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Answer given by Ms Ferreira
on behalf of the European Commission
(2.2.2021)

1. The Commission was informed in November 2020 about the considerations of the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy to exclude the Warsaw NUTS¹ II statistical region from support under the future regional programme for Mazowieckie². No formal confirmation from the Polish authorities regarding this issue, however, has been communicated to the Commission and the programming preparations are ongoing.

2. It is crucial, all the same, to ensure the continuation of support for investments typically financed under regional programmes (e.g. smaller-scale projects concerning sustainable local mobility, early education infrastructure etc.) in the nine municipalities surrounding Warsaw, which are not as developed in terms of socio-economic indicators as the capital city itself. Furthermore, it would be important to continue supporting integrated territorial investments for Warsaw and surrounding municipalities, building on the experience of the current regional operational programme (ROP). The Commission and the Polish authorities will agree in the process of the programming preparations on a mutually satisfactory solution to ensure the above.

3. As regards the overall architecture of the 2021-27 Cohesion Policy programmes, the Commission will examine carefully the draft Partnership Agreement, not yet been submitted by the Polish authorities. As stated in Annex D³, the Commission will aim for a better strategic coordination of programmes intervening in the same sector or geographical area. The Commission intends to continue discussions on the future support for the Mazowieckie region as a whole, taking into account the above elements with a view to ensure an effective delivery of cohesion policy support and building on the successful implementation of the current ROP.

¹ Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics.

² Letter of 26 November 2020 signed by the Secretary of State, Małgorzata Jarosińska-Jedynak.

³ European Semester Country Report for Poland 2019 - https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2019-european-semester-country-reports_en