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MEETING DOCUMENT

From: To:	General Secretariat of the Council Working Party on Structural Measures and Outermost Regions
N° Cion doc.:	doc. 11769/25 (COM(2025) 558 final)
Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation establishing the European Social Fund as part of the National and Regional Partnership Plan set out in Regulation (EU) [...] [NRPPlan] establishing conditions for the implementation of the Union support to quality employment, skills and social inclusion for the period from 2028 to 2034: - COM PPT

Delegations will find attached the slides that were used by the Commission for presenting the proposal for the ESF (as part of NRPP) Regulation at the WP on Structural Measures and Outermost Regions on 12 September 2025.

EUROPE'S BUDGET
THE POWER OF TOGETHER

Investing in people

Christoph Nerlich, Head of Unit EMPL G1

- SMOR 12.9.2025 -

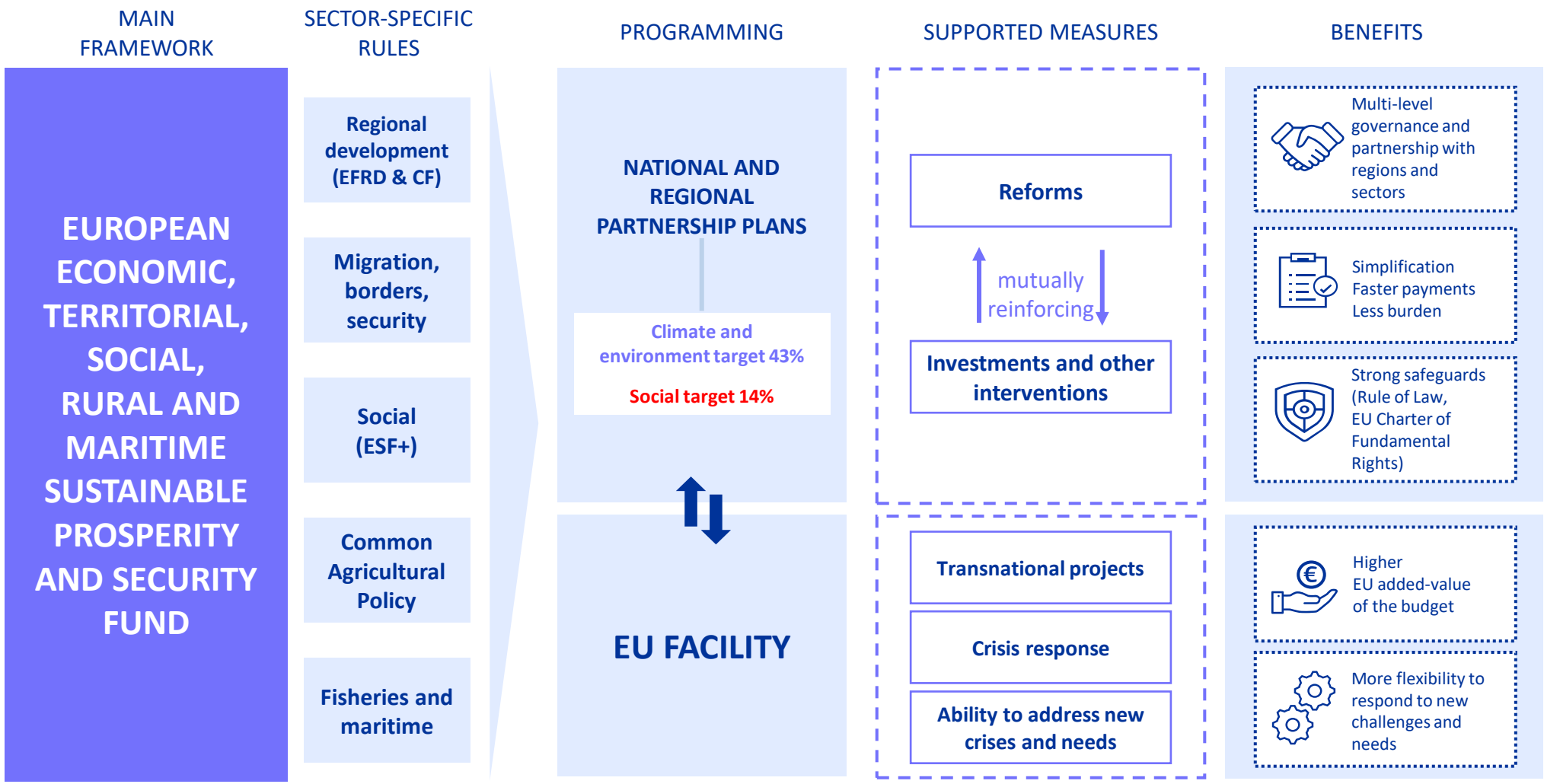
Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034

European Commission

Support to the Union’s social objectives

- Europe faces major **transitions** - green, digital, demographic - that reshape jobs, skills and our societies.
- Investing in upskilling and reskilling, childcare, affordable housing or long-term care is essential to improve lives across Europe and achieve social cohesion. Supporting people and strengthening our social model is Europe's trademark.
- Union’s social objectives will be supported under:
  - **National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPPs)**
    - **European Social Fund (ESF)**
    - **EU Facility** - will support social innovation and labour mobility, microfinance, the social economy, and improved access to health, education and housing
    - other funds under the NRPPs
  - **Social Climate Fund (SCF)** - financed outside MFF but integrated into the NRPPs as of 2028
  - **European Competitiveness Fund (ECF)** - will support skills development, vocational training, and lifelong learning, helping people upskill and improve their qualifications to find quality jobs in key sectors
  - **Horizon, Erasmus+** and the **horizontal crisis mechanism**

National and Regional Partnership Plans



The '14%' social target

- At least **14% of the NRPP Regulation** financial envelope (including loan support and excluding amounts ringfenced for direct support to farmers, fisheries and the SCF) to be **dedicated to meeting the Union's social objectives.**
  - ❖ This corresponds to **at least EUR 100 bn**.
  - ❖ Based on the EU coefficients referred to in Art. 6 (1) and Annex I of the Performance regulation (see also Art. 10 (5) and 22 (2) (q) of NRPP Regulation)
  - ❖ Illustrative example of calculation under the NRP Plan: Member State X receives a total Union contribution of EUR 515 million. According to the policy mix of selected intervention fields, EUR 185 million out of EUR 515 million counts towards the social target – approximately **36%** of the Union contribution. The MS fulfils the respective requirement.

Intervention field (number, name)	Total investment (in mio EUR)	Social coefficient (in %)	Social expenditure (in mio EUR)
2. Targeted support to farmers income*	150	0%	0
115. Initial vocational education (excluding infrastructures)	50	100%	50
121. Early childhood education facilities, schools and universities – Development and construction of new zero-emission or nearly zero	50	40%	20
175. Electricity generation from offshore wind energy	100	0%	0
192. Energy efficiency in enterprises	25	0%	0
421. Promote citizens' engagement and participation	5	0%	0
443. Specific support to youth employment	20	100%	20
449. Support to social partners	5	100%	5
450. Addressing material deprivation through food and/or material assistance to the most deprived, including accompanying measures (not in case of disasters)	40	100%	40
479. Measures to address child poverty	50	100%	50
504. Cycling infrastructure	20	0%	0
total	515		185
* Income support to farmers is explicitly excluded from the computation in line with Article 22(2)(q) NRRP Regulation			

The ESF regulation (Art. 1 – 2)

- The ESF support:
  - ❖ delivered under the NRP Plan
  - ❖ based on the **guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States**, as provided for in Article 148 (2) of the Treaty, set out in the Decision (EU) XXX [Employment guidelines adopted by the Council at the latest by 1 January 2027]
- The ESF contributes, in particular, to the following **general objectives** and relevant specific objectives:
  - ❖ **support quality employment, education and skills and social inclusion** (Art. 2 (b) of NRPP Reg.)
  - ❖ **protect and strengthen democracy in the Union and uphold Union values in accordance with Article 2 TEU**' (Art. 2 (e) of NRPP Reg.)

The ESF regulation (Art. 4 – 9)

- Specific provisions, with the same principles as in 2021 – 2027, for:
  - **social innovation**,
  - supporting **demographic transition**,
  - **material deprivation**,
  - partnership with **social partners and civil society**,
  - and **the ESF committee.**
- **No fixed ESF thematic concentration requirements –** taking into account the needs and challenges identified in the European Semester and in line with the European Pillar of Social Rights ESF support should be concentrated, in particular, on the following 4 themes (Art. 22 (2) (g) (ii) and Annex VI of NRPP Regulation and recitals 12-24 of the ESF Regulation):
  - **social inclusion**
  - **food and/or basic material assistance**
  - addressing **child poverty**
  - combating **youth unemployment,** including through education and training

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Thank you

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