



Brussels, 22.9.2023
C(2023) 6516 final

COMMUNICATION TO THE COMMISSION

**COMMUNICATION FROM COMMISSIONER GENTILONI TO THE
COMMISSION IN AGREEMENT WITH EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT
DOMBROVSKIS**

**on the positive preliminary assessment of the first payment request of the Republic of
Estonia pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2021/241**

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COMMUNICATION FROM COMMISSIONER GENTILONI TO THE COMMISSION IN AGREEMENT WITH EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT DOMBROVSKIS

on the positive preliminary assessment of the first payment request of the Republic of Estonia pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2021/241

According to Article 4(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the specific objective of the Recovery and Resilience Facility is to provide Member States with financial support with a view to achieving the milestones and targets of reforms and investments as set out in their recovery and resilience plans.

Council Implementing Decision of 16 June 2023 amending the Council Implementing Decision of 29 October 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Estonia¹ (the ‘Council Implementing Decision’) provides that the Union is to release instalments in accordance with the financing agreement conditional on, *inter alia*, a decision by the Commission, taken in accordance with Article 24 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, that Estonia has satisfactorily fulfilled the relevant milestones and targets identified in relation to the implementation of the recovery and resilience plan.

On 30 June 2023, Estonia submitted a request for payment. The request concerned the first and second instalments of the non-repayable support. In accordance with Article 24(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the Commission services have assessed on a preliminary basis whether the relevant milestones and targets set out in that Council Implementing Decision had been satisfactorily fulfilled.

After considering the due justification that was provided by Estonia, the Commission services consider that all the 28 milestones and one target related to the first and second instalments have been satisfactorily fulfilled. For the purpose of this assessment, the operational arrangements concluded between the Commission and the Republic of Estonia² in accordance with Article 20(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, were taken into account.

According to Article 24(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, where the Commission makes a positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets, it should provide its findings to the Economic and Financial Committee and ask for its opinion on the satisfactory fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets.

In accordance with Article 25(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, an overview of those findings should be provided to the competent committee of the European Parliament. Furthermore, to ensure transparency of the decision-making process, those findings should be published.

The Commission is therefore invited to:

- endorse the positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of milestones and target related to the first payment request submitted by Estonia, as set out in the Annex to this Communication;
- authorise the Director-General for Economic and Financial Affairs to transmit this assessment to the Economic and Financial Committee for its opinion; and

¹ ST 9367/23 INIT and ST 9367/23 ADD 1 REV 1.

² Recovery and Resilience Facility Operational arrangements between the European Commission and the Republic of Estonia, entered into force on 22 March 2022.

- take note that this assessment will be made available to the European Parliament and published following its transmission to the Economic and Financial Committee.