



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY

Administrative Capacity Building and Programme Implementation II

Romania

Brussels,  
REGIO.DDG.E.2/ALM

**Subject: Your letter to President von der Leyen regarding the management of European funds under the Recovery plan in Romania**

Dear Mr. Platon,

Thank you for your letter to President von der Leyen where you present your views and proposals on the current situation in Romania and the management of European funds. President von der Leyen has asked me to respond to your letter on her behalf.

We have taken note of the views expressed in your letter regarding the implementation of the European funds in Romania. Regarding risks of mismanagement and fraud in the implementation of EU funded projects, there are a number of safeguards that have been put in place in order to improve the implementation of the funds and promote transparency and accountability. Romania has as well at its disposal technical assistance and the expertise of several international institutions in order to improve project and reform implementation.

I would wish to draw your attention on the fact that the implementation of the European Structural and Investment Funds is a shared responsibility of Commission, the Member States and their regions, within their respective competences. The overall budget and main priorities are decided at EU level, the country-specific priorities are negotiated and approved together with the Member States, while the programmes and individual projects are implemented on the ground by the Member States and regions. The Romanian authorities, as all the other Member States, are hence responsible for the selection and implementation of the projects, in compliance with the Romanian and EU legislation and in line with the programmes approved by the European Commission. They are also obliged to put in place special management and control systems to oversee and control the whole process.

**Mr. Sorin Platon**  
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Under the sound financial management principles which govern EU funds, Member States must assure the Commission that the Funds are being spent effectively and in accordance with the Regulations. They must provide reliable accounting, monitoring and financial reporting systems and identify the responsible bodies and procedures to ensure an adequate audit trail. Alongside the responsible authorities, the Commission carries out controls and audits as well, both continuously for all programmes and more intensively for programmes that we have identified as being most at risk. These checks and controls are there throughout the implementation and continue also afterwards, during the so-called closure process. Whenever irregularities are detected, the appropriate measures are taken in order to safeguard the EU financial interest. In addition, the Commission also supports the Member States with guidance and assistance on strengthening the administrative capacity and prevention.

This approach will continue and intensify in the context of the new long-term EU budget 2021-2027. To step up the Commission's effort to protect the EU budget, the creation of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), which should be up and running at the end of 2020, will mark the beginning of a new phase in the protection of the EU budget. The OLAF and the EPPO will work in close partnership and together with the Member States' and Commission's audit work, will significantly enhance the Union's capacity to tackle fraud with EU funds and to protect taxpayers' money.

As regards the new Recovery and Resilience Facility, the Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRP) need to reflect a substantive reform and investment effort. Both reforms and investments must be coherent and adequately address the challenges in the individual Member State. The reform efforts and investment put forward must be substantial and credible. The Commission will assess the recovery and resilience plans prepared by the Member States on the basis of the criteria set out in the draft regulation.

I would like to ensure you that the expertise of the Commission's services will be at the disposal of the Romanian authorities in order to accompany them during the entire programming period.

Yours sincerely,

*(e-signed)*

Aida LIHA MATEJICEK  
Head of Unit

