

EN
P-002213/2021
Answer given by Mr Gentiloni
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.7.2021)

The Commission is not in a position to comment on Lithuania's recovery and resilience plan (RRP), currently under assessment.

Article 18(4)(q) of the RRF Regulation¹ and the Commission guidance to Member States on the RRFs², indicate that RRFs should include a summary of the consultation process conducted in accordance with the national legal framework and describe how stakeholder inputs are taken into account and reflected during the preparation of the RRFs. The Commission underlines the key role of local and regional authorities, social partners, civil society organisations, youth organisations and other relevant stakeholders in the preparation and implementation of the RRFs, as broad citizen ownership of the RRFs is crucial for the success of the RRF. The extent to which the RRF takes into account stakeholder consultations can contribute to its lasting impact, which is one of the assessment criteria listed by the RRF Regulation.

The Commission has also stressed in the Communication on the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021³ that it will be crucial for Member States to engage in a broad policy dialogue with social partners and all other relevant stakeholders to prepare their RRFs.

The Commission guidance also indicates that investments in sustainable food production and consumption in line with the objectives set out in the Farm to Fork Strategy can be considered good examples of investments supporting the green transition. Nevertheless, it is incumbent on Member States to appreciate which key challenges should be best addressed through their RRFs. While the RRFs must satisfy the criteria set by the RRF Regulation, no specific policy area can be considered mandatory.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility, OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17–75.

² SWD(2021) 12 final.

³ COM(2020) 575 final.