The Commission is aware of the difficulties Member States face due to high inflation and supply chains disruptions and has recently published a Communication¹ and set of proposals called Flexible Assistance to territories (FAST-CARE)² to amend cohesion policy regulations to help Member States in addressing these challenges.

Under shared management, Member States are responsible for the selection, implementation, and successful completion of projects. It is the responsibility of Member State authorities to review grant agreements and ongoing contracts on a case-by-case basis and decide on action, while respecting all relevant EU and national rules. If the managing authority considers that additional time and/or cost should be considered, the phasing of projects into the 2021-27 period is one of the options. FAST-CARE includes new, simpler options for such phasing.

Furthermore, the Commission has been in close contact with Member States and is continuously seeking ways to facilitate access to information. For example, Commission services have recently organised a webinar on the topic³ and are preparing written replies to the most frequent questions related to amending ongoing procurement contracts.

As regards direct management instruments, the approach will depend on specific conditions of support. Under the Connecting Europe Facility, the EU grant cannot be increased but an extension of a project deadline can be considered. Under the Recovery and Resilience Facility, a Member State may submit a reasoned request to the Commission to amend its Recovery and Resilience Plan if one or more milestones and targets are no longer achievable due to objective circumstances, which could include a major increase in the cost of an investment.