In light of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic situation and the humanitarian impact of Russia’s unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine, the Commission has proposed various amendments to cohesion policy legislation with the Cohesion’s Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE)\(^1\), and an increased pre-financing of EUR 3.5 billion from REACT-EU resources\(^2\). Both proposals were adopted and entered into force in April 2022. Member States and regions can now make use of the new possibilities offered.

All amendments proposed by the Commission are meant to make the available resources more flexible and rapidly implementable, as well as to relieve the pressure on national and regional budgets.

While the measures adopted are playing a major role in supporting Member States and regions addressing the immediate effects of the war, the evolving situation required additional action. In this sense, the Commission has adopted, on 29 June 2022, another proposal on Flexible Assistance for Territories (FAST CARE), enabling notably to continue the support to uncompleted or delayed projects over the two programming periods. This flexibility allows to address the difficulties underpinning the request for an extension of the period. The Commission was of the opinion that such extension would have triggered further delays in the take up of 2021-2027 programmes, impeding in turn the capacity of Member States and regions to meet the ambitious EU objectives and recovery needs.
