



26.2.2024

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

**Subject:** Petition No 0342/2023 by Marina Boscaino (Italian), on behalf of the *Comitati Per il Ritiro di ogni autonomia differenziata, l'unità della Repubblica, l'uguaglianza dei diritti* (Committees for the Withdrawal of any Differentiated Autonomy, Unity of the Republic, Equality of Rights), signed by 10 others, on Italy's alleged violation of Regulation (EU) 2021/241

### 1. Summary of petition

The petitioner argues that priority in the allocation of resources for reforms and public investment projects under the NRP should have been given to the most disadvantaged regions and territories. She believes that, if that step had been taken, those areas would be able to take practical steps to reduce development gaps in the implementation of the overall strategic plan, intended to alleviate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, paving the way for an economic recovery that would mitigate existing disparities and not amplify them further. The petitioner takes the view that, applying the criteria laid down in the Recovery and Resilience Facility to the situation in Italy, the percentage of resources to be allocated to the southern regions of Italy would stand at around 70% of the total, but the Italian Government has decided that only 40% of the resources, amounting to EUR 82 billion, should be allocated to the south. She adds that, following the approval of Law 197/2022 (Article 1, paragraphs 791-805, Budget Law), which sets basic standards for services, there is a real risk that the southern regions will be further penalised and deprived of essential resources and services. She also expresses concern that, within the framework of the proposals for the revision of the NRP, which the Italian Government should be submitting to the Commission, there may be a desire to divert further European funds from the 40% allocation to the south in order to use them to support areas in northern Italy. She believes that this state of affairs may be a breach of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 and calls on the EU institutions to take action.

### 2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 29 June 2023. Information requested from Commission under Rule 227(6).

### **3. Commission reply**, received on 26 February 2024

The Commission has carefully assessed the Italian plan in line with the assessment criteria included in the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) Regulation and deemed that the plan fulfils these criteria, including that it addresses the challenges of territorial disparities and territorial cohesion in Italy in a satisfactory manner.

The Commission would like to recall that the allocation key determines the maximum amount of the RRF financial contribution to be allocated to each Member State. This does not imply any obligation on the part of the Member State or the Commission to ensure that a certain proportion of funds is allocated to specific regions. The non-repayable financial support under the Facility is a Union contribution made available directly to the Member State and there is no provision in the RRF Regulation that requires allocating a minimum share to specific regions.

In June 2021, the Commission has adopted a positive assessment of the EUR 191.5 billion recovery and resilience plan for Italy, of which EUR 68.9 billion in grants and EUR 122.6 billion in loans<sup>1</sup>. This assessment has also been approved by the Council. Additionally, in November 2023, the Commission has given a positive assessment of Italy's modified recovery and resilience plan, which includes a REPowerEU chapter. The Commission's assessment has further been approved by the Council. The plan is now worth EUR 194.4 billion (EUR 122.6 billion in loans and EUR 71.8 billion in grants)<sup>2</sup>. Detailed information on the Italian recovery and resilience plan, including the assessment of the Commission, can be found on the Commission's website<sup>3</sup>.

The Commission has already replied to petitions 1482/20, 0470/21 and 0515/21, hereby enclosed, on the same subject.

### *Conclusion*

The Commission has carefully assessed the Italian plan in line with the assessment criteria included in the RRF Regulation and deems that the plan does fulfil these criteria, including that it addresses the challenges of territorial disparities and territorial cohesion in Italy in a satisfactory manner. The same remains valid in the context of the modified recovery and resilience plan.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_3126](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3126).

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_23\\_6050](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_6050).

<sup>3</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/italys-recovery-and-resilience-plan\\_en#valutazione-del-piano-di-ripresa-e-resilienza](https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/italys-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en#valutazione-del-piano-di-ripresa-e-resilienza).