

Structural Reform Support Programme: financial envelope and general objective

The Structural Reform Support Programme for the period 2017 to 2020 has been running since May 2017. It provides voluntary assistance to Member States for preparation and implementation of growth-sustaining administrative and structural reforms. In light of the high take-up of the programme, the changes proposed by the Commission expand its scope to cover support for euro membership preparations and increase its financial envelope from €142.8 million to €222.8 million. The European Parliament is due to vote on the text agreed with Council during its September plenary session.

Background

The Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP) 2017-2020, with a budget of €142.8 million, aims to improve the administrative and institutional capacity of Member States, in order to facilitate better implementation of EU law, in particular the [country-specific recommendations](#) issued under the [European Semester](#), more efficient use of EU funds and the introduction of growth-enhancing structural reforms. It provides technical support to authorities in areas such as public financial management, the business environment, labour markets, cohesion, migration and agriculture. The take-up of the programme has been very high, with requests for support significantly exceeding the amount of funding available.

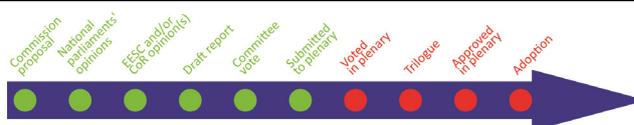
European Commission proposal

In light of the higher financing needs and to support euro membership preparations, in December 2017 the Commission adopted a [proposal](#) to expand the SRSP objective to support reforms in preparation for joining the euro area and to increase the financial envelope to €222.8 million. This additional amount of €80 million for the period 2019-2020 would be taken from the [Flexibility Instrument](#) under [Regulation](#) 1311/2013 laying down the current [Multiannual Financial Framework](#). In addition, funding could be supplemented by inviting Member States to make use of the possibility of transferring part of their resources from the [technical assistance](#) component of the [European Structural and Investment Funds](#) (ESIF) to the SRSP. This supplement could increase the total amount of the budget available for support to €300 million.

European Parliament position

On 25 June 2018, Parliament's Committee on Regional Development (REGI) adopted its [report](#) on the Commission proposal, supporting the proposed modifications. Parliament's [amendments](#), adopted in plenary in July 2018, highlighted the need for involvement and consultation of regional and local authorities in the preparation and implementation of structural reforms. In view of the high demand for SRSP support, Parliament recommended prioritisation of requests. It also stressed that the increase in funding should not impact other cohesion policy priorities and that Member States should not be obliged to transfer their allocations from ESIF in order to fill the financing gap. It requested that from 2018 to 2021 included, the Commission should provide Parliament and Council with an annual monitoring report on the programme's implementation. A political agreement with Council was reached on [11 July 2018](#) in a single trilogue meeting. Parliament is due to vote on the final text during the September plenary.

First reading report: [2017/0334\(COD\)](#); Committee responsible: REGI; Rapporteur: Ruža Tomašić (ECR, Croatia).



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Author: Agnieszka Widuto, Members' Research Service

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eprs@ep.europa.eu (contact) <http://www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu> (intranet) <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank> (internet) <http://epthinktank.eu> (blog)