

No. 303/08.06.2023

To: *European Commission*
Recovery and Resilience Task Force
For the attention of: *Mrs Céline Gauer - Head of the Recovery and Resilience Task Force*

Dear Mrs Gauer,

We are writing on behalf of The Foundation for the Defense of the Citizen Against State Abuses (FACIAS), a non-governmental, non-profit and apolitical organization, partner of the strategic partner of the Council of Europe and the European Commission through the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA).

In early 2022, FACIAS initiated the Project "Transparency and Accountability - Monitoring the NRRP" to monitor the implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, Romania's most important project for financing economic recovery actions and for implementing investments and structural reforms essential for our country's medium and long-term development.

More than 5 months have passed since Romania should have received the final opinion for the second payment request under the NRRP. The Romanian state representatives responsible for the implementation of the Plan have not yet managed to successfully implement the NRRP milestones and targets related to the second payment request. There is an imminent risk that Romania will lose billions of euros from the NRRP as a result of mismanagement by state decision-makers.

In order to provide a transparent picture of the situation and to keep Romanian citizens properly informed, we would kindly ask you to answer the following questions:

- 1. What is the next deadline for the assessment of the second payment application under the NRRP?**
- 2. What are the Milestones and Targets related to the second NRRP payment application that have not received a positive opinion from the European Commission so far?**
- 3. Were any adjustments to the NRRP requested by representatives of the Romanian Ministry of European Investment and Projects during their visit to Brussels between 15 and 16 May? If so, we would ask the Commission to give its opinion on the possibility of amending the NRRP.**

In the framework of the "Transparency and Accountability - Monitoring the NRRP" Project, FACIAS has been monitoring with particular attention the implementation of investments and reforms foreseen in the NRRP, the achievement of milestones and targets within the deadlines assumed by the Romanian authorities.

FACIAS has taken steps to ensure that the rights of Romanian citizens are respected, focusing on access to information of public interest in the implementation of the NRRP, and has constantly informed citizens about the status of the Plan.

As a member of CIVICUS (World Alliance for Citizen Participation) and FRA (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights) and of the international network FRIENDS OF EUROPE, we support transparency in public administration and want to increase citizens' involvement in the process of formulating public policies. We aim to develop programs that promote human rights, citizens' freedoms, transparency in decision-making and citizen involvement. We believe in a democratic change of the state, based on good governance, citizen participation and participatory decision-making.

We look forward to receiving your response at office@facias.ro.

Kind regards,

THE FOUNDATION FOR THE DEFENCE OF CITIZENS AGAINST STATE ABUSES

President

