The Commission is fully aware of the difficulties faced by the regions covered by external cross-border cooperation.

For the 2014-2020 programmes, the Commission is preparing the necessary steps in order to provide legal certainty, enabling these programmes to continue in the Member States (and in Norway) despite the suspension of cooperation with Russia.

Regarding the European Regional Development Fund allocation for 2023-2027, the Commission considers that it is still early to take a final decision. Cooperation among EU regions, in particular involving those that are the most impacted by the suspended programmes on the borders with Russia, is more important than ever and transferring resources away from Interreg programmes at this stage would prevent the possibility to engage in such cooperation.

The Commission services will remain in close dialogue with the Finnish regions and national authorities in order to enable all the concerned regions to continue benefiting from cooperation programmes.