**Jordi Solé (Verts/ALE).** – Mr President, in drawing up the recovery plans and, despite the requirement to hold a consultation with stakeholders, Member States have involved regional and local governments only to a very small extent, and some of them to no extent at all. During the implementation of the plans this has to change. Governments, like the Catalan government but also many others, have the will, the capacity and the experience to successfully manage EU funds, and now they could co‑decide, manage and monitor at least part of the recovery funds. This is essential to guarantee their efficiency, but also to avoid problems with absorption capacity. There is another thing that has to be avoided: the temptation of some Member States to use the Next Generation funds and the need to spend a lot of money in a short amount of time as an excuse to recentralise programmes and investments and bypass other governments with their own powers.

Therefore, I call on the Commission and the Council to ensure that regional governments are meaningfully involved in the governance of the recovery and resilience funds. This will be key to the success of the transformation that these funds rightfully intend to bring about.