Basic information

2022/0075(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed
Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE) **Subject** 4.10.15 European Social Fund (ESF), Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) 4.70.02 Cohesion policy, Cohesion Fund (CF) 4.70.07 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 7.10.06 Asylum, refugees, displaced persons; Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 7.10.08 Migration policy **Legislative priorities** EU support to Ukraine	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
REGI Regional Development		

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Regional and Urban Policy	FERREIRA Elisa

European Economic and Social Committee

European Committee of the Regions

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
08/03/2022	Legislative proposal published	COM(2022)0109	Summary
10/03/2022	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		

24/03/2022	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0083/2022	Summary
24/03/2022	Results of vote in Parliament		
24/03/2022	Debate in Parliament		
28/03/2022	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
06/04/2022	Final act signed		
08/04/2022	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2022/0075(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 170 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 177-p1 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 177-p2 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 175-p3
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	REGI/9/08548

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0083/2022	24/03/2022	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Draft final act	00012/2022/LEX	06/04/2022	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2022)0109	08/03/2022	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary

EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1409/2022	23/03/2022	

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act
Regulation 2022/0562 OJ L 109 08.04.2022, p. 0001

Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE)

2022/0075(COD) - 24/03/2022 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 562 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 as regards Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE).

Parliament adopted its position at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure, taking over the Commission's proposal.

The proposal for a Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE) will enable Member States and regions to **provide emergency assistance to people fleeing Ukraine after its invasion by Russia**. These needs include access to services such as temporary accommodation, food and water supplies or medical care. The CARE action can also strengthen the capacity of Member States by contributing, for example, to the provision of additional staff or infrastructure equipment needed to meet the needs of refugees.

This initiative will provide **increased flexibility** to fund a wide range of measures for people fleeing Ukraine under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD).

For example, these cohesion funds can be used for investments in education, employment, housing, health and childcare and, in the case of the EDF, for basic material assistance such as food and clothing.

The 2022 envelope of EUR 10 billion of the Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe ('REACT-EU') funds can also be used to address these new demands within the overall aim of post-pandemic recovery.

The changes to the cohesion policy rules and the FEAD regulation aim to make it as quick and easy as possible for Member States to provide assistance to people fleeing Ukraine, while continuing to support the recovery of the regions. They introduce the following changes:

- to ease national budgetary pressures, notably due to the extended impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the possibility of 100% EU co-financing for 2014-2020 Cohesion policy funding will be extended for the accounting year 2021-2022;

- Member States and regions will have the possibility to use resources from either the European Fund for Regional Development (ERDF) or the European Social Fund (ESF) for any type of measures to support people fleeing Ukraine. Thanks to this flexibility either fund will also be able to support projects even if these would normally be funded by the other one;

- Member State spending on all actions helping people fleeing Ukraine will be eligible for EU support **retroactively** as of the start date of the Russian invasion (24 February 2022);

- the reporting and the programme modifications will be simplified.

Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE)

2022/0075(COD) - 08/03/2022 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: facilitate the use of resources from the cohesion policy and the European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) to support measures to address migratory challenges as a result of the military aggression by Russia.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: Russia's recent military aggression against Ukraine and the ongoing armed conflict has fundamentally changed the security situation in Europe. As a result of the aggression, the European Union, and its eastern regions in particular, is facing a substantial inflow of persons.

Secondly, the COVID-19 pandemic has lasted longer than could have been expected in 2020. The direct and indirect effects of the pandemic persist in all Member States, requiring prolonged public support for recovery in the most affected territories and economic sectors. This has put considerable pressure on Member States' budgets.

While the flexibility and additional resources provided for the period 2014-2020 have helped Member States in their crisis response and recovery efforts, the emergence of new variants of the coronavirus, notably the Omicron variant, as well as the general tightening of restrictions in the last quarter of 2021, have continued to have serious negative effects on Member States' economies and societies and hampered a normal implementation of cohesion policy programmes and of programmes supported by the FEAD.

The recent military aggression by Russia and the resulting migration flows have exacerbated these effects and risk further undermining economic recovery.

Therefore, support from the Funds should be mobilised quickly to ease the burden on national budgets.

CONTENT: the proposal aims to:

- **facilitate the use of cohesion policy and FEAD resources** by Member States and regions to support measures to address migratory challenges as a result of the military aggression by Russia; and

- **allow for a derogation from the normal co-financing rules currently applicable** in order to allow for the necessary flexibility to mobilise existing investment resources to address the direct and indirect effects stemming from the unprecedented public health crisis in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specifically, it is proposed to amend Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 in order to:

- ensure that Member States and regions may continue to benefit from a 100% EU co-financing rate for the accounting year 2021-2022 and this by way of notification to the Commission;

- introduce arrangements for the budgetary execution of additional payments resulting from the application of the **100% co-financing rate** to take account of annual ceilings for payments;

- introduce **additional flexibility between ERDF and ESF** specifically for operations addressing the migratory challenges as a result of the military aggression by Russia and introduce simplified reporting arrangements on participants with a retroactive start date of eligibility of support set at 24 February 2022 (date of the start of the military aggression);

- introduce flexibility for Member States to amend programmes supported by the FEAD and this by way of notification to the Commission and also with a retroactive start date of eligibility of support set at 24 February 2022.

Budgetary implications

The proposed modification does not require changes in the Multiannual Financial Framework annual ceilings for commitments and payments and does not imply changes to the overall payment needs over the 2021-2027 period.

Based on the previous uptake of the 100% co-financing rate in the 2020-2021 accounting year, the level of payment applications submitted in the second half of 2021, and the latest Member State payment forecasts for 2022, the budgetary impact of the application of the 100% co-financing rate for the 2021-2022 accounting year is estimated to represent a frontloading of payment needs of EUR 9 billion to 2022 and EUR 1 billion to 2023, compensated by a corresponding reduction of EUR 10 billion in 2024.

However, in order to be able to comply with the payment ceilings in years 2022 and 2023, it is proposed to cap the total additional payments resulting from the application of the 100% co-financing rate at EUR 5 billion in 2022 and EUR 1 billion in 2023. The additional amounts will only be paid after all the payment applications are received for the accounting year 2021-2022.