



## Parlamentul României Senat

Bucharest, 10 March 2020

Courtesy translation

### OPINION

of the SENATE OF ROMANIA

**on the amended proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum and Migration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Border Management and Visa Instrument**

**COM (2020) 23 final**

The Senate of Romania has examined the amended proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum and Migration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Border Management and Visa Instrument, according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon (Protocol no.2).

Taking into account the report of the Committee for European Affairs no. LXII/74/05.03.2020, **the plenum of the Senate**, during its session of 9 March 2020, has decided the following:

1. Notes that:
  - a) The proposal for a Regulation is based on Article 174 of the TFEU: The Union „shall develop and pursue its actions leading to the strengthening of its economic, social and territorial cohesion. In particular, the Union shall aim at reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions”.
  - b) The proposal for a Regulation respects the principle of subsidiarity, in accordance with Article 4 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which states that the Union has shared competences with the Member States in the field of economic and territorial cohesion.
  - c) The normative act partly respects the principle of proportionality, since the legal form chosen for a Regulation, although is appropriate is incomplete as regards the content.
2. Welcomes the importance of the transition process towards achieving climate neutrality objectives, setting up of the Just Transition Fund (JTF) and amending the Regulation on common provisions for the implementation of the JTF, as well as maintaining the preliminary financial allocation from each fund, *per public*

policy objective at national level, by respecting the specific rules of the funds on the thematic concentration.

3. Considers that it is essential to continue implementing the objectives of cohesion policy to ensure the reduction of disparities in economic, social and territorial development and in particular, to support the development of the least developed regions.
4. Supports the flexibility of the provisions of the Regulation as for the selection of eligible regions, the allocations from ERDF and ESF and the decommissioning rules.
5. Stresses that the new changes, towards the end of the negotiation period, endanger the finalization of the cohesion policy Regulations, their approval, with the consequence of delaying the approval of the operational programs and of the specific investments to reduce the development gaps.
6. Considers that in order to achieve the objectives of climate neutrality, financing from the JTF and from the ERDF and ESF complementary resources is recommended, within the limit of 20% of the total allocations of the two funds during the period 2021-2027, to a State. At the same time, it supports the financing of the development priorities according to the thematic concentration of the cohesion policy, mainly from the ERDF financial allocation to the respective State.

**p. President of the Senate**

**Robert-Marius CAZANCIUC**

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive script that starts with a large, sweeping initial letter and ends with a long, horizontal tail.