RoP - Mandatory, optional and outlook opinions
Date of Council/EP referral/Date of Commission letter	
Date of Bureau/President's decision	13 October 2025
Commission responsible	Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget
Rapporteur	Vasco ALVES CORDEIRO (PT/PES) and Emil BOC (RO/EPP)
Discussed in commission	1 December 2025
Date adopted by commission	5 February 2026
Result of the vote in commission (majority, unanimity)	Unanimity
Date adopted in plenary	6 May 2026
Previous Committee opinions	
Subsidiarity reference	