

EN  
E-004854/2020  
Answer given by Mr Gentiloni  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(13.11.2020)

The European Semester has been a key tool for effective coordination of national policies for a decade. The fact that around 70% of the country-specific recommendations (CSRs) have seen at least ‘some’ progress since 2011 is a qualified success, although implementation has differed significantly across areas. On Research & Development, the 3%-of-Gross Domestic Product target has had a mobilising effect and further action will be key for the recovery and the twin transition. The Commission is committed to lifting people out of poverty.

It has taken steps to improve ownership and strengthen the dialogue to boost implementation. Efforts will continue using the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

The Facility will provide a major incentive. To benefit from it, Member States will present national Recovery and Resilience Plans, including a coherent package of reforms and investments, with targets and milestones. The Commission published guidance to help Member States prepare Plans<sup>1</sup>.

The Plans should address the challenges set out in the 2019 and 2020 CSRs and contribute to the objectives of the Facility. Member States are encouraged to include measures in the areas covered by the European Flagships. Given the expected comprehensive nature of the Plans, no CSRs will be issued in 2021 for Member States having submitted a Plan. The macroeconomic imbalances and fiscal surveillance, and a euro area recommendation will remain.

The Commission invites the co-legislators to agree on the Facility to enter into force by 1 January 2021, at the latest, to address the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 and the structural challenges in the Member States.

---

<sup>1</sup> The 2021 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy - COM(2020) 575 final - and two Staff Working Documents providing guidance on the Recovery and Resilience Plans were published on 17 September 2020.