



## **NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Spain's €69.5 billion recovery and resilience plan**

Brussels, 16 June 2021

The European Commission has today adopted a positive assessment of Spain's recovery and resilience plan. This is an important step towards the EU disbursing €69.5 billion in grants under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) over the period 2021-2026. This financing will support the implementation of the crucial investment and reform measures outlined in Spain's recovery and resilience plan. It will play a key role in enabling Spain to emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The RRF – at the heart of NextGenerationEU – will provide up to €672.5 billion (in current prices) to support investments and reforms across the EU.

The Commission assessed Spain's plan based on the criteria set out in the RRF Regulation. The Commission's analysis considered, in particular, whether the investments and reforms set out in Spain's plan contribute to effectively addressing challenges identified in the context of the European Semester; contain measures that effectively support the green and digital transitions; and contribute to strengthening the growth potential, job creation and economic and social resilience of the Member State.

### **Securing Spain's green and digital transition**

The Commission's assessment finds that Spain's plan devotes 40% of its total allocation to measures that support climate objectives. This includes measures to promote urban and long-distance sustainable mobility, increase the energy efficiency of buildings, decarbonise industry and reduce energy dependency, as well as to deploy new technologies for green hydrogen and renewables. The plan also includes measures to help mitigate the adverse effects of climate change by preserving coastal spaces, ecosystems and biodiversity and promote the circular economy by improving water and waste management.

The Commission finds that Spain's plan devotes 28% of its total allocation to the digital transition. This includes measures on the digitalisation of the public administration, industry and business, including a specific programme for the digitalisation of SMEs. There are also investments in digital equipment for education and improving digital skills.

### **Reinforcing Spain's economic and social resilience**

The Commission's assessment considers that Spain's plan includes an extensive set of mutually reinforcing reforms and investments that contribute to effectively addressing all or a significant subset of the economic and social challenges outlined in the country-specific recommendations (CSRs) addressed to Spain by the Council in the European Semester in 2019 and in 2020. It includes measures in the areas of employment to reduce labour market segmentation and enhance active labour market policies. It also includes measures in the area of education and skills, as well as social policies, including support to the health system's resilience and capacity. The plan addresses, to a large extent, CSRs in the areas of investment in the green and digital transition, research, development and innovation, clean and efficient production and use of energy, energy infrastructure, water and waste management and sustainable transport. There are also measures to enhance the business climate, with important actions planned in better regulation, the reduction of late payments, and the reform of the insolvency framework and public procurement. The plan also addresses the CSR in the area of public finances, including reforms of the spending review system, the tax system and the pension system.

The Spanish recovery and resilience plan contributes in a comprehensive and adequately balanced manner to all six pillars of the Regulation.

### **Supporting flagship investment and reform projects**

Spain's plan proposes projects in all seven European flagship areas. These are specific investment projects which address issues that are common to all Member States in areas that create jobs and

growth and are needed for the twin transition. For instance, Spain's plan includes €6.1 billion to invest in clean technologies and accelerate the development and use of renewables. The plan envisages €7.8 billion to improve the energy efficiency of public and private buildings. Other measures support the European Flagship Recharge and Refuel by investing in recharging and boosting electric vehicle infrastructure and promoting sustainable mobility.

The assessment also finds that none of the measures included in the plan do any significant harm to the environment.

The controls systems put in place by Spain are considered adequate to protect the financial interests of the Union. The plan provides sufficient details on how national authorities will prevent, detect and correct instances of conflict of interest, corruption and fraud relating to the use of funds.

### **Members of the College said:**

President Ursula **von der Leyen** said: *"I am delighted to present the European Commission's positive assessment of Spain's €69.5 billion recovery and resilience plan. This plan will deeply transform Spain's economy, make it greener, more digital, more resilient. We have endorsed this plan because it is ambitious, far-sighted and will help build a better future for the Spanish people. The strong national ownership of the plan bodes well for its successful implementation."*

Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Executive Vice-President for an Economy that Works for People, said: *"Spain's recovery plan sets an ambitious roadmap to boost the country's economic performance and to reinforce its social cohesion, using €69.5 billion in EU grants to deliver a broad set of reforms and investments. The plan places a welcome focus on jobs creation and on the next generation, with measures to address youth unemployment, enhance the provision of skills relevant for the labour market and improve the business environment and public administration. It will put in place large-scale investments to help citizens, businesses, firms and the public administration embrace the digital and green and transitions. I also congratulate Spain for proposing projects in all areas of common European interest – such as clean power, sustainable transport or digital connectivity. We will now work with the Spanish authorities to ensure the plan is fully implemented."*

Paolo **Gentiloni**, Commissioner for Economy, said: *"Today marks an important milestone for Spain after such an immensely difficult period. The completion of our assessment brings Spain's recovery and resilience plan a big step closer to implementation. With its strong focus on the green and digital transitions and its comprehensive programme of reforms and investments, the Spanish plan is as ambitious as the situation demands. This is a unique opportunity not only to strengthen the country's recovery from the pandemic but to build an economy that is more socially just, more sustainable and more dynamic. In short, an economy that better serves all segments of Spanish society."*

### **Next steps**

The Commission has today adopted a proposal for a decision to provide €69.5 billion in grants to Spain under the RRF. The Council will now have, as a rule, four weeks to adopt the Commission's proposal.

The Council's approval of the plan would allow for the disbursement of €9 billion to Spain in pre-financing. This represents 13% of the total allocated amount for Spain.

The Commission will authorise further disbursements based on the satisfactory fulfilment of the milestones and targets outlined in the Council Implementing Decision, reflecting progress on the implementation of the investments and reforms.

### **For More Information**

[Questions and Answers: European Commission approves Spain's €69.5 billion recovery and resilience plan](#)

[Recovery and Resilience Facility: Questions and Answers](#)

[Factsheet on Spain's recovery and resilience plan](#)

[Proposal for a Council Implementing Decision on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Spain](#)

[Annex to the Proposal for a Council Implementing Decision on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Spain](#)

[Staff-working document accompanying the proposal for a Council Implementing Decision](#)

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