

EN
E-001008/2023
Answer given by Ms Simson
on behalf of the European Commission
(2.6.2023)

In October 2021, following the sharp increase of energy prices in the second part of 2021, the Commission adopted a toolbox of measures¹ that Member States could use to tackle the impact of high energy prices. In May 2022 the REPowerEU action plan² was adopted to reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels, through energy savings, diversification of energy supplies and accelerated roll-out of renewables. The Commission adopted emergency measures to protect EU citizens and business, including compulsory filling of the EU gas storages, mandatory demand reduction of gas consumption, a solidarity contribution, taxing windfall profits, a market correction mechanism.

In the context of the 2022 European Semester, Romania received the following country-specific recommendation (CSR): ‘Reduce overall reliance on fossil fuels. Facilitate the further expansion of sustainable energy production by accelerating the development of renewables, upgrading energy transmission grids and increasing interconnection with neighbouring Member States. Increase the pace and ambition of renovations to advance the energy efficiency of the building stock.’³ Romania has made some progresses in addressing this CSR, including by completing some actions included in the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP). However, progresses on energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment are too slow and fossil fuels still constitute the bulk of the energy mix.

The amendments to the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation⁴ (RRF) have added EUR 20 billion in the RRF grant envelope for REPowerEU chapters under national RRP. Romania will benefit from an additional EUR 1.4 billion in grants for its REPowerEU chapter to support those in need and accelerate the green transition⁵.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_5204

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_3131

³ Recommendation for a Council Recommendation on the 2022 National Reform Programme of Romania and delivering a Council opinion on the 2022 Convergence Programme of Romania - COM(2022) 624 final.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2023/435 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 February 2023 amending Regulation (EU) 2021/241 as regards REPowerEU chapters in recovery and resilience plans and amending Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) 2021/1060 and (EU) 2021/1755, and Directive 2003/87/EC.

⁵ C/2023/1259 Commission Notice Guidance on Recovery and Resilience Plans in the context of REPowerEU 2023/C 80/01.