**Follow up to the European Parliament non-legislative resolution on
the right of information of the Parliament regarding the ongoing
assessment of the national recovery and resilience plans**

1. **Resolution tabled pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure**
2. **Reference numbers:** 2021/2703 (RSP) / B9-0276/2021 / P9\_TA-PROV(2021)0057
3. **Date of adoption of the resolution:** 20 May 2021
4. **Competent Parliamentary Committee:** Committee on Budget (BUDG) and Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON)
5. **Brief analysis/ assessment of the resolution and requests made in it:**

The resolution presents the position of the European Parliament on its involvement regarding the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). In particular, it calls on the Commission to ensure that the European Parliament’s views are taken into account during the assessment of the national Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs), as foreseen by the Regulation establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF Regulation). Furthermore, it calls on the Commission to be fully transparent with regard to the ongoing assessment and provide the European Parliament with all relevant information on the state of play of the implementation of the RRF Regulation (**paragraph 2**).

The resolution reiterates the European Parliament’s demand for greater transparency to enhance the dialogue between the Union institutions and ensure parliamentary scrutiny of the implementation of the RRF (**paragraph 3**). While recognising the Commission’s efforts to swiftly put forward the proposals for Council implementing decisions linked to the national RRPs (**paragraph 1**), the resolution further calls on the Commission to provide the European Parliament ‘all relevant background information, including a summary of the reforms and investments’ set out in the RRPs (**paragraph 4**) and stresses that this needs to be provided in an easily understandable and comparable format, including any existing translations of documents submitted by Member States (**paragraph 5**). The European Parliament also highlights that sharing any preliminary assessment of the RRPs would not prejudge the outcome of the assessment procedure (**paragraph 6**).

Recognising the importance to involve local and regional authorities, social partners, civil society organisations, youth organisations and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the RRPs, the resolution calls on the Commission to prompt the Member States to respect the consultation process (**paragraph 8**). In a forward-looking manner, it further underlines that the partnership principle needs to be respected also with regard to the monitoring of the implementation of the RRPs and future amendments of RRPs.

As regards the delegated acts that the Commission shall prepare:

* on social expenditure, including on children and the youth, and
* on a dedicated scoreboard established to display the progress of the implementation of the RRPs in each of the six pillars of European relevance and the progress made as regards the implementation of the RRPs in respect of the common indicators of the RRF,

the resolution asks the Commission to be fully transparent with regard to the timeline for the approval of these delegated acts. Moreover, it calls on the Commission to swiftly approve the delegated acts before the summer recess (**paragraph 9**).

Lastly, the resolution calls on the Commission to ensure that the European Parliament is provided with the preliminary findings concerning the fulfilment of the milestones and targets prior to the Commission’s assessment of the same, as required by Article 25(4) of the RRF Regulation (**paragraph 10**).

1. **Response to the requests and overview of the action taken, or intended to be taken, by the Commission:**

The Commission fully recognises the importance of the dialogue between Union institutions and exchange of views with the European Parliament, in particular with regard to an unprecedented instrument like the RRF. The Commission has worked closely together with the European Parliament in the past months, for instance with the first meeting of the Recovery and Resilience Dialogue and with the attendance of Commission representatives to the standing Working Group on the Scrutiny of the RRF established by the European Parliament (**paragraph 2**).

The first meeting of the Recovery and Resilience Dialogue took place on 10 May 2021 and was attended by Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis and Commissioner Gentiloni. Furthermore, the Commission was invited to meet on a regular basis with the Working Group and is committed to continue participating actively in those exchanges. In the context of these meetings, the Commission provides a horizontal overview of the RRPs submitted by the Member States, for instance related to the assessment framework and outlining how the RRPs contribute to the six pillars referred to in Article 3 of the RRF Regulation, to the green transition or to the digital transition (**paragraph 4**). This forum has allowed to orally share aggregate information on the RRPs, for example on the basis of presentations shared prior to every meeting with the Members of the Standing Working Group. This approach ensures that the exchange of views can take place in an open and informed manner and reflects the Commission’s utmost commitment to a transparent process (**paragraph 3**).

The Commission also ensures that the Parliament is duly informed on the status of the assessments (**paragraph 3**). The European Parliament has sent to the Commission a list of written questions ahead of the first meeting of the Working Group to which the Commission is now replying alongside this reply to the resolution.

The Commission has set up a process to ensure that the sharing of information is in line with the regulation. As foreseen in Article 25(1) of the RRF Regulation, the Commission has shared all RRPs officially submitted by the Member States with the European Parliament without undue delay. Furthermore, the Commission has provided the Parliament with English machine translations of all submitted RRPs to facilitate their reading. The Commission shows its sincere commitment to transparency and its intention to support the Parliament to express its views on the RRPs (**paragraph 5**).

As set out in the Regulation, the Commission has two months to perform the assessment of the RRPs and transpose their content into proposals for Council implementing decisions, if the assessment is positive. Given the extensive amount of information provided by Member States and the complexity and breadth of the RRPs, this short time frame requires a Commission-wide effort to assess the RRPs based on the assessment criteria laid down in Article 19 of the RRF Regulation. The Commission will not be able to express a judgement before all relevant information and expertise has been considered (**paragraph 6**). As such, the Commission is not in a position to provide a preliminary assessment of the RRPs.

However, the Commission will provide a summary of the reforms and investments of the submitted RRPs if and when the Commission adopts the proposal for a Council implementing decision (**paragraph 4**). During the ongoing assessment phase, the Commission welcomes an open dialogue between the Union institutions and encourages the Members of the Parliament to provide their views including in the context of the Recovery and Resilience Dialogue. The Commission agrees that full transparency is needed to enhance democratic legitimacy and ensure national ownership of the RRPs (**paragraph 7**) and does its utmost to ensure this within the framework of the regulation.

Regarding the consultation process, the Commission underlines the key role of local and regional authorities, social partners, civil society organisations, youth organisations, and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the RRPs (**paragraph 8**). The Commission has emphasised that broad citizen ownership of the RRPs is crucial for the success of the RRF. In the guidance documents for Member States published earlier this year (SWD (2021) 12 final), which assist the Member States throughout the drafting process of their national RRPs, the Commission highlighted the importance of the consultations with stakeholders and social partners. In particular, each RRP has to outline the details on stakeholder consultations and how stakeholder views were taken into account during the preparation of the RRPs.

The Commission has also stressed in the Communication on the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021 (COM (2020) 575 final) that it will be crucial for the Member States to engage in a broad policy dialogue with social partners and all other relevant stakeholders to prepare their RRPs. Some Member States have made their draft plans publicly available in order to facilitate consultations with stakeholders, as has been suggested by the Commission. While it is up to each Member State to decide how to organise the consultation process, the Commission will pay close attention to the Member States’ summaries on the consultation process. The Commission is in particular looking attentively at the explanation provided by the Member States on the conducted consultation process with the relevant national stakeholders, for both the preparation and, where available, for the implementation of the RRP. The Commission also believes that close cooperation with regional and local authorities is a prerequisite for a successful implementation of the RRF (**paragraph 8**). Their involvement ensures a lasting success at national level and credibility at European level.

In addition, the Commission itself was involved in outreach activities with stakeholders in the past months in order to promote their involvement in the consultation process (**paragraph 8**). The European Semester Officers have assisted the national authorities in many Member States with consultation and outreach efforts to social partners, for instance by organising information events on the RRF. The Commission also actively engaged in discussions with several organisations during the preparatory phase of the plans, including meetings with the trade unions and other stakeholders.

Regarding the delegated acts on the Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard and on the methodology for reporting social expenditure, the Commission will ensure the European Parliament’s involvement, in accordance with the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2016 (**paragraph 9**). As regards the timeline, the Commission has shared the first draft with the members of the informal expert group that has been set up. The first meeting of the informal expert group to discuss the drafts of the delegated acts took place on 28 May 2021, in the presence of observers from the European Parliament. Furthermore, the Commission has also discussed the draft delegated acts with the European Parliament’s Working Group on 3 June 2021. While the RRF Regulation foresees a deadline of December 2021 for the approval of the delegated acts, the Commission is committed to approve them faster, most likely during the autumn.

The Commission confirms its commitment to provide the European Parliament with an overview of its preliminary findings concerning the satisfactory fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets, as required by the RRF Regulation (**paragraph 10**).

Finally, the Commission strives to continue working in close cooperation with the European Parliament and to engage in an open, transparent and constructive manner in the Recovery and Resilience Dialogue (**paragraph 12**).