



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

Recovery & Resilience Task Force
SG.RECOVER.B.3 - Social affairs, Education, Health, Equality – Ireland, Malta, Portugal, Romania

Brussels
SG.RECOVER.B.2/MZ



Thank you for your message to Ms Celine Gauer expressing your concerns on Romania's second payment request. She has asked me to reply on her behalf.

On 16 December 2022, Romania submitted to the Commission its second payment request for an amount of € 3.22 billion based on the fulfilment of 51 milestones and targets set out in the Council Implementing Decision. As a rule, the Commission has two months to assess the payment request. In mutual agreement with the Romanian authorities, the assessment period has now been extended beyond the standard two months provided for by the Regulation establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). This can be done if Member States need to provide substantial additional evidence which may require time to gather, as is the present case with Romania.

This so-called 'stop the clock' procedure, which 'freezes' the time passing between the request for additional documents and evidence and the two months deadline provided for by the RRF Regulation. It ensures that the Member State concerned can take all necessary time to gather the information, without the time pressure of the two-month period that would otherwise apply. We want to be clear that this procedure does not signify in any sense a negative assessment or any specific problem in the assessment. We will continue the assessment work as soon as Romania has been able to provide all necessary documentation.

Yours sincerely,

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Head of Unit



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