

Brussels, 10 December 2021

Dear Madam Commissioner,

The Slovak National Delegation to the European Parliament is closely following the ongoing negotiations on the new programming period 2021-2027 and preparation of the Partnership Agreement and the new Operational Programme Slovakia. The EU Cohesion Policy remains a key investment tool for Slovak regions, cities and municipalities and it is of the utmost importance for their future development and for reducing interregional disparities.

One of the important points of the negotiation is the transferability of resources between categories of regions. Bratislava Region is the only Slovak region classified as “more developed” in terms of GDP. However, the region is facing serious structural challenges in area of environment, sustainable mobility, education, social services or healthcare. These challenges have negative impact not only on lives of inhabitants of the Bratislava Region, but also on lives of those beyond its borders.

In this respect, we would like to express our full support for the adequate transfer of allocation to the Bratislava Region, which will be able to meet the key challenges of the region. We firmly believe that when considering the level of development of a territory the GDP is not able to provide us with a complex picture of the situation on the ground and additional indicators and approaches should be considered (e.g. EU Social Progress Index).

Equally important as the level of support for the Bratislava region through the transfers between the categories of the regions is the territorial dimension of cohesion policy which aims at the reductions of disparities between the development levels of the regions. For this aim, the place-based approach is the adequate tool and thus requires substantial resources.

Dear Madam Commissioner,

We are fully aware of serious challenges of the Bratislava Region and we are convinced that if the region is to address them in the upcoming decade, the support from the EU Cohesion Policy is inevitable. In addition, we are convinced that the ESIF investment in the Bratislava Region will considerably contribute also to the development of territories beyond its borders. More broadly, we call on the Commission to support increase in financial assistance through the place-based approach, and ensure fair allocation among the different regions. Combined, these approaches will help Slovakia to meet its international commitments and goals.

Thank you in advance for your support.

(signed)

Vladimír Bilčík, Member of the European Parliament

Monika Beňová, Member of the European Parliament

Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Member of the European Parliament

Martin Hojsík, Member of the European Parliament

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Ivan Štefanec, Member of the European Parliament

Michal Šimečka, Member of the European Parliament

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