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ANNEX

Corrigendum of the annex to the COMMUNICATION FROM COMMISSIONER DOMBROVSKIS TO THE COMMISSION IN AGREEMENT WITH EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT FITTO on the positive preliminary assessment of the third payment request of Belgium pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2021/241 - C(2025) 4981

ANNEX

to the

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

on the positive preliminary assessment of the third payment request of Belgium pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2021/241

22 July 2025

Positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of milestones and targets related to the third payment request submitted by Belgium on 31 March 2025, transmitted to the Economic and Financial Committee by the European Commission

Executive summary

In accordance with Article 24(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, on 31 March 2025, Belgium submitted a request for payment for the third instalment of the non-repayable support and the second instalment of the loan support. The payment request was accompanied by the required management declaration and summary of audits.

To support its payment request, Belgium provided due justification of the satisfactory fulfilment of the 34 milestones and targets of the third instalment of the non-repayable support and the one milestone of the second instalment of the loan support, as set out in Section 2(1) and Section 2(2) of the Council Implementing Decision of 6 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Belgium[1].

For 5 targets covering a large number of recipients, in addition to the summary documents and official listings provided by Belgium, Commission services have assessed a statistically significant sample of individual files. The sample size has been uniformly set at 60, which corresponds to a confidence level of 95% or above in all cases.

In its payment request, Belgium has confirmed that measures related to previously satisfactorily fulfilled milestones and targets have not been reversed. The Commission does not have evidence of the contrary. Upon receipt of the payment request, the Commission has assessed on a preliminary basis the satisfactory fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets. Based on the information provided by Belgium, the Commission has made a positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of all 35 milestones and targets.

The milestones and targets positively assessed as part of this payment request demonstrate significant steps in the implementation of Belgium's Recovery and Resilience Plan. They notably highlight the continuation of the reform momentum in key policy areas. This includes, among others, legislation to implement new particle counter tests to enhance the vehicle emission monitoring framework in Flanders, legislation to shorten procedures for obtaining renewable energy permits, and measures to simplify online creation of a business. The milestones and targets also confirm progress towards the completion of investment projects related to rail refurbishment and station accessibility works, the renovation of private and social housing, the creation of childcare places and the higher education advancement fund.

By the transmission of this positive preliminary assessment and in accordance with Article 24(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the Commission asks for the opinion of the Economic and Financial Committee on the satisfactory fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets.

[1] ST 10161/2021 INIT and ST10161/2021 ADD 1, as amended by ST 15570/2023 INIT, ST 15570/2023 ADD 1, ST 15974/2024 INIT, ST 15974/2024 ADD 1, ST 5654/2025 INIT, ST 5654/2025 ADD 1, ST 6545/2025 INIT, ST 6545/2025 ADD 1, ST 9584/2025 INIT, ST 9584/2025 ADD 1, ST 10529/25 INIT and ST 10529/25 ADD 1.

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Non-repayable support

Number and name of the Target: 5 - Renovation of private residential and social housing (step1)

Related Measure: Investment 1A: 'Renovations of private and social housing' (I-A1)

Quantitative Indicator: Dwellings

Baseline: 0

Target: 64 112

Time: Q2 2023

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to stimulate the energy-efficient renovation of private and social housing. The investment is composed of seven sub measures related to (i) subsidies for energy efficiency and renewable energy as well as subsidies by target groups for private housing, (ii) support through energy label scheme for energy efficient renovation of private housing, (iii) support scheme for home battery grant for private housing, (iv) improved energy subsidy scheme of the Brussels Capital Region, (v) social housing units renovation in the Flemish Region, (vi) social housing units renovation in Brussels Capital Region, and (vii) social housing units renovation in the German-speaking Community.

Target 5 requires the renovations of private residential and social housing in the Flemish Region and the Brussels-Capital Region.

Target 5 is the first step of the implementation of the investment, and it will be followed by targets 6 and 7. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Spreadsheet listing the 64 206 private housing dwellings renovated in Flemish Region and Brussels-Capital Region	List indicating each dwelling renovated by unique identifier in Flanders, provided together by VEKA, Department URBAN of the Brussels-Capital Region and Department ENVIRONMENT of the Brussels-Capital Region, collected on 5 June 2025
2	Spreadsheet listing 699 social housing dwellings renovated for the Brussels-Capital Region	List indicating each dwelling renovated, including the address and estimated energy savings achieved of each dwelling in Brussels-Capital Region, provided by Department ENVIRONMENT of Brussels-Capital Region

3	Spreadsheet listing 2 640 social housing dwellings renovated in Flemish Region with energy savings achieved per project and total	List indicating each dwelling renovated, including the address and estimated energy savings achieved of each project in Flanders, provided by VEKA, collected on 11 December 2024
4	60 completion reports or equivalent evidence of the completed renovation of private housing	In the context of the sampling exercise, these are the supporting documents for the list of 60 units sampled. The completion reports or equivalent evidence were issued by the companies conducting the renovation works.
5	60 award decisions for the renovation of private housing	In the context of the sampling exercise, these are the supporting documents for the list of 60 units sampled. 10 of the award decisions were issues by Fluvius, 48 of the award decisions were issued by Flemish Government – Team Mij Verbouwpremie and 2 were issued by Brussels Environment
6	60 completion reports or equivalent evidence of completed renovation of social housing	In the context of the sampling exercise, these are the supporting documents for the list of 60 units sampled. The completion reports or equivalent evidence were issued by the companies conducting the renovation works.
7	60 documents with technical specifications of works of the social housing dwellings renovation	In the context of the sampling exercise, these are the supporting documents for the list of 60 units sampled, provided by Department ENVIRONMENT of Brussels-Capital Region and VEKA
8	Spreadsheet listing social housing renovation projects in Brussels Capital Region with energy savings achieved per project and total	List indicating estimated energy savings achieved per each of the projects and total energy savings achieved, provided by Department ENVIRONMENT of Brussels-Capital Region
9	Methodology for estimation of energy savings for Flemish	2 documents with an explanation of the calculation of the estimated energy savings in Flemish Region, issued by

	Region by VEKA	Wonen in Vlaanderen
10	Methodology for estimation of energy savings for Brussels-Capital Region by Social Housing Brussels	22 energy performance typologies based on simulations of energy performance certificate before and after the works, issued by the Social Housing Brussels with an explanation of the calculation of the estimated energy savings in Brussels-Capital Region

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgium's authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

64 112 residential dwellings (private and social housing) renovated.

Through Flanders Energy and Climate Agency (VEKA), Department URBAN and Department ENVIRONMENT of the Brussels-Capital Region, a comprehensive list of 67 545 renovated residential dwellings in total has been submitted (evidence No. 1). This exceeds the required minimum of 64 112 dwellings.

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units from the list of private housing renovated, Belgium submitted 60 completion reports issued by the companies conducting the renovation works and 60 award decisions issued by Fluvius, Flemish Government – Team Mijn Verbouwpremie and Brussels Environment. The submitted completion reports and award decisions demonstrate that the renovation of private housing was completed and that the grants for such renovations were awarded. The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that this requirement of the target has been met. The renovation of 64 206 dwellings of private housing was completed (evidence no. 4 and 5).

Additionally, following the selection of random sample of 60 units from the list of social housing renovated, Belgium submitted 60 completion reports issued by the companies conducting the renovation works, estimated energy savings for the 60 dwellings sampled calculated by VEKA and Department ENVIRONMENT of Brussels-Capital Region and 60 documents with technical specifications of the works concluded that led to the energy savings, issued by the implementing companies. The submitted evidence demonstrates that the renovation of social housing was completed. The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that this requirement of the target has been met. The renovation of 3 339 dwellings of social housing was completed (evidence no. 2, 3, 6 and 7)

The renovation of 3 339 social housing units shall reduce on average at least 30% of primary energy consumption, as defined in Commission Recommendation (EU) 2019/786 on the renovation of buildings.

Through Flanders Energy and Climate Agency (VEKA), Department URBAN and Department ENVIRONMENT of the Brussels-Capital Region, a comprehensive list of 3 339 renovated social housing units has been submitted (evidence no. 2 and 3).

The Flemish Region and the Brussels-Capital Region provided for methodologies that were used to estimate the energy savings achieved by the renovation of social housing (evidence no. 9 and 10).

The estimations of energy savings achieved by renovating the social housing in the Flemish Region for the purpose of this target were based on i) data derived from the Central Data Register of Social Housing managed by Wonen in Vlaanderen, and ii) on three types of typologies of classification of housing (evidence no. 9). Based on this methodology, the Flemish Region provided for a calculation of estimated energy savings equal to 31% (evidence no. 3).

The estimations in the Brussels-Capital Region for the purpose of this target were based on simulation of the energy performance certificates before and after works drawn up on the basis of a representative housing type (evidence no. 10). Based on this methodology, the Brussels-Capital Region provided for a calculation of estimated energy savings equal to 28% (evidence no. 8).

Based on thatcalculation, the social housing units renovated together reduce on average 30% of primary energy consumption.

The target is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which requires **that for the purposes of the indicator, the concept of housing shall be compatible with the Eurostat definition ('A dwelling is a room or suite of rooms - including its accessories, lobbies and corridors - in a permanent building or a structurally separated part of a building which, by the way it has been built, rebuilt or converted, is designated for housing by one private household all year round')**

The dwellings mentioned in the sections above correspond to the following definitions of 'dwelling' under Belgian law, which are compatible with the Eurostat definition ('A dwelling is a room or suite of rooms - including its accessories, lobbies and corridors - in a permanent building or a structurally separated part of a building which, by the way it has been built, rebuilt or converted, is designated for housing by one private household all year round').

For the Flemish Region, pursuant to the Flemish Government implementing the Flemish Housing Codex of 2021, Article 1.2, 105° the dwelling eligible for subsidy is "*the immovable property, or the independent part thereof, which is mainly intended for the accommodation of a family or a single person, to which the application relates, with the exception of the room, referred to in Article 1.3, §1, first paragraph, 25°, of the Flemish Housing Code of 2021*." Article 1.3, *§1,* first paragraph, 25°, of the Flemish Housing Code of 2021 refers to a "*room: a living area in which there is no toilet, a bath or shower or a cooking facility and the*

occupants of which are dependent on the common areas in or adjacent to the building of which the dwelling is part for one or more of these facilities."

For the Brussels Capital Region, pursuant to the Decree of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region of 26 September 1996 organising the rental of dwellings managed by the Brussels Region Housing Company or by public service real estate companies, Article 2, paragraph 1, 3° for the purposes of that Decree, the following definition of 'dwelling' applies: "*the detached house or the apartment fitted out for the dwelling of a household, including the garden and the outbuildings if they are adjoining*."

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 9 - Award of grants for home batteries and smart control appliances in Flanders

Related Measure: I-1A Renovations of private and social housing

Quantitative Indicator: Grants awarded

Baseline: 0

Target: 8 460

Time: Q2 2023

1. Context:

Investment 1A is related to reform R-1.01 'Improved energy subsidy scheme' of the Flemish Region whose overall objective is to provide more efficient renovation incentives and to accelerate private energy efficiency investments in Flanders. Indeed, the reform shall be accompanied by three sub-investments as part of investment 1A 'Renovations of private and social housing'. The objective of investment 1A is to stimulate the energy-efficient renovation of private and social housing. Investment 1A is composed of seven sub measures, among which sub-investment (iii) 'support for a scheme for home battery grant for private housing'. The investment shall be completed by 30 June 2025.

Target 9 consists in the award of grants for home batteries and smart control appliances in Flanders for private housing since Q2 2021.

Target 9 is the third and last target of the reform R-1.01 'Improved energy subsidy scheme' of the Flemish Region and part of seven measures in the scope of Investment 1A 'Renovation of private and social housing'.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Cover Note	Summary document duly justifying how the target was satisfactorily fulfilled.
	Spreadsheet listing the 8911 grants for home batteries in Flanders	List indicating each grant awarded for home batteries by unique identifier, location and beneficiary in Flanders, by VEKA
	60 award decisions by the Flanders Energy and Climate Agency (VEKA) of 60 grants for home batteries dated between 10 August 2021 and 28 April 2022	In the context of the sampling exercise, these are the supporting documents for the list of 60 units sampled, provided by VEKA
	Call for award for the purchase of a home battery by the Flemish Government in 2021	Discontinued: Premium for the purchase or leasing of a home battery for self-generated energy | Vlaanderen.be by the Flemish Government

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Grants awarded for home batteries for private housing in Flanders since Q2 2021. In line with the quantitative indicator, **8460 grants awarded.**

Through the Flanders Energy and Climate Agency (VEKA), a comprehensive list of 8 911 grants awarded for home batteries in private housing in Flanders has been submitted, covering the period from Q2 2021 to Q4 2022 (evidence No. 2). This exceeds the required minimum of 8 460 grants.

The grant scheme is exclusively available to natural persons (private individuals, including natural persons who are merchants or self-employed), and not to organisations or companies, as illustrated in the call for award from the Flemish Government for the purchase of a home battery for self-generated energy (evidence No. 4).

A detailed breakdown of the grants awarded by province in Flanders is provided in the table, with each grant linked to a unique identifier that allows for the retrieval of beneficiary information and exact location (evidence No. 2).

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, Belgium submitted 60 award decisions issued by the Flanders Energy and Climate Agency (VEKA). The submitted award decisions demonstrate that the grants were awarded in the period starting from Q2 2021; that they concern home batteries for private housing only; and that the private housing concerned is located exclusively in the Flanders region and that the grant were allocated to private individuals.

The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that these requirements of the target have been met. The grants were awarded since Q2 2021, they concern home batteries for private housing in the Flanders region and the grants were allocated to private individuals for home batteries in the Flanders region. The award decisions consistently included the recipient's location (in Flanders) and grant type (home batteries). The award date requirement corresponds with awards for home batteries dated between 10 August 2021 and 28 April 2022 (evidence No. 3).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 12 - Renovation of public buildings of the Federal State

Related Measure: C11.I-1B Public building renovation

Quantitative Indicator: m^2

Baseline: 0

Target: 10 800

Time: Q2 2024

1. Context:

The investment measure consists in the energy-efficient renovation of the Brussels Stock exchange building. The energy-efficient renovation works supported by the RRF and identified in the purchase order shall reduce on average at least 30% of primary energy consumption, as defined in Commission Recommendation (EU) 2019/786 on the renovation of buildings. The implementation of the measure shall be completed by 30 June 2024.

This target aims to renovate a total of 10 800 m^2 of public buildings within the federal state. Of this surface, at least 6 264 m^2 must achieve an average reduction of primary energy consumption of at least 30%, in line with Commission Recommendation (EU) 2019/786. The goal contributes to improving energy efficiency and reducing emissions in the public building stock.

Target 12 is the second target of the investment, and it follows the completion of target 11. It will be followed by target 13, and target 14 related to renovation of public buildings in other regions. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in Q2/2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Cover Note	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled
2a	Provisional reception report for the works	Document by which the project owner certifies completion of the works issued by the city of Brussels (26 July 2023)
2b	Provisional reception report for the works (technical)	Technical Annex by which the project owner (BORSA) certifies completion of the works, signed by both the City of Brussels and the contractor (Denys NV) (30 June 2023)
3	Pre-works EPC certificate	Energy Performance Certificate issued prior to building renovation issued by Brussels Capital Region

4	Post-works EPC certificate	Energy Performance Certificate issued after one full calendar year of operation of the renovated building issued in 2024 by Brussels Capitals Region
5	Energy-saving summary note and its supplement	Note drawn up by the project architects (Greish), detailing the improvements made by the renovation to the building's energy performance, the methodology used to demonstrate this and the link with the special specifications (11 June 2024)
6	Note on the EPC certificate	Note explaining the difference in the building's energy performance before and after work issued by the City of Brussels (27 February 2025)

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Federal State (I-1.04): 10 800 m^2 of public buildings renovated,

The federal-level project involved the renovation of a single building: the Brussels Stock Exchange. As of 30 June 2023, the renovation of the Brussels Stock Exchange has been completed, as confirmed by the Provisional reception report (see evidence no. 2a). This report verifies that the work was done in accordance with the special specifications and was based on an on-site visit attended by all relevant parties, including the contractor (Denys NV), architect (Greish), and the City of Brussels (see evidence no. 2b). The report confirms that the work was carried out as specified, covering the entire building.

The building's surface area is certified by two separate documents:

- The Post-works EPC certificate (see evidence no. 4, which states a gross surface area of 11,146 m^2 after renovation.
- The Energy saving summary note (see evidence no. 5, page 5, first table), which mentions a net surface area of 11,318 m^2, indicating the total area of the building that was renovated.

These documents confirm that the entire Brussels Stock Exchange building, with a surface area of approximately 11,146 m^2 (gross) to 11,318 m^2 (net), has been successfully renovated.

Including 6 264 m^2 reducing on average at least 30% of primary energy consumption, as defined in Commission Recommendation (EU) 2019/786 on the renovation of buildings.

The energy consumption reduction was assessed for the entire building, which spans over 11,000m^2. To evaluate the impact of the renovation, Greish Engineering, the

architect office acting as a third party, prepared an Energy saving methodology (see evidence no. 5, page 5) where two scenarios were compared:

- Hypothetical energy consumption without renovation: the estimated energy consumption of the building with its current functions, but without any energy-efficient renovations.
- Energy consumption with renovation: the energy consumption of the building with its current functions, but with the planned energy-efficient renovations.

The initial calculation showed a primary energy consumption saving of 45%. This methodology complies with Recommendation (EU) 2019/786 and complements the Pre-work and Post-works Energy Performance Certificates (see evidence nos. 3 and 4).

After obtaining the Pre-works Energy Performance Certificate (see evidence no. 3) issued prior to the building renovation, the actual energy consumption was measured. However, it was discovered that the initial simulation did not account for (1) the energy consumption related to museography (2) the energy consumption from the archaeological site in the basement (heating and technical systems). The Pre-works Energy Performance Certificate did not consider the current functions of the building nor the corrections for museography and archaeological site energy consumption. As a result, the before and after EPCs do not reflect a 30% reduction in primary energy consumption.

In order to get an accurate picture, the hypothetical estimated consumption (without renovation) was corrected to include the additional energy consumption from museography and the archaeological site. When comparing the actual energy consumption in the Post-works Energy Performance Certificate (see evidence no. 4) to the corrected hypothetical estimated consumption (see evidence no. 5, page 5), the reduction in primary energy consumption was found to be 33%, as evidenced in the Note on the EPB certificate (see evidence no. 6, page 2).

The corrected calculation, which includes all these factors, reveals a 33% reduction in energy consumption.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 15 **-** Entry into force of the new or modified laws and related regulations to enable market development of H2

Related Measure: R-1.04 *Regulatory framework for the H2 market*

Qualitative Indicator: Publication of the new or modified laws and related regulations (Official Journal)

Time: Q1 2024

1. Context:

Milestone 15 is part of measure R-1.04 *Regulatory framework for the H2 market*

The reform consists of the necessary steps to allow for legislative revisions aimed at establishing a more detailed regulatory framework for the functioning of the H2 market, covering topics such as supervision, non-discriminatory access to transport networks and setting of network access charges. For the transport of H2, the new legal provisions adopted by the government(s) shall enter into force by 1 January 2024.

Milestone 15 requires the entry into force of the new or modified laws to:

- enable market development of H2,
- cover topics such as supervision, non-discriminatory access and tariffs.

Milestone 15 is the first and only milestone of this measure.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled.
	Federal Act of 11 July 2023 on the transport of hydrogen by pipeline (Publication on 25/7/2023, entry into force on 04/08/2023 – amended on 26/04/2024).	Framework law determining the main elements of the market structure for the transport of hydrogen (as a key enabler of hydrogen market development) by pipeline (amended on 26/4/2024 to include offshore hydrogen production).
	Law of 26 April 2024 amending the Act of 29 April 1999 on the organisation of the electricity market (Publication on 10/06/2024, entry into force on 20/06/2024)	Amendment to the Federal Act of 11 July 2023 on the transport of hydrogen by pipeline, extending (in Chapter 3) the scope of this law to the production of hydrogen in the maritime territories under Belgian jurisdiction
	Royal Decree of 12 May 2024 establishing the procedure for the drafting, approval, and publication of the network development plan for the hydrogen transport network and	Framework for the development of the hydrogen transport network (development plan), based on the corresponding provisions in the

	the development plan for the electricity transmission network (entry into force on 17/06/2024).	Decarbonisation Package.
	Ministerial Decree of 26 April 2024 designating the hydrogen transport network operator (entry into force on 21/05/2024)	Designation of Fluxys Hydrogen NV as (unique) Hydrogen Network Operator for the Belgian Hydrogen Transport Network

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Entry into force of the new or modified laws to:

- **Enable market development of H2,**

The Federal Act of 11 July 2023 on the transport of hydrogen by pipeline (henceforth Federal Act – evidence no. 2) constitutes the framework law determining the main elements of the market structure for the transport of hydrogen, as follows:

- Article 4 of the Federal Act states that the construction and operation of any hydrogen transport installation requires the prior granting of a hydrogen transport authorisation as of the moment in which an operator of the hydrogen transport network is designated. Article 5 of the Federal Act lists the criteria based on which hydrogen transport authorisations will be granted. Taken together, these provisions establish a legal monopoly for building and operating hydrogen transport pipelines in Belgium, subject to exceptions.
- Article 8 of the Federal Act states that before an undertaking is designated as the hydrogen transport network operator, it shall be certified in accordance with the procedure established by Article 9 of the same Act and should fulfil the conditions listed in Article 10 of the same Act. Article 11 of the same Act lists the criteria according to which the candidacies for hydrogen network operator are assessed. The responsibilities of the operator are listed in Article 13 of the same Act, one of which is to establish every two years a network development plan in accordance with the provisions of Article 14 of the same Act.
    - The Ministerial Decree of 26 April 2024 designated Fluxys Hydrogen NV as unique hydrogen network operator for the Belgian hydrogen transport network (as demonstrated by evidence no. 5).
    - The Royal Decree of 12 May 2024 establishes the procedure for the drafting, approval, and publication of the network development plan for the hydrogen transport network and the development plan for the electricity transmission network (as demonstrated by evidence no. 4)
- Article 17 of the Federal Act outlines the procedure for determining a hydrogen gas quality standard whereas Article 19 of the same Act provides for the possibility of awarding subsidies for the further development of the hydrogen network and sets out the conditions under which this can be done.

The Law of 26 April 2024 amending the Act of 29 April 1999 on the organisation of the electricity market (evidence no. 3) also amended the Federal Law of 11 July 2023 on the transport of hydrogen by pipeline, extending the scope of this law to the production of hydrogen in the maritime territories under Belgian jurisdiction.

These provisions of the framework law, together with the implementing Decrees on the designation of the hydrogen network operator and on the establishment of the procedure for the drafting, approval, and publication of the network development plan for the hydrogen transport network, form an enabling regulatory environment allowing for the development of the hydrogen market in Belgium.

- **cover topics such as supervision, non-discriminatory access and tariffs.**

The Federal Act of 11 July 2023 covers these topics as follows:

- Supervision: Article 25 of the Federal Act stipulates that the *Commission de Régulation de l'Électricité et du Gaz (CREG)* is the independent regulatory authority for hydrogen transport. It ensures the effective implementation of the rules contained in the law and monitors compliance with them.
- Non-discriminatory access and tariffs: Article 15 of the Federal Act stipulates that all users have access to the hydrogen transport network and the transport services provided on this network on non-discriminatory and transparent terms, on the basis of the tariffs approved in accordance with Article 16 of the same Act, which stipulates that the connection to, use of and access to the hydrogen transport network are subject to a tariff methodology and rates previously approved by the CREG.

Pursuant to the measure description, **for the transport of H2, the new legal provisions adopted by the government(s) shall enter into force by 1 January 2024.**

The Federal Act of 11 July 2023 on the transport of hydrogen by pipeline containing all the relevant provisions listed above entered into force on 4 August 2023, i.e. before 1 January 2024.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 15bis – Entry into force of the new or modified decrees and related regulations to enable transport of carbon dioxide (CO2) through pipelines in Flanders

Related Measure: R-1.05 'Regulatory framework for the transport of carbon dioxide (CO2) through pipelines in Flanders'

Qualitative Indicator: Publication of the new or modified decrees and related regulations (Official Journal)

Time: Q1 2024

1. Context:

The reform consists of the necessary steps to allow for legislative revisions aimed at establishing a more detailed regulatory framework for the transport of CO2 through pipelines, covering topics such as supervision, non-discriminatory access to transport networks and setting of network access charges.

The milestone 15bis requires the entry into force and publication of the new or modified decrees and related regulations.

The milestone 15 bis is the only milestone of this reform.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled.
	Copy of Decree of 29 March 2024 on the transport of carbon dioxide by pipeline in the Flemish Region	The Decree on the transport of carbon dioxide by pipeline in the Flemish Region that entered into force on 30 June 2025, with exception of Article 90 and 91 which entered into force on the date of publication, i.e. 25 April 2024
	Copy of Decision of the Flemish Government of 7 June 2024 on the transport of CO2 via pipelines in the Flemish Region	The Decision providing for detailed provisions to implement the Decree of 29 March 2024. It also brings the entry into force of the relevant provisions of the Decree of 29 March 2024 forward, by 26 August 2024.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgium's authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Entry into force of the legal provisions at the Flemish level to:

- enable transport of CO2 through pipelines,

The Decree of 29 March 2024 on the transport of carbon dioxide through pipelines in the Flemish Region (evidence no. 2) entered into force on 30 June 2025, except for Articles 90 and 91, which entered into force upon their publication in the Belgian Official Gazette and no later than 30 April 2024 (see Article 94 of the Decree). However, according to Article 94, the legislator delegated the power to the Flemish Government to set a date of entry into force for any provisions of the Decree, with the exception of Article 90 and 91, prior to 30 June 2025.

On 7 June 2024, the Flemish Government used this possibility and issued the Decision on the transport of carbon dioxide through pipelines in the Flemish Region (evidence no. 3), through which the Articles 1-19, 26-39, 46-54, 62-70, 72-89, and 92-94 of the Decree of 29 March 2024 enter into force 10 days after the publication of the Decision of 7 June 2024. The Decision of 7 June 2024 was published in the Official Journal on 16 August 2024. Therefore, all the relevant Articles of Decree of 29 March 2024 to enable the transport of CO2 through pipelines entered into force on 26 August 2024.

The Decree of 29 March 2024 on the transport of carbon dioxide through pipelines in the Flemish Region (evidence no. 2) introduces enhanced rules on third party access and network planning for operators of pipeline infrastructure for the transport of carbon dioxide.

The chapter 2 (Articles 5 and 7) of the Decree of 29 March of 2024 sets out the rules for a regulator for the market for pipeline transport of carbon dioxide, their designation. The chapter 3 (Articles 6 to 19) provides for rules on local clusters, the designation of the manager of a local cluster, their tasks and rights and the obligation to develop a development plant, among others. The chapter 4 (Articles 28 to 39) of Decree of 29 March 2024 provides for rules for transport network in the Flemish region, including the designation of the transport network operator, their tasks and rights, and the requirement to develop a development plan, among others. The chapter 5 (Articles 48 to 54) then sets out rules for liquefaction terminals, and the chapter 7 for the third party access (Articles 62 to 70).

The Decision of 7 June 2024 of the Flemish government introduces secondary provisions to implement the Decree of 29 March 2024.

The Decree of 29 March 2024 and Decision of 7 June 2024 taken together enable the transport of CO2 through pipeline in Flemish region.

- cover topics such as supervision, non-discriminatory access and tariffs.

Chapter 10, Division 1 of the Decree of 29 March 2024 (evidence no. 2) introduces rules for a supervision of the local cluster operators, transport network operators, a liquefaction terminal operator, a closed industrial carbon dioxide network operators, producers, consumers, directors, managers and staff by the Vlaamse Nutsregulator (VREG).

Chapter 5, Division 2 of the Decree of 29 March 2024 (evidence no. 2) covers the provisions ensuring that the operator of liquefaction terminal refrains from any discrimination between the network users or the categories of network users of the terminal for liquefaction. Equivalent provisions are included for the transport network operators in Chapter 4, Division 3 and for the operator of a local cluster in Chapter 3, Division 3.

Chapter 7, Division 9 of the Decree of 29 March 2024 (evidence no. 2) outlines the tariffs applicable to the access to the local cluster and to the transport network.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 38 – Award of grants to projects for creation of two national parks

Related Measure: I-122 - 'Biodiversity and adaptation to climate change' of the Walloon Region

Qualitative Indicator: Written notification of grants awards to successful candidates

Time: Q1 2023

1. Context:

This measure aims to support the conservation, restoring and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services, with the aim of harnessing the carbon storage capacity and increasing climate resilience. The measure consists of four sub-actions, one of which entails the creation of two national parks in Wallonia.

Milestone 38 consists of the awarding of grants to two projects for the development of two national parks in Wallonia of a total area between 10.000 and 70.000 hectares.

Milestone 38 is the first milestone of investment I-1.22. It will be followed by milestones 36 and 37, which are related to land management measures to enhance biodiversity and resilience to climate change in forests and protected areas (or protected area projects under designation process), and the execution of remeandering projects. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in Q2 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled.
	Call for proposals "Parcs nationaux de Wallonie".	Call for proposals "Parcs nationaux de Wallonie" for the creation of 2 Walloon national parks, published on 1 July 2021. https://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/parcs-nationaux.html?IDC=6404
	Notification letter to "Entre Sambre et Meus".	Copy of the notification letter sent to Entre Sambre et Meuse, confirming their successful application, dated 18 January 2023, signed by the Walloon Minister for the Environment.
	Notification letter to "Vallée de la Semois".	Copy of the notification letter sent to Vallée de la Semois, confirming their successful application, dated 18 January 2023, signed by the Walloon Minister for the Environment.
	Decision of the Walloon Government of 1 July 2021, approving the call for	Copy of the Decision of 1 July 2021, approving the call for proposals for the creation of two national parks in

	proposals for the creation of two national parks in Wallonia.	Wallonia.
	Decree of the Walloon Government of 8 December 2022, awarding subsidies to the "Vallée de la Semois" project.	Decree of the Walloon Government of 8 December 2022, awarding subsidies to the "Vallée de la Semois" project, signed by the Walloon Minister-President and the Walloon Minister for Environment.
	Decree of the Walloon Government of 8 December 2022, awarding subsidies to the "Entre Sambre et Meuse" project.	Decree of the Walloon Government of 8 December 2022, awarding subsidies to the "Entre Sambre et Meuse" project, signed by the Walloon Minister-President and the Walloon Minister for Environment.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Award of grants to two projects…

On 8 December 2022, the Walloon Government approved two Decrees, which awarded subsidies for the creation of two national parks to the following laureates:

- "Entre Sambre et Meuse" (evidence No. 7).
- "Vallée de la Semois" (evidence No. 6).

…and written notification sent to the successful candidates by the Walloon Minister of Environment…

On 18 January 2023, the two successful candidates of the call for proposals "Parcs nationaux de Wallonie" received a letter signed by the Walloon Minister of Environment informing them of their evaluation results and of the fact that they were successful and had been selected for the subsidies under the call for proposals "Parcs nationaux de Wallonie" (evidence No. 3 and evidence No. 4).

…following the call for proposal for two national parks of a total area between 10 000 and 70 000 hectares.

Following the decision of the Walloon Government of 1 July 2021 *(*evidence No. 5*)*, a call for proposals ("Parcs nationaux de Wallonie") was launched for the creation of two national parks, with the final application deadline set for 1 November 2021 (evidence No. 2, p. 27).

The call outlines the admissibility and evaluation criteria for applicants, including the requirement that the park must cover a minimum area of 5.000 hectares (evidence No. 2, p. 9). Consequently, the two laureates combined cover at least 10.000 hectares.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the investment aims to support the conservation, restoring and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services, which aims to improve the carbon storage capacity and resilience to climate change effects such as floods and droughts**.

One of the selection criteria in the call for proposals assesses the national parks' ability to contribute to achieving climate objectives, including efforts to enhance a diversified and resilient forestry, improve sustainable management of water resources, and reduce the impact of droughts (evidence No. 2, p. 18).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 42 - Land purchases to reinforce biodiversity and/or mitigate climate change effects

Related Measure: BE-C[C13]-I[I-1.24]: 'Blue Deal' of the Flemish Region

Qualitative Indicator: Title deeds

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

This Blue Deal investment is part of a bigger plan of 80 projects and actions aiming for better preparedness for longer periods of drought and more frequent heat waves by addressing drought problems in a structural way.

The actions cover: (A) landscape projects for drought mitigation, (B) a research program in agriculture, (C) two projects on waterway pumps and locks, (D) a water management support scheme for companies that invest in innovative water saving technologies, (F) innovative projects on circular water use and digital monitoring and smart water data systems, (G) implementation of nature-based solutions in four defined areas and (I) wetland restoration projects. The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 30 June 2026.

Milestone 42 consists of the land purchases by the Flemish Land Agency or the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency, amounting to approximately 1 000 hectares.

Milestone 42 is the first milestone of the investment. It will be followed by the completion of milestone 41 and target 43, related to the completion of Blue Deal projects to increase resilience to drought. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in Q2/2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled.
	M42_A_1: Real estate purchase deed (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed*)	Signed notary act, dated 28 June 2023, for the purchase of 154.185 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos- ANB*) for the "Zwarte Beek" project (page 2 to 10)
	M42_B_1: Certified copy of the real estate purchase deed (*Verkoop*)	Certified copy of notary act, dated 1 March 2023, for the purchase of 2.1462 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij - VLM*) for the "Kleine Nete" project (page 2 to 3)

		M42_B_2: Certified copy of the real estate purchase deed	Signed notary act, dated 18 April 2023, for the purchase of 8.98 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij - VLM*) for the "Kleine Nete" project (page 2)
		M42_C_1: Real estate purchase deed (*Verkoop uit de hand*)	Signed notary act, dated 23 December 2021, for the purchase of 8.3785 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 3 to 4)
		M42_C_2: Real estate purchase deed (*Verkoop*)	Signed notary act, dated 5 May 2022, for the purchase of 10.0584 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 2)
		M42_C_3: Real estate purchase deed (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed*)	Signed notary act, dated 19 October 2022, for the purchase of 0.6514 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 3)
		M42_C_5: Real estate purchase deed (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed*)	Signed notary act, dated 28 July 2022, for the purchase of 1.5964 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 3)
		M42_C_6: Real estate purchase deed including the power of attorney (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed*)	Signed notary act, dated 12 September 2022, for the purchase of 2.0436 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 16)
		M42_C_7: Real estate purchase deed	Signed notary act, dated 20 August 2022, for the purchase of 0.3392 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie"

		(*Verkoop uit de hand*)	project (page 2)
		M42_C_8: Certified copy of the real estate purchase deed	Signed notary act, dated 22 April 2022, for the purchase of 24.5114 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 2)
		M42_C_9: Real estate purchase deed (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed*)	Signed notary act, dated 26 August 2022, for the purchase of 5.9288 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 3 to 4)
		M42_C_10: Real estate purchase deed (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed*)	Signed notary act, dated 27 October 2022, for the purchase of 1.5535 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 6)
		M42_C_12: Real estate purchase deed (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed*)	Signed notary act, dated 2 August 2022, for the purchase of 5.7 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 3 to 4)
		M42_C_13: Real estate purchase deed (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed*)	Signed notary act, dated 27 July 2022, for the purchase of 0.858 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 2)
		M42_C_14: Real estate purchase deed *(Verkoop uit de hand - grond)*	Signed notary act, dated 29 November 2022, for the purchase of 0.628 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 3)
		M42_C_15:	Signed notary act, 5 May 2023, for the purchase of 2.0188

		Real estate purchase deed (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed*)	ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 2)
		M42_C_17: Real estate purchase deed (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed*)	Signed notary act, dated 6 June 2023, for the purchase of 1.734 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 2)
		M42_C_18: Certified copy of the real estate purchase deed (*Verkoop*)	Certified copy notary act, dated 12 September 2023, for the purchase of 0.843 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 2)
		M42_C_19: Real estate purchase deed (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed en vestiging erfdienstbaarheid*)	Signed notary act, 24 August 2023, for the purchase of 1.4363 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 2)
		M42_C_20: Real estate purchase deed (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed*)	Signed notary act, 24 August 2023, for the purchase of 1.4567 ha by the the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 2 to 3)
		M42_C_21: Real estate deed of lease termination (*Akte pachtbeëindiging onder opschortende voorwaarde*)	Signed notary act, 13 June 2023, for the purchase of 3.542 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 2)

		M42_C_26: Real estate exchange deed (*Akte ruiling onroerende goederen*)	Signed notary act, 29 August 2023, for the purchase of 3.2625 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 3)
		M42_C_27: Real estate purchase deed (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed*)	Signed notary act, dated 25 April 2022, for the purchase of 8.3345 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 2 to 3)
		M42_C_29: Real estate purchase deed (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed*)	Signed notary act, dated 21 August 2023, for the purchase of 0.2724 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 2)
		M42_C_31: Real estate purchase deed (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed*)	Signed notary act, dated 20 June 2023, for the purchase of 0.162 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 2)
		M42_C_32: Real estate purchase deed (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed*)	Signed notary act, dated 3 August 2023, for the purchase of 0.2542 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 2)
		M42_C_34: Real estate purchase deed (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed*)	Signed notary act, dated 12 June 2023, for the purchase of 3.6705 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 2)
		M42_C_35: Real estate purchase	Signed notary act, dated 3 June 2024, for the purchase of 0.2387 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie"

	deed (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed*)	project (page 2)
	M42_C_36: Real estate purchase deed (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed*)	Signed notary act, dated 13 June 2023, for the purchase of 2.1375 ha by the Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* for the "Rivierherstel Leie" project (page 2)
	M42_D_1: Real estate purchase deed	Signed notary act, dated 7 February 2023, for the purchase of 165.0395 ha by the the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the "Natte natuur" project (page 1 to 4)
	M42_D_2: Real estate purchase deed (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed*)	Signed notary act, dated 1 September 2022, for the purchase of 52.0478 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the "Natte natuur" project (page 2 to 9)
	M42_D_3: Real estate purchase deed (*Verkoop Vlaams Gewest (gronden)*)	Signed notary act, dated 31 August 2022, for the purchase of 22.926 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the "Natte natuur" project (page 3)
	M42_D_4: Real estate purchase deed	Signed notary act, dated 23 October 2023, for the purchase of 18.555 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the "Natte natuur" project (page 3 to 4)
	M42_D_5: Real estate purchase deed	Signed notary act, dated 4 August 2021, for the purchase of 66.0308 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the "Natte natuur" project) (page 2 to 3)
	M42_D_6: Real estate purchase	Signed notary act, dated 14 December 2023, for the purchase of 16.8259 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the

	deed (*Verkoop 1 - Verkoop 2*)	"Natte natuur" project (page 3 and 14 to 15)
	M42_D_7: Certified copy of the real estate purchase deed (*Verkoop*)	Signed notary act, dated 3 October 2022, for the purchase of 24.198 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the "Natte natuur" project (page 5 to 6)
	M42_D_8: Certified copy of the real estate purchase deed (*Verkoop*)	Signed notary act, dated 19 April 2022, for the purchase of 13.3267 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the "Natte natuur" project (page 2)
	M42_D_9: Real estate purchase deed (*Akte aankoop onroerend goed*)	Signed notary act, dated 16 July 2021, for the purchase of 34.4431 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the "Natte natuur" project (page 2 to 11)
	M42_D_10: Real estate purchase deed (*Verkoop*)	Signed notary act, dated 21 January 2022, for the purchase of 0.0168 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the "Natte natuur" project (page 1)
	M42_D_11: Real estate purchase deed (*Verkoop*)	Signed notary act, dated 20 August 2021, for the purchase of 23.6615 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the "Natte natuur" project (page 2 to 3)
	M42_D_12: Certified copy of the real estate purchase deed (*Verkoop*)	Signed notary act, dated 6 July 2022, for the purchase of 3.6326 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the "Natte natuur" project (page 2)
	M42_D_13: Real estate purchase	Signed notary act, dated from 26 November 2021, for the purchase of 13.9163 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the

	deed (*Verkoop*)	"Natte natuur" project (page 2 to 4)
	M42_D_14: Real estate purchase deed (*Akte minnelijke verwerving onroerend goed*)	Signed notary act, dated 13 April 2022, for the purchase of 15.7706 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the "Natte natuur" project (page 2 to 6)
	M42_D_15: Real estate purchase deed (*Verkoop grond*)	Signed notary act, dated 7 December 2022, for the purchase of 15.2266 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the "Natte natuur" project (page 2 to 5)
	M42_D_16: Certified copy of the real estate purchase deed (*Verkoop*)	Signed notary act, dated 19 December 2022, for the purchase of 8.415 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the "Natte natuur" project (page 2 to 4)
	M42_D_17: Real estate purchase deed (*Verkoop*)	Signed notary act, dated 23 December 2021, for the purchase of 9.8756 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the "Natte natuur" project (page 2)
	M42_D_19: Real estate purchase deed (*Verkoop percelen grond*)	Signed notary act, dated 27 March 2023, for the purchase of 96.6992 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the "Natte natuur" project (page 3 to 8)
	M42_D_20: Real estate purchase deed	Signed notary act, dated 28 February 2023, for the purchase of 98.5271 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the "Natte natuur" project (page 1 to 2)
	M42_D_21: Real estate purchase deed	Signed notary act, dated 26 September 2023, for the purchase of 13.2848 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the

		(*Gerechtelijke openbare verkoping*)	"Natte natuur" project (page 1 to 3)
		M42_D_22: Real estate purchase deed (*Verkoop percelen grond*)	Signed notary act, dated 30 November 2023, for the purchase of 27.1305 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the "Natte natuur" project (page 2 to 5)
		M42_D_23: Real estate purchase deed (*Verkoop*)	Signed notary act, dated 23 February 2024, for the purchase of 11.895 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the "Natte natuur" project (page 2)
		M42_D_24: Real estate purchase deed (*Verkoop consoorten van der Bruggen aan Agentschap Natuur en Bos*)	Signed notary act, dated 18 April 2024, for the purchase of 25.8399 ha by the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) for the "Natte natuur" project (page 2)

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgium authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Land purchases by the Flemish Land Agency or the Flemish Nature and Forest Agency…

The Flemish Land Agency (*Vlaamse Landmaatschappij – VLM)* has provided the notary acts of land purchase for the land corresponding to evidence 3 to 31.

The Flemish Nature and Forest Agency (*Agentshap voor Natuur en Bos - ANB*) has provided the notary acts of land purchase for the land presented in evidence 2 and 31 to 53.

… (Approximately 1 000 hectares)

The total sum of the land purchased by the two agencies adds up to 1 034.189 hectares (evidence 2 to 53), which is approximately 1 000 hectares. The summary of hectares purchased by the two Flemish Agencies per evidence is detailed in the table below:

Evidence	**Total per evidence**	**Total per project**

M42_A_1	154.185	154.185
M42_B_1	2.1462	11.1262
M42_B_2	8.98	
M42_C_1	8.3785	91.6103
M42_C_2	10.0584	
M42_C_3	0.6514	
M42_C_5	1.5964	
M42_C_6	2.0436	
M42_C_7	0.3392	
M42_C_8	24.5114	
M42_C_9	5.9288	
M42_C_10	1.5535	
M42_C_12	5.7	
M42_C_13	0.858	
M42_C_14	0.628	
M42_C_15	2.0188	
M42_C_17	1.734	
M42_C_18	0.843	
M42_C_19	1.4363	
M42_C_20	1.4567	
M42_C	3.542	

_21		
M42_C_26	3.2625	
M42_C_27	8.3345	
M42_C_29	0.2724	
M42_C_31	0.162	
M42_C_32	0.2542	
M42_C_34	3.6705	
M42_C_35	0.2387	
M42_C_36	2.1375	
M42_D_1	165.0395	777.2675
M42_D_2	52.0478	
M42_D_3	22.926	
M42_D_4	18.555	
M42_D_5	66.0308	
M42_D_6	16.8259	
M42_D_7	24.198	
M42_D_8	13.3267	
M42_D_9	34.4431	
M42_D_10	(enclosed in D_1)	
M42_D_11	23.6615	
M42_D_12	3.6326	

M42_D_13	13.9163	
M42_D_14	15.7706	
M42_D_15	15.2266	
M42_D_16	8.415	
M42_D_17	9.8756	
M42_D_19	96.6992	
M42_D_20	98.5271	
M42_D_21	13.2848	
M42_D_22	27.1305	
M42_D_23	11.895	
M42_D_24	25.8399	
	Total	**1034.189**

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 44 - Notification of award for public tenders

Related Measure: I-2.01 - Cybersecure and resilient digital society

Qualitative Indicator: Written notification of awards sent to successful candidates

Time: Q2 2024

1. Context:

This measure aims at strengthening cyber capabilities of SMEs and self-employed through cybersecurity awareness raising campaigns, a website, offering services such as a free cyberscan to quickly identify areas where cyber resilience may be improved and projects supporting SMEs in the field of cybersecurity such as exchanges of best practices; combating cyber criminality through targeted warnings of cyber vulnerabilities and IT infections for professional IT users (Be Guard), an online plug-in allowing visitors to identify the reliability of websites (Validated Web Sites), and an online questionnaire to evaluate cyber maturity of businesses as well as recommendations to increase their cyber resilience (Cyber Fundamentals); and combating phishing through updated and new anti-phishing platforms (StopPhishing).

Milestone 44 consists of the sending of the notification of awards for public tenders to successful candidates (i) by the Ministry of Economy for the delivery of the website that allows SMEs and self-employed to carry out a free cyber scan to quickly identify areas where cyber resilience may be improved, (ii) by the Ministry of Economy for a yearly cybersecurity awareness campaign targeted towards SMEs and self-employed, (iii) by the Centre for Cyber security for the delivery of an online plug-in allowing visitors to identify the reliability of websites, (iv) by the Centre for Cyber security for the delivery of a platform where larger SMEs may self-asses their cyber maturity based on an online survey; (v) by the Belgian federal telecommunications regulator for the implementation of an anti-phishing solution for emails, (vi) SMS, (vii) fraudulent calls and (viii) fraudulent signalisation messages in telecom operators infrastructure.

Milestone 44 is the third step of the implementation of the investment and will be followed by target 46 related to the deployment of tools available for the general public aimed at increasing cyber resilience capabilities, and milestone 48 related to the enhancement of the cyber resilience capabilities of the Ministry of Defence. It follows the completion of milestone 45 related to the delivery of a cybersecurity awareness campaign targeted towards SMEs and self-employed on cyber resilience risks and the deployment of a website, and milestone 47 related to the implementation and putting into force of a global cybersecurity governance framework.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation in the second quarter of 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[44]_2025_02_24___Belgium_4th_Payment_request_BE_CC21_II_201_T44_CN__2025_03_27_.docx	Cover note of the 24 February 2025 for the Ministry of economy public tender awards
	BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-	Cover note of the 26 March 2025 for the

	T[44]_Belgium_4th_Payment_request_BE_CC21_II_201_T44_CN_SPF02_CCB (1).docx	Centre for Cyber security Belgium (CCB) public tender awards
	BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[44]_Avis_de_publication.pdf	Call for public tender to deliver (i) a website and (ii) a communication campaign for the project 'Increasing the cyber-resilience of SMEs and the self-employed people', dated from 14 July 2022
	BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[44]_Bon_de_commande_Ogilvy_Social_Lab.pdf	Notification of public tender award by the Ministry of Economy to deliver (i) a website and (ii) a communication campaign, dated from 7 November 2022
	BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[44]_D_cision_motiv_e_d_attribution.pdf	Motivation by the Ministry of Economy of the decision regarding the public tender award to deliver (i) a website and (ii) a communication campaign, dated from 17 October 2022
	Award_notice__CCBPPM2024_001__DevOps_Team.pdf	Notification of public tender award by the Centre for Cyber security for (iii) the delivery of an online plug-in, dated from 26 August 2024
	WZ_CCB_SOW_extension_architecure redesign .pdf	Report detailing technical features of (iii) the selected online plug-in solution, dated from 21 May 2024
	CSC_DevOps Team 2024 (25 mars 2024).pdf BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[44]_CSC_DevOps_Team_2024__25_mars_2024_.pdf	Framework agreement by the Centre for Cyber security of 2024 for (iii) the delivery of an online plug-in
	BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[44]_BSM_40858_SoW_for_Business__sign__.pdf	Acceptance letter signed by the Chancellery of the Prime minister on 14 December 2021 for (iv) the delivery of a platform where larger SMEs may self-assess their cyber maturity based on an online survey
	4500797837_PO (SoW4Business Web-portal).pdf	Order form for the project (iv) Safe on Web for Business, dated from 14 February 2022
	Avis IF_SoW for Business Web portal (YL.2021.195)_ (003).pdf	Letter from the Centre for cybersecurity to the General Financial Inspection for (iv) the delivery of a platform where

		larger SMEs may self-assess their cyber maturity based on an online survey, dated from 18 November 2021
	BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[44]_iO_Safeonweb_work_Survey_Report_Final_31012023.pdf	Presentation of the selected project (iv) 'Safe on Web for Business', dated from 27 January 2023
	BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[44]_I201008_Appel___candidature___Stop_Phishing_Phase_2_Email.pdf	Call for public tender by the Centre for Cybersecurity and the and the Belgian telecommunications regulator for the implementation of an anti-phishing solution for (v) emails, for the project implementation period 2023-2024
	BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[44]_I201008_Stop_Phishing_Phase_2_email_Royal_Decree.pdf	Notification of award of the public tender for the implementation of an anti-phishing solution for (v) emails through Article 1 of the Royal Decree of 23 May 2023
	BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[44]_I201008_Appel___candidature___Stop_Phishing_Phase_1_SMS.pdf	Call for public tender by the Centre for Cybersecurity and the and the Belgian telecommunications regulator for the implementation of an anti-phishing solution for (vi) SMS, for the project implementation period 2022-2023
	BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[44]_I201008_Stop_Phishing_Phase_1_SMS_Royal_Decree.pdf	Notification of award of the public tender for the implementation of an anti-phishing solution for (vi) SMS through Article 1 of the Royal Decree of 10 November 2022
	BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[44]_I201008_Appel___candidature___Stop_Phishing_phase_3_et_4_call___signaling.pdf	Call for public tender by the Centre for Cybersecurity and the and the Belgian telecommunications regulator for the implementation of an anti-phishing solution for (vii) fraudulent calls and (viii) fraudulent signalling messages in telecom operators infrastructure, for the project implementation period 2023-2024
	BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[44]_I201008_Stop_Phishing_Phase_3_4_Call___Signaling_Royal_Decree.pdf	Notification of award of the public tender for the implementation of an anti-phishing solution for (vii) fraudulent calls and (viii) fraudulent signalling messages in telecom operators infrastructure through Article 3 of the Royal Decree of 30 August 2023

	BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[44]_Cahier_des_charges_campagne_et_site_web.pdf	Technical specifications by the Ministry of Economy for a public tender with open procedure for the creation of a website and a communication campaign for the project "Increasing the cybersecurity resilience of SMEs and self-employed", 2022

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Notification of awards for public tenders (i) by the Ministry of Economy for the delivery of the website that allows SMEs and self-employed to carry out a free cyber scan to quickly identify areas where cyber resilience may be improved;

On 14 July 2022, the Federal Public Service (FPS) Economy, Small and Medium size Enterprises (SMEs), Middle classes and Energy (hereafter 'FPS Economy'), which is the Ministry of Economy in Belgium, published a call for a public tender to set up a project named 'Increasing the cyber-resilience of SMEs and the self-employed people' (*Augmentation de la cyber-résilience des PME et des indépendants*) (evidence no. 3). The objective of the public tender is to create a website and a communications campaign to increase the cyber-resilience of SMEs and self-employed people (evidence no. 3, p. 3).

On 11 November 2022, the FPS Economy notified the organisation Ogilvy Social Lab SA through an order form for their award for the public tender for the delivery of a website and communication campaign as part of the project 'increasing the cyber-resilience of SMEs and the self-employed people' (evidence no. 4, p. 1).

The FPS Economy motivated their decision to award the public tender to Ogilvy Social Lab in the letter of 17 October 2022 signed by the chairman of the executive committee of the FPS Economy (evidence no. 5, p. 5-7). The offer of Ogilvy Social Lab aims at enabling SMEs and self-employed individuals to perform a cyber scan to identify areas to enhance cyber resilience (evidence no. 5, p. 6-7). The cyber scan is free and the website to perform it is publicly available in French at: https://mapmecybersecurisee.be/ and in Dutch at: https://mijnzaakcyberveilig.be/.

(ii) by the Ministry of Economy for a yearly cybersecurity awareness campaign targeted towards SMEs and self-employed;

As mentioned in the paragraph above, on 11 November 2022, the FPS Economy notified the organisation Ogilvy Social Lab through an order form of their award of the public tender for the delivery of a website and yearly communication campaign as part of the project "increasing the cyber-resilience of SMEs and the self-employed people" (evidence no. 4, p. 1, and evidence no. 19, p. 26).

Regarding the awarded public tender, the motivated decision of 17 October 2022 of the FPS Economy mentions that the yearly communication campaign of Ogilvy Social Lab consists of a cybersecurity awareness campaign for SMEs and self-employed people. It is based on the figure of a hacker and uses various communication channels and tools to raise cybersecurity awareness like interactive posts on social networks (polls, fake job ads, etc.), influencers, videos or posters (evidence no. 5, p. 6).

The milestone is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which mentions that**, with respect to the tenders by the Ministry of Economy for (1) the delivery of the website that allows SMEs and self-employed to carry out a free cyber scan to quickly identify areas where cyber resilience may be improved; and (2) a yearly cybersecurity awareness campaign targeted towards SMEs and self-employed [i.e. the first two tenders listed in the description of the Target as included in the CID Annex]: -one public tender with two separate lots is considered as equivalent to two separate public tenders;**

The tender to set up a project named 'Increasing the cyber-resilience of SMEs and the self-employed people' (*Augmentation de la cyber-résilience des PME et des indépendants*) issued by the Ministry of Economy contains both lots (i) the delivery of the website that allows SMEs and self-employed to carry out a free cyber scan to quickly identify areas where cyber resilience may be improved and (ii) a yearly cybersecurity awareness campaign targeted towards SMEs and self-employed. The two lots were awarded to the company Ogilvy Social Lab. This was notified by the FPS Economy on 11 November 2022. I

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the investment consists of measures to (1) strengthen cyber capabilities of SMEs and self-employed through cybersecurity awareness raising campaigns, a website, offering services such as a free cyberscan to quickly identify areas where cyber resilience may be improved and projects supporting SMEs in the field of cybersecurity such as exchanges of best practices.**

As explained in the paragraph above, the investment consists of the realisation of a website and a communication campaign to increase the cyber-resilience of SMEs and self-employed, as described in the technical specifications of the public tender n. 2022/75080/E5 issued by the Ministry of Economy (evidence no. 19). The technical specifications require that the website refers to the "Cyberscan", which is an auto-evaluation tool launched in March 2022 by the Ministry of Economy that allows SMEs and self-employed to evaluate the cyber-risks of their enterprises, as well as tailored suggestions to enhance their cybersecurity. The technical specifications also require that website includes content developed through different call for projects that aim to support and assists SMEs in increasing their cybersecurity, through organisational and technical measures, training, professional guidance (evidence no. 19). The requirements relating to a yearly cybersecurity awareness campaign and the realisation of the website, offering services such as a free cyberscan, have been positively assessed with milestone 45 of the second payment request.

(iii) by the Centre for Cyber security for the delivery of an online plug-in allowing visitors to identify the reliability of websites;

The Centre for Cyber security notified the organisation WebstanZ of their award for the delivery of an online plug-in allowing visitors to identify the reliability of websites through an email of 26 August 2024 (evidence no. 6). The online plug-in is an internet browser extension that measures the level of trust of a website. A score representing the level of reliability is calculated through different criteria. The final score of a website returns a colour representing the level of reliability: green (reliable), orange (at risk) and red (malicious) (evidence no. 7, p. 28-30).

The milestone is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which requires that **the notification of the award of the public tender in the context of an existing framework agreement (for which a public tender procedure has been organised) is considered as equivalent to the notification of the award of the public tender.**

The notification of the award to the organization WebstanZ takes place within the existing framework agreement named 'Devops Team' with reference CCB/PPM2024-001 (evidence no. 8, p.6). The framework agreement aims at the development of software according to the AGILE DevOps principle. It takes place between the Centre for Cybersecurity and WebstanZ, which was notified on 26 August 2024 (evidence no. 6). Consequently, the notification of the award in the context of the framework agreement 'Devops Team' is considered as equivalent to the notification of the award of a public tender.

(iv) by the Centre for Cyber security for the delivery of a platform where larger SMEs may self-assess their cyber maturity based on an online survey;

On 14 December 2021, the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, under which the Centre for Cyber Security operates, notified in a letter the non-profit organization SMALS for the award of a mission to develop the 'Safe on web for business' application (evidence no. 9, p.2-4). The contract award was issued on 14 February 2022 by the FPS Policy and Support (BOSA) to develop the platform 'safe on web for business' (evidence no. 10). The platform of the project safe on web for business is named Safeonweb@work. It allows SMEs of less than 250 employees and companies of more than 250 employees to self-assess their cyber maturity based on online survey. Specifically, one of the features of the platform is an online questionnaire designed to evaluate a maturity level of a company in cybersecurity. This questionnaire enables businesses to compare themselves with similar organizations and provides an overview of potential impacts and practical recommendations to address identified gaps (evidence no. 12). The platform is publicly available at https://atwork.safeonweb.be

The Council Implementing Decision required the notification of award for a public tender by the Centre for Cyber security. However, the notification of award has been issued by the Chancellery of the Prime Minister. Whilst this constitutes a minimal formal deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, it does not affect the progress towards the achievement of the milestone, as the Centre for Cyber Security operates under the authority of the Prime Minister. As of this, this minimal deviation does not affect the progress towards achieving the investment that the milestone represents. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled. Additionally, the Council Implementing Decision required the notification of award for a public tender. No public tender was issued for the award to the non-profit organization SMALS. Whilst this constitutes a minimal formal deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, in a letter to the General Financial inspection authorities from 18 November 2021, the Center for Cybersecurity used the possibility provided for in Article 30, §3, of the law of 17 June 2016 regarding public tenders (evidence no. 11), where under a set of conditions, a public contracting authority does not need to go through a public tender. After consulting the General Financial Inspection, the Chancellery of the Prime Minister invoked this law (evidence no. 11, p. 3). As of this, this minimal deviation does not affect the progress towards achieving the investment that the milestone represents. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

(v) by the Belgian federal telecommunications regulator for the implementation of an anti-phishing solution for emails,

The Stop Phishing project aims to detect and block phishing and fraud attempts on telecoms networks by introducing anti-phishing and anti-fraud platforms with Belgian telecoms operators and internet service providers, in close collaboration with the Centre for Cybersecurity Belgium and the Belgian telecommunications regulator (BIPT).

The Stop Phishing project is divided into four parts: (v) anti-phishing for e-mails (vi) an anti-phishing component for SMS, (vii) an anti-fraud platform for machine-generated phone calls and (viii) the detection of fraudulent signalling messages in mobile networks (evidences no. 13, 15 and 17).

The Belgian federal telecommunications regulator notified the award of the public tender "Stop Phishing e-mail" (evidence no. 13) to implement an anti-phishing solution for emails in telecom operators through Article 1 of the Royal Decree of 23 May 2023 (evidence no. 14, p. 3).

The solution consists of an anti-phishing and anti-fraud platform blocking SMS messages. The aim of the project is to significantly reduce the number of fraudulent e-mail messages received by users. Two telecommunication operators (Proximus and Telenet) were selected in Article 3 of the Royal Decree of 23 May 2023 (evidence no. 14, p. 3).

(vi) [by the Belgian federal telecommunications regulator for the implementation of an anti-phishing solution for] SMS,

The Belgian federal telecommunications regulator notified the award of a public tender "Stop phishing SMS" (evidence no. 15) to implement an anti-phishing solution for SMS in telecom operators through Article 1 of the Royal Decree of 10 November 2022 (evidence no. 16, p. 3).

The solution consists of a platform blocking emails messages. The objective of the project is to significantly reduce the number of fraudulent SMS messages (and eventually MMS) received by mobile users. Two telecommunication operators (Proximus and Telenet) were selected in Article 3 of the Royal Decree of 10 November 2022 (evidence no. 16, p. 4).

(vii) [by the Belgian federal telecommunications regulator for the implementation of an anti-phishing solution for] fraudulent calls and (viii) fraudulent signalisation messages in telecom operators infrastructure.

The Belgian federal telecommunications regulator notified the award of a public tender "Stop phishing appel et signalisation" (evidence no. 17) to implement an anti-phishing solution for fraudulent calls and fraudulent signalization messages in telecom operators through Article 1 of the Royal Decree of 30 August 2023 (evidence no. 18, p. 3).

The solution consists of a platform blocking fraudulent calls and signalisation messages. It aims at reducing the number of fraudulent voice calls received by users. Two telecommunication operators (Proximus and Telenet) were selected in Art. 3 of the Royal Decree of 30 August 2023 (evidence no. 18, p. 4).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 46 - Instruments to increase cyber resilience available to the general public

Related Measure: I-2.01 - Cybersecure and resilient digital society

Quantitative Indicator: Number of Instruments

Baseline: 0

Target: 4

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

This measure aims at strengthening cyber capabilities of SMEs and self-employed through cybersecurity awareness raising campaigns, a website, offering services such as a free cyberscan to quickly identify areas where cyber resilience may be improved and projects supporting SMEs in the field of cybersecurity such as exchanges of best practices; combating cyber criminality through targeted warnings of cyber vulnerabilities and IT infections for professional IT users, an online plug-in allowing visitors to identify the reliability of websites, and an online questionnaire to evaluate cyber maturity of businesses as well as recommendations to increase their cyber resilience, and combating phishing through updated and new anti-phishing platforms.

Target 46 consists of four tools aimed at increasing cyber resilience capabilities made available to the general public.

Target 46 is the fourth step of the implementation of the investment and will be followed by milestone 48 related to the enhancement of the cyber resilience capabilities of the Ministry of Defence. It follows the completion of milestone 45 related to the delivery of a cybersecurity awareness campaign targeted towards SMEs and self-employed on cyber resilience risks and the deployment of a website, milestone 47 related to the implementation and putting into force of a global cybersecurity governance framework, and target 44 related to the sending of the notification of awards for eight public tenders to successful candidates. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in the second quarter of 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[46]_Belgium_4th_Payment_request_BE_CC21_II_201_T46_CN_SPF02_CCB_v2.docx	Cover note from 25 March 2025. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled with respect to actions falling within the remit of the French Community authorities
	Cetificate of completion I201005 BeGuard V2.pdf	Certificate of completion of the tool BeGuard on 26 February 2025
	Cetificate of completion I201005 Cyber Fundamentals v2.pdf	Certificate of completion of the tool Cyber fundamentals, signed by the Director-General of the Centre for Cybersecurity of Belgium on 26 February 2025

	Cetificate of completion I201005 Validated Web Sites v2.pdf	Certificate of completion of the tool Validated web Sites, signed by the Director-General of the Centre for Cybersecurity of Belgium on 26 February 2025
	BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[46]_Cetificate_of_completion_I201008_Stop_Phishing.pdf Cetificate of completion I201008 Stop Phishing v2.pdf	Certificate of completion of the tool Stop Phishing, signed by the Director-General of the Centre for Cybersecurity of Belgium on 26 February 2025
	BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[46]_I201008_Stop_Phishing_Phase_1_SMS_Proximus_Delivery_Report.pdf BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[46]_I201008_Stop_Phishing_Phase_1_SMS_Telenet_Delivery_Report.pdf BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[46]_I201008_Stop_Phishing_Phase_2_email_Proximus_Delivery_Report.pdf BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[46]_I201008_Stop_Phishing_Phase_2_email_Telenet_Delivery_Report.pdf BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[46]_I201008_Stop_Phishing_Phase_3_4_call___signaling_email_Proximus_Delivery_Report.pdf BE-C[C21]-I[I-201]-T[46]_I201008_Stop_Phishing_Phase_3_4_call___signaling_email_Telenet_Delivery_Report.pdf	Delivery reports for the four phases of the StopPhishing tool by Belgian telecommunication operators Proximus and Telenet, delivered in 2024.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Four tools aimed at increasing cyber resilience capabilities are available to the general public

Four set of tools aimed at increasing cyber resilience capabilities have been developed and made available to the general public. These tools are (i) BeGuard (integrated into 'Safeonweb@work'), (ii) Safeonweb Browser Extension, (iii) a self-assessment tool and Quick Scan Report (integrated into Safeonweb@work') and (iv) StopPhishing. The Safeonweb@work platform centralises a set of complementary cyber security tools.

In line with the description of the measure**, the investment consists of measures to (…) (2) combat cyber criminality through targeted warnings of cyber vulnerabilities and IT infections for professional IT users**

The first set of tools, "BeGuard", aims at strengthening the cybersecurity of Belgian companies and organisations by providing them with advice, recommendations and tools via various services, enabling them to identify and mitigate the vulnerabilities of their IT systems, and to be alerted to cyberthreats. The services, destined to ensure cybersecurity for people using IT systems in their work, are centralised on the Safeonweb@work platform, where any organisation and company in Belgium registered at the Crossroads Bank for Enterprise with a legal representative can register on the platform.

A certificate of completion was signed by the Managing Director of the Centre for Cyber security Belgium on 26 February 2025 (evidence no. 2). The tool is made publicly available at https://atwork.safeonweb.be/. The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 26 May 2025 to verify that the link is functional and links to the tool described above. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the link is functional and the tool operational.

In line with the description of the measure**, the investment consists of (…) an online plug-in allowing visitors to identify the reliability of websites**

The second tool, the "Safeonweb Browser Extension" (also referred to as "Validated Web Sites") is an Internet browser extension (an online plug-in tool) that measures the level of reliability for a visited website. For every visited website, it shows if the owner (of the website) has been validated (Green) or not (Amber). Known malicious or insecure websites are marked as red (evidence no. 3).

A certificate of completion was signed by the Managing Director of the Centre for Cyber security Belgium on 26 February 2025 (evidence no. 3) The tool is publicly available at: https://chromewebstore.google.com/detail/safeonweb-browser-extensi/amialdekbcegcahjcfecabnfcpomibdc. The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 26 May 2025 to verify that the link is functional and links to the tool described above. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the link is functional and the tool operational.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure**, the investment consists of (…) an online questionnaire to evaluate cyber maturity of businesses as well as recommendations to increase their cyber resilience.**

The 'Cyber fundamentals' project aims to provide tools to help companies and organisation in Belgium to assess their level of maturity and vulnerability in terms of cybersecurity as well as providing concrete functional and technical recommendations to improve their cybersecurity. It consists of a 'Self-Assessment' tool, the third set of

tools, where companies and organisation in Belgium may self-assess their cyber maturity based on an online survey, and a 'Quick Scan Report' that aims to provide automated risk assessment reports to assist companies and organisations in identifying and reducing potential cybersecurity risks linked to IT vulnerabilities. Both tools are incorporated in the Safeonweb@work platform in order to provide a consistent ecosystem of cybersecurity services to companies and organisations in Belgium (evidence no. 4).

A certificate of completion was signed by the Managing Director of the Centre for Cyber security Belgium on 26 February 2025 (evidence no. 4). The Self-Assessment tool is publicly available at: https://atwork.safeonweb.be/tools-resources/self-assessment and the Quick Scan report at: https://atwork.safeonweb.be/protect-my-organisation/quick-scan-report. The resources for recommendations are also publicly available at: https://atwork.safeonweb.be/tools-resources. The Commission services accessed the links provided by the authorities on 26 May 2025 to verify that the links are functional and link to the tools described above. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the links are functional and the tools operational.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure**, the investment consists of measures to (3) combat phishing through updated and new anti-phishing platforms**

The fourth set of tools, StopPhishing, aims to detect and block phishing, and fraud attempts on telecommunications networks thanks to the introduction of anti-phishing and anti-fraud platforms within Belgian telecommunications operators. The anti-phishing project was divided in 4 phases: text messages, emails, fraudulent calls and finally fraudulent signalling message in mobile network.

A certificate of completion of the tool implementation was signed by the Managing Director of the Centre for Cyber security Belgium on 26 February 2025 (evidence no. 5). The tool is publicly available, as attested by the delivery reports of the Belgian telecommunication operators Telenet and Proximus, for the four phases of the project (evidence no. 6).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 47 - Global cybersecurity governance framework within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Related Measure: I-2.01 - Cybersecure and resilient digital society

Qualitative Indicator: Global cybersecurity governance framework within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs implemented

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

This measure aims to strengthen cyber capabilities of SMEs and self-employed, combat cyber criminality, combat phishing, introduce a global cybersecurity governance framework within the Foreign Affairs Department, and offer cyber resilience services to the Belgian public at large.

The milestone consists of the implementation of a global cybersecurity governance framework based on ISO27001 norms within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Milestone 47 is the second milestone of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 45 related to the delivery of a cybersecurity awareness campaign targeted towards SMEs and self-employed on cyber resilience risks and the deployment of a website. It will be followed by milestone 44 related to the notification of award for eight public tenders for various services in the area of cybersecurity under this investment, target 46 related to the deployment of tools available for the general public aimed at increasing cyber resilience capabilities, and milestone 48 related to the enhancement of the cyber resilience capabilities of the Ministry of Defence. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in the second quarter of 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including the relevant elements of the milestone, as listed in the description of milestone and of the corresponding measure in the CID annex) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Procès-verbal of the Executive Committee 'be-c-c21-i-i-201-m-47-eu-rrf-milestone-47-evidence-1-pv-dircom-2022-12-02-iso27001-confidential-67b5defd98b00'	Document, dated 2 December 2022 and signed by the President of the Executive Committee of the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (hereafter referred to as "FPS Foreign Affairs"), records the Executive Committee's approval of the choice of ISO27001 standard for the framework for cybersecurity.

3	Summary Report: ISO27001 : 2022 Gap Analysis 'be-c-c21-i-i-201-m-47-ocd-iso-27001-gap-analysis-fodbuza-eu-usage-final-pve-v0-4-confidential-67b5defd953d4'	Summary Report, dated 4 December 2023 and produced by Orange Cyberdefense, summarises the assessment of the cybersecurity position in reference to the ISO27001 norms within FPS Foreign Affairs.
4	Organisation ISMS: Roles and Responsibilites 'doc-sec-001-nl-organisatie-isms-rollen-en-verantwoordelijkheden-v1-0-redacted-682deb78f3ea2'	This document was produced by ICT2, ICT0 and Chief Information Security Officer (CISO). It was approved by the ICT Directeur-General, the Head of Unit ICT2 Security and CISO, with the final approval on 27 September 2024. It is based on ISO27001 and establishes roles, responsibilities and powers for information security.
5	Overview of the cybersecurity governance integration at FPS Foreign Affairs Belgium '202504-cybersecurity-framework-at-fps-fa-be-confidential-682deb5d63792'	This document, dated 5 May 2025 and produced by the Head of Cybersecurity Service within FPS Foreign Affairs, outlines the necessary steps for implementing changes to the ICT environment while establishing the governance framework.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

A global cybersecurity governance framework based on ISO27001 norms, is implemented within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ISO27001 norms represent international standard for Information Security Management System (ISMS), and a tool to manage cybersecurity risks. The Executive Committee of the FPS Foreign Affairs confirmed the choice to adopt ISO27001 standards for the cybersecurity framework within FPS Foreign Affairs (evidence No. 2).

A summary report of 4 December 2023 (evidence No. 3), produced by Orange Cyberdefense, an independent expert cyber security business concludes that the standard framework for the information security within FPS Foreign Affairs is ISO27001 (Section 3.5, page 8).

In the FPS Foreign Affairs, the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders are defined based on ISO27001 (evidence No. 4), requiring that roles, responsibilities and authorities for ISMS are defined, thereby establishing a structured governance framework for effective cybersecurity management. The governance framework includes:

- A Management Committee, which, among others, defines the organisation's direction in the area of information security, promotes a culture of information security adapted to the business objectives, provides the resources and validates the objectives.
- A Safety Management Assessment Team (SMaRT), which ensures the implementation of the obligations of the NIS2 Directive, ensures compliance with the ISO 27001 standard with a focus on information security aspects, reports to the Management Committee on the effectiveness and performance of the ISMS, represents the Management Committee in the approval and validation of policies, takes note of the information security risks agreed to their consideration and made proposals to the Management Committee in this regard, looks forward to continuous improvement of ISMS..
- An Information Security Officer (CISO), which is responsible for the successful implementation of the ISMS, oversees Information security risk assessment and risk treatment, reports to the management review team on the effectiveness and performance of the ISMS, monitors compliance with ISO27001 requirements.
- An Information Security Governance Manager (ICT2.0), who is responsible for developing and maintaining the ISMS framework and documentation, coordinates risk analysis and risk treatment, manages security controls, reports to the CISO on the effectiveness and performance of the ISMS.
- An Information Security Risk Manager (ICT2.0) is responsible for the identification and analysis of information security risks and defines mitigation measures and follows up on their implementation.
- An Enterprise Risk Manager is responsible for identifying and analysing business-wide risks and defines mitigation measures and follows up on their implementation.
- An Auditor: Stategy and Management, who is responsible for carrying out internal audits and coordinates and follows up external audits.
- A Staff Organisation involves the management of buildings and human resources management.

In addition, the operational documentation must be in line with the ISO27001-based policies created by FPS Foreign Affairs' ISMS-team, which creates or updates, in collaboration with the stakeholders listed above, the cybersecurity policies which apply to the entire organization (evidence No. 5).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 51 - All Public Institute for Social Security (IPSS) communications are digital and data is centralized / consolidated

Related Measure: I-2.04 - 'Digitalisation IPSS, sub-measure 2: Digital account management for each company' of the Federal State

Quantitative Indicator: %

Baseline: 0

Target: 100

Time: Q2 2024

1. Context:

This measure aims at the acceleration of the digitalisation of the public social security institutions. The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 31 August 2026. It consists of three sub-measures. Sub-measure 2, under which target 51 falls, shall make it possible to digitalise financial flows between social security and businesses and potential financial intermediaries and service providers. Their overhaul and the establishment of an integrated, efficient, evolving and high-quality information system is essential for the digitalisation and opening up of employers' accounts.

Target 51 consists of the 100% digitalisation of communication between the Public Institute for Social Security (IPSS) and the employers in terms of the billing/payment. The National Social Security Office (RSZ/ONSS) billing system is integrated in the Pan-European Public Procurement On-Line (PEPPOL) network.

Target 51 is the only target of the investment relating to sub-measure 2. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in the second quarter of 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including the relevant elements of the target, as listed in the description of target and of the corresponding measure in the CID annex) was satisfactorily fulfilled
	Programme definition document 'be-c-c22-i-i-204-t-51-fed-20211119-digicore-pdd-jevo-v1-0-67e3c128378e5.pdf'	This document, dated 20 January 2022 and emitted by the Belgian non-profit ICT organisation SMALS ICT for society, defines the objectives and context for the DigiCoRe programme. It covers, among others, the scope of the changes, the vision, stakeholders. Organisation structure and a roadmap.
	Pre-project request 'be-c-c22-i-i-204-t-51-fed-20220216-ppr-facturation-digitale-sew-v0-5-67e3c1282fee3'	This document, dated 19 January 2022 and emitted by the Belgian non-profit ICT organisation SMALS ICT for society, defines the scope and schedule of the business analysis carried out.

	Project brief 'be-c-c22-i-i-204-t-51-fed-20220411-pb-digicore-facturation-digitale-ansp-0-1-67e3c1282c523'	This document, dated 11 April 2022 and emitted by the Belgian non-profit ICT organisation SMALS ICT for society, provides an overview of the steps required to draft the Project Initiation Document, which will define the first stage of the project and the start of development ativities, as well as to outline the subsequent stages at a high level.
	Project Initiation Documentation 'be-c-c22-i-i-204-t-51-fed-20230404-digicore-facturation-digitale-pid-albe-v08-67e3c127df67f'	This document, dated 17 May 2023 and emitted by the Belgian non-profit ICT organisation SMALS ICT for society, provides among others the definition of the project, its scope, stakeholders, benefits and risks.
	List of digitalised documents 'be-c-c22-i-i-204-t-51-fed-digicore-liste-definitive-des-documents-et-date-67e3c1282907d'	This document is an extract, dated 17 July 2024, of RSZ/ONSS' routing system (called DSP). It lists the digitalised documents and the respective date of digitalisation.
	Statistics on the documents shared between December 2023 and May 2024 'be-c-c22-i-i-204-t-51-fed-digicore-liste-des-documents-et-compta-67e3c127d46e3'	This document provides statistics extracted from RSZ/ONSS' routing system (called DSP) counting digital (xml and pdf) and paper consignments of all digitalised documents sent between December 2023 and May 2024.
	PV of the meeting Smals/ONSS '20240618-digicore-programmeboard-jalon-juin-2024-pv-pptx-read-only-682c706d2ad26'	*Procès-verbal* of the meeting between the Belgian non-profit ICT organisation SMALS ICT for society and RSZ/ONSS on 18 June 2024, signed by the representatives of both institutions. This document concludes the digitalisation of 100% of communications in terms of billing/payment has been implemented, and the ONSS billing system integrated in PEPPOL.
	Report of the Inspectorate of Finance 'be-c-c22-i-i-204-t-51-fed-240812-rsz-099-rrf-digicore-67e3c12842139'	Report, dated 12 August 2024 and produced by the Inspectorate of Finance, provides its remarks and conclusion regarding the fulfilment of the project.

	Cooperation agreement between SMALS and RSZ/ONSS "Bijzondere samenwerkingsmodaliteiten Ref.: 2021-RSZ-80178-Europees Relanceplan Digicore" 'bsm-digi-2021-20231026-682c706dbb9ab'	Copy of the cooperation agreement between the Belgian non-profit ICT organisation SMALS ICT for society and RSZ/ONSS covering the works done in 2021, dated 4 October 2023.
	Cooperation agreement between SMALS and RSZ/ONSS "Bijzondere samenwerkingsmodaliteiten Ref.: 2022/RSZ/80224/V1.0/Europese Projects 2022" 'bsm20220515-euprojecten-682c706e42686'	Copy of the cooperation agreement between the Belgian non-profit ICT organisation SMALS ICT for society and RSZ/ONSS covering the works done in 2022, dated 17 May 2022.
	Cooperation agreement between SMALS and RSZ/ONSS "Bijzondere samenwerkingsmodaliteiten Ref.: 2023/RSZ/80261/DEF/V1.0/ Europese Projects 2023" '2023bsm321-2023-rsz-onss-80261-def-v1-0-europese-projecten-2023-def-682c706d74b8e'	Copy of the cooperation agreement between the Belgian non-profit ICT organisation SMALS ICT for society and RSZ/ONSS covering the works done in 2023, dated 10 March 2023.
	Cooperation agreement between SMALS and RSZ/ONSS "Bijzondere samenwerkingsmodaliteiten Ref.: 2024/RSZ/85011/DEF/V1.0 /Europese Projecten 2024" 'bsm-85011-europese-projecten-2024-682c706d515ca'	Copy of the cooperation agreement between the Belgian non-profit ICT organisation SMALS ICT for society and RSZ/ONSS covering the works done in 2024, dated 5 June 2024.
	Report test PEPPOL	This document, dated 16 June 2024, provides

	'be-c-c22-i-i-204-t-51-fed-rapport-de-test-peppol-en-acceptation-onss-comptes-projets-devolution-confluence-67e3c128342d4'	the technical requirements and conclusion of tests carried out to verify whether the RSZ/ONSS billing system is integrated in the PEPPOL network.
	Screenshots Mercurius	Document compiling screenshots of the Mercurius platform from February-March-April 2025, dated 24 June 2025 and signed by BOSA PEPPOL responsible.
	BOSA letter	Document, emitted by BOSA and signed by the BOSA General Director of Simplification and Digitalisation on 24 June 2026, stating that the RSZ/ONSS billing system is integrated into PEPPOL.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

100% of communication between Public Institute for Social Security (IPSS) and the employers in terms of the billing/payment are digitalised.

The Council Implementing Decision states that 100% of communication in terms of the billing/payment is digitalised between the Public Institute for Social Security (IPSS) and employers. The Council Implementing Decision also states that the National Social Security Office (RSZ/ONSS) billing system is integrated in the Pan-European Public Procurement On-Line (PEPPOL) network. The Recovery and Resilience Plan provides that exchanges and communication regarding employer accounts with, among others, employers, and other partners of the RSZ/ONSS, are digitalised (page 166 of the Recovery and Resilience Plan). In light of the contextual interpretation of this requirement from the Council Implementing Decision, the IPSS responsible for social contributions and related communication in terms of the billing/payment is RSZ/ONSS. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the target is satisfactorily fulfilled.

A business analysis was carried out by SMALS ICT for society to identify the documents that need to be digitalised, the design for the solution supporting the digitalisation, functional requirements and determination of the roadmap (evidence No. 3). SMALS ICT for society is a Belgian non-profit ICT organisation dedicated to supporting public institutions in the fields of social security, healthcare and broader e-government initiatives. SMALS ICT for society has been tasked by the RSZ/ONSS to provide support in matters of IT management and related issues for European projects (evidences No. 10, 11, 12 and 13). The cooperation agreement between SMALS and RSZ/ONSS covers four RRP projects, including I-2.04: 'Digitalisation IPSS, sub-measure 2: Digital account management for each company'. The cooperation agreements between SMALS ICT for society and RSZ/ONSS were concluded on a yearly basis between 2021 and 2024 (evidences No. 10, 11, 12 and 13).

A set of 70 documents potentially subject to digitalisation has been initially defined by SMALS ICT for Society (evidence No. 5). Finally, a number of 63 documents, net of withdrawals, to digitalise has been established by RSZ/ONSS and SMALS ICT for society (evidence No. 6) and digitalised (evidence No. 8), representing a rate of 100% of digitalisation of communication between the RSZ/ONSS and employers in terms of billing/ payment. Documents are sent to employers (either via an 'Secrétariats Sociaux Agrées' (hereinafter referred to as "SSA") or directly to the employer via a routing system (so-called "DSP") which determines whether the document should be placed in an XML file for a SSA or in a message to the employer. In the first case, an XML file is created, which gathers documents for different employers managed by the same SSA, this SSA retrieves its XML files by SSH FILE Transfer Protocol (so-called "sFTP"). The latter is a secure network protocol that allows files to be transferred between two systems over an encrypted connection. In the second case, the document is placed directly in an email message sent in the employer's e-Box Enterprise (evidence No. 5). While 100% of communication between RSZ/ONSS and employers has been digitalised, the paper version is also sent in addition to the digital version if the employer did not activate the 'opt-in' option to receive the communication exclusively in a digital matter via e-Box Enterprise.

The *Procès-verbal* of the meeting between SMALS ICT for society and RSZ/ONSS on 18 June 2024, signed by the representatives of both institutions confirms that all documents in terms of payment/billing have been digitalised (evidence No. 8 page 4). In addition, the Inspectorate of Finance conducted a verification and confirmed that all relevant documents have been digitalised (evidence No. 9). In the verification report (evidence No. 9), the Inspectorate of Finance raised two points. One related to the fact that a majority of documents was not only sent electronically. RSZ/ONSS explained that as long as an employer has not explicitly confirmed their opt-in to use only their Enterprise EBOX, a duplicate paper mailing remains necessary to ensure the expected payment responses from the IPSS and to limit the risk of disputes from employers. All documents (except the one that will be phased out at the end of the year) are therefore digitalised. The second point referred to the fact that the proof evidencing the achievement of the requirements comes from internal documents and is therefore not confirmed by third parties. Belgium explained that there was no external audit as such, but weekly sending and reading statistics (evidence No. 7) are generated based on information from the EBOX Enterprise, for various business flows (and associated document types). Since the EBOX Enterprise is a system independent from that of RSZ/ONSS, these statistics are considered to validate those that have been provided.

The National Social Security Office (RSZ/ONSS) billing system is integrated in the Pan-European Public Procurement On-Line (PEPPOL) network.

PEPPOL stands for the Pan-European Public Procurement On-Line network, which was established by the European Union with the aim of generalising public e-procurement through the digitalisation of commercial transactions between public authorities and their suppliers (evidence No. 3).

The integration in the PEPPOL network involved the setting up of the necessary infrastructure to allow documents to be sent via this communication channel to employers.

Once the necessary connection between RSZ/ONSS systems and PEPPOL was established via the services provided by BOSA, a series of tests were conducted in the acceptance environment. An initial test of information exchange was carried out from the RSZ/ONSS (as Sender) to the RSZ/ONSS (as Receiver). A second information

exchange test was then carried out with two candidate companies *Provincie Limburg* and *Verviers Dépannage*, where a copy of the calls for provision that were sent to these companies at the beginning of June 2024 was used, in order to verify the proper functioning of this integration on real data and under conditions similar to production conditions. The positive conclusion of these tests evidences the technical connection "ONSS > PEPPOL > enterprise" is well established and has been operational since June 2024 (evidence No. 14). Thus, the integration of the RSZ/ONSS billing system in the PEPPOL network is effective and ready for use (evidence No. 14). In addition, BOSA, the PEPPOL authority in Belgium, confirmed the integration of the ONSS/RSZ billing system in the PEPPOL network via the Mercurius platform (evidences No. 15 and 16). The latter acts as Belgium's national hub for PEPPOL e-invoicing, ensuring secure and standardised delivery of invoices to public authorities.

RSZ/ONSS and SMALS concluded that the ONSS billing system is integrated in the PEPPOL network (evidence No. 8 page 5). In addition, the Inspectorate of Finance conducted a verification and concluded that the ONSS/RSZ billing system of is integrated in the PEPPOL network, for which no questions were raised (evidence No. 9).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the investment shall make it possible to digitalise financial flows between social security and businesses and potential financial intermediaries and service providers.**

The digitalisation of billing/payment related communications between RSZ/ONSS, a Public Institute for Social Security, and employers but also SSAs (which provide supports to employers in managing their social and administrative obligations in relation to social security) supports the digitalisation of financial flows between various stakeholders as it enables employers, SSAs or other stakeholders to receive automatically among other invoices or other documents (evidences No. 3 and 5). In addition, given that the integration in PEPPOL network enables a standardised, secure and automated exchange of financial and administrative documents, it lays the foundation for digitalised financial flows.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 77 - Entry into force of measures to simplify the online creation of a business

Related Measure: R-2.01: Simplification of administrative procedures

Qualitative Indicator: Publication in the Moniteur belge of the last legislative act assenting to the cooperation agreement including measures to enable the creation, modification and dissolution of business activities in full electronic format. Provisions indicating the entry into force of the laws and royal decrees gradually enabling the online creation, modification and dissolution of legal persons for all legal forms

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

This measure aims at administrative simplification notably by fully digitalising the procedures for the creation, modification and dissolution of business activities and legal persons.

The milestone consists of entry into force of measures to simplify the online creation of a business

Milestone 77 is the only milestone of the reform. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in the fourth quarter of 2023.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including the relevant elements of the milestone, as listed in the description of milestone and of the corresponding measure in the CID annex) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
	Publication in the Official Journal of the decree approving the cooperation agreement of 4 April 2024 between the Flemish Community, the Flemish Region, the French Community, the German-speaking Community, the Joint Community Commission, the French Community Commission, the Walloon Region, the Brussels-Capital Region, and the Federal State on the intergovernmental implementation of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 establishing a single digital gateway to provide access to information, procedures, and assistance and problem-solving services, and amending Regulation (EU) No	Copy of the decree approving the cooperation agreement by the Flemish Community/Region, published in the Official Journal on 11 June 2024. Link to the publication: http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/eli/decreet/2024/05/17/2024005648/staatsblad

	1024/2012 '*Décret portant assentiment à l'accord de coopération du 4 avril 2024 entre la Communauté flamande, la Région flamande, la Communauté française, la Communauté germanophone, la Commission communautaire commune, la Commission communautaire française, la Région wallonne, la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale et l'État fédéral sur l'exécution intergouvernementale du Règlement (UE) 2018/1724 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 2 octobre 2018 établissant un portail numérique unique pour donner accès à des informations, à des procédures et à des services d'assistance et de résolution de problèmes, et modifiant le Règlement (UE) n° 1024/2012*'. ("*hereinafter referred to as "decree approving the cooperation agreement by the Flemish Community/Region"*.)	
	Publication in the Official Journal of the decree approving the cooperation agreement of 4 April 2024 between the Flemish Community, the Flemish Region, the French Community, the German-speaking Community, the Joint Community Commission, the French Community Commission, the Walloon Region, the Brussels-Capital Region, and the Federal State on the intergovernmental implementation of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 establishing a single digital gateway to provide access to information, procedures, and assistance and problem-solving services, and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 '*Décret portant assentiment à l'accord de coopération du 4 avril 2024 entre la Communauté flamande, la Région flamande, la Communauté française, la Communauté germanophone, la Commission communautaire commune, la Commission*	Copy of the decree approving the cooperation agreement by the German-speaking Community, published in the Official Journal on 14 June 2024. Link to the publication: http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/eli/decret/2024/05/08/2024203039/moniteur

	communautaire française, la Région wallonne, la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale et l'État fédéral sur l'exécution intergouvernementale du Règlement (UE) 2018/1724 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 2 octobre 2018 établissant un portail numérique unique pour donner accès à des informations, à des procédures et à des services d'assistance et de résolution de problèmes, et modifiant le Règlement (UE) n° 1024/2012'. ("*hereinafter referred to as "decree approving the cooperation agreement by the German-speaking Community"*.)	
	Publication in the Official Journal of the decree approving the cooperation agreement between the Flemish Community, the Flemish Region, the French Community, the German-speaking Community, the Joint Community Commission, the French Community Commission, the Walloon Region, the Brussels-Capital Region, and the Federal State on the intergovernmental implementation of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 establishing a single digital gateway to provide access to information, procedures, and assistance and problem-solving services, and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012. '*Décret portant assentiment à l'accord de coopération entre la Communauté flamande, la Région flamande, la Communauté française, la Communauté germanophone, la Commission communautaire commune, la Commission communautaire française, la Région wallonne, la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale et l'Etat fédéral sur l'exécution intergouvernementale du Règlement (UE) 2018/1724 du parlement européen et du conseil du 2 octobre 2018 établissant un portail*	Copy of the decree approving the cooperation agreement by the French Community Commission, published in the Official Journal on 23 July 2024. Link to the publication: http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/eli/decret/2024/06/20/2024006507/moniteur

		numérique unique pour donner accès à des informations, à des procédures et à des services d'assistance et de résolution de problèmes et modifiant le Règlement (UE) n°1024/2012'. ("*hereinafter referred to as "decree approving the cooperation agreement by the French Community Commission"*.)	
		Publication in the Official Journal of the decrees approving the cooperation agreement of 4 April 2024 between the Flemish Community, the Flemish Region, the French Community, the German-speaking Community, the Joint Community Commission, the French Community Commission, the Walloon Region, the Brussels-Capital Region, and the Federal State on the intergovernmental implementation of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 establishing a single digital gateway to provide access to information, procedures, and assistance and problem-solving services, and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 '*Décret portant assentiment à l'accord de coopération du 4 avril 2024 entre la Communauté flamande, la Région flamande, la Communauté française, la Communauté germanophone, la Commission communautaire commune, la Commission communautaire française, la Région wallonne, la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale et l'État fédéral sur l'exécution intergouvernementale du Règlement (UE) 2018/1724 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 2 octobre 2018 établissant un portail numérique unique pour donner accès à des informations, à des procédures et à des services d'assistance et de résolution de problèmes, et modifiant le Règlement (UE) n° 1024/2012*'. ("*hereinafter referred to as "decree*	Copy of the decree approving the cooperation agreement by the Walloon Region, published in the Official Journal on 3 September 2024. Link to the publication: http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/eli/decret/2024/04/29/2024204458/moniteur

	approving the cooperation agreement by the Walloon Region".)	
	Publication in the Official Journal of the decree approving the cooperation agreement of 4 April 2024 between the Flemish Community, the Flemish Region, the French Community, the German-speaking Community, the Joint Community Commission, the French Community Commission, the Walloon Region, the Brussels-Capital Region, and the Federal State on the intergovernmental implementation of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 establishing a single digital gateway to provide access to information, procedures, and assistance and problem-solving services, and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 '*Décret portant assentiment à l'accord de coopération du 4 avril 2024 entre la Communauté flamande, la Région flamande, la Communauté française, la Communauté germanophone, la Commission communautaire commune, la Commission communautaire française, la Région wallonne, la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale et l'État fédéral sur l'exécution intergouvernementale du Règlement (UE) 2018/1724 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 2 octobre 2018 établissant un portail numérique unique pour donner accès à des informations, à des procédures et à des services d'assistance et de résolution de problèmes, et modifiant le Règlement (UE) n° 1024/2012*'. ("*hereinafter referred to as "decree approving the cooperation agreement by the Walloon Region"*.)	Copy of the decree approving the cooperation agreement by the Walloon Region, published in the Official Journal on 29 October 2024. Link to the publication: http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/eli/decret/2024/04/29/2024205333/moniteur
	Publication in the Official Journal of the decree approving the cooperation agreement of 4 April 2024 between the Flemish Community, the Flemish Region, the French Community, the	Copy of the decree approving the cooperation agreement by the joint Community Commission, published in the Official Journal on 26 September 2024.

		German-speaking Community, the Joint Community Commission, the French Community Commission, the Walloon Region, the Brussels-Capital Region, and the Federal State on the intergovernmental implementation of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 establishing a single digital gateway to provide access to information, procedures, and assistance and problem-solving services, and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 '*Ordonnance portant assentiment à l'accord de coopération du 4 avril 2024 entre la Communauté flamande, la Région flamande, la Communauté française, la Communauté germanophone, la Commission communautaire commune, la Commission communautaire française, la Région wallonne, la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale et l'État fédéral sur l'exécution intergouvernementale du Règlement (UE) 2018/1724 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 2 octobre 2018 établissant un portail numérique unique pour donner accès à des informations, à des procédures et à des services d'assistance et de résolution de problèmes, et modifiant le Règlement (UE) n° 1024/2012*'. ("*hereinafter referred to as "decree approving the cooperation agreement by the joint Community Commission"*.)	Link to the publication: http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/eli/ordonnance/2024/05/16/2024005059/moniteur
		Publication in the Official Journal of the decree approving the cooperation agreement of 4 April 2024 between the Flemish Community, the Flemish Region, the French Community, the German-speaking Community, the Joint Community Commission, the French Community Commission, the Walloon Region, the Brussels-Capital Region, and the Federal State on the intergovernmental implementation of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the	Copy of the decree approving the cooperation agreement by the French Community, published in the Official Journal on 17 April 2025. Link to the publication: https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2025/04/17_1.pdf#page=12

		European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 establishing a single digital gateway to provide access to information, procedures, and assistance and problem-solving services, and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 '*Décret portant assentiment à l'accord de coopération du 4 avril 2024 entre la Communauté flamande, la Région flamande, la Communauté française, la Communauté germanophone, la Commission communautaire commune, la Commission communautaire française, la Région wallonne, la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale et l'État fédéral sur l'exécution intergouvernementale du Règlement (UE) 2018/1724 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 2 octobre 2018 établissant un portail numérique unique pour donner accès à des informations, à des procédures et à des services d'assistance et de résolution de problèmes, et modifiant le Règlement (UE) n° 1024/2012*'. ("*hereinafter referred to as "decree approving the cooperation agreement by the French Community"*.)	
		Publication in the Official Journal of the decree approving the cooperation agreement of 4 April 2024 between the Flemish Community, the Flemish Region, the French Community, the German-speaking Community, the Joint Community Commission, the French Community Commission, the Walloon Region, the Brussels-Capital Region, and the Federal State on the intergovernmental implementation of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 establishing a single digital gateway to provide access to information, procedures, and assistance and problem-solving services, and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 '*Ordonnance portant*	Copy of the decree approving the cooperation agreement by the Brussels Capital Region, published in the Official Journal on 12 May 2025. Link to the publication: https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2025/05/12_1.pdf

		assentiment à l'accord de coopération du 4 avril 2024 entre la Communauté flamande, la Région flamande, la Communauté française, la Communauté germanophone, la Commission communautaire commune, la Commission communautaire française, la Région wallonne, la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale et l'État fédéral sur l'exécution intergouvernementale du Règlement (UE) 2018/1724 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 2 octobre 2018 établissant un portail numérique unique pour donner accès à des informations, à des procédures et à des services d'assistance et de résolution de problèmes, et modifiant le Règlement (UE) n° 1024/2012'. ("*hereinafter referred to as "decree approving the cooperation agreement by the Brussels Capital Region"*.)	
		Publication in the Official Journal of the decree approving the cooperation agreement of 4 April 2024 between the Flemish Community, the Flemish Region, the French Community, the German-speaking Community, the Joint Community Commission, the French Community Commission, the Walloon Region, the Brussels-Capital Region, and the Federal State on the intergovernmental implementation of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 establishing a single digital gateway to provide access to information, procedures, and assistance and problem-solving services, and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 '*Ordonnance portant assentiment à l'accord de coopération du 4 avril 2024 entre la Communauté flamande, la Région flamande, la Communauté française, la Communauté germanophone, la Commission communautaire commune, la Commission communautaire française, la Région*	Copy of the decree approving the cooperation agreement by the Federal State, published in the Official Journal on 12 May 2025. Link to the publication: https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2025/05/12_1.pdf

	wallonne, la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale et l'État fédéral sur l'exécution intergouvernementale du Règlement (UE) 2018/1724 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 2 octobre 2018 établissant un portail numérique unique pour donner accès à des informations, à des procédures et à des services d'assistance et de résolution de problèmes, et modifiant le Règlement (UE) n° 1024/2012'. ("*hereinafter referred to as "decree approving the cooperation agreement by the Federal State"*.)	
	Law of 12 July 2021 amending the *Compagnies and Associations Code*, and the Act of 16th March 1803 regulating the notarial profession and laying down various provisions following the transposition of Directive (EU) 2019/1151 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20th June 2019 amending Directive (EU) 2017/1132 as regards the use of digital tools and processes in the framework of company law '*Loi modifiant le Code des sociétés et des associations et la loi du 16 mars 1803 contenant organisation du notariat et portant des dispositions diverses à la suite de la transposition de la directive (UE) 2019/1151 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 20 juin 2019 modifiant la directive (UE) 2017/1132 en ce qui concerne l'utilisation d'outils et de processus numériques en droit des sociétés'*, entered into force on 1 August 2021. ("*hereinafter referred to as "Law of 12 July 2021"*.)	Copy of the law of 12 July 2021 amending the Companies and Associations Code, and the law of 16 of March 1803 regulating the notarial profession, published in the Official Journal on 15 July 2021. http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/eli/loi/2021/07/12/2021031824/moniteur
	Law of 16 March 1803 regulating the notarial profession '*Loi du 25 ventôse an XI contenant organisation du notariat.*'. ("*hereinafter referred to as "Law of 16 March 1803"*.)	Link to the consolidated amended version of the law of 16 March 1803, regulating the notarial profession: https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/eli/loi/1803/03/16/1803031601/justel

		Law of 22 November 2022 amending the Act of 16 March 1803 on the organisation of the notarial profession, introducing a disciplinary board for notaries and bailiffs into the Judicial Code and miscellaneous provisions '*Loi portant modification de la loi du* *16 mars 1803 contenant organisation du notariat, introduisant un conseil de discipline pour les notaires et les huissiers de justice dans le code judiciaire et des dispositions diverses',* entered into force gradually on 1 January 2023, 1 September 2023 and 1 January 2024. ("*hereinafter referred to as "Law of 22 November 2022"*.)	Copy of the law of 22 November 2022 amending the Act of 16 March 1803 on the organisation of the notarial profession. http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/eli/wet/2022/11/22/2022034342/staatsblad
		Royal Decree of 7 June 2023 on the identification of parties and the electronic signature of dematerialised authentic powers of attorney and the entry into force of Article 12 of the Act of 22 November 2022 amending the Act of 16 March 1803 on the notarial profession, instituting a disciplinary council of notaries and bailiffs in the Judicial Code and various provisions '*Arrêté royal concernant l'identification des parties et la signature électronique pour les procurations authentiques sous forme dématérialisée et l'entrée en vigueur de l'article 12 de la loi du* *22 novembre 2022 portant modification de la loi du 16 mars 1803 contenant organisation du notariat, introduisant un conseil de discipline pour les notaires et les huissiers de justice dans le Code judiciaire et des dispositions diverses',* entered into force on 20 June 2023. ("*hereinafter referred to as "Royal Decree of 7 June 2023"*.)	Copy of the Royal Decree of 7 June 2023 amending the Act of 16 March 1803 on the organisation of the notarial profession. http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/eli/besluit/2023/06/07/2023042778/staatsblad
		The Royal Decree of 29 April 2019 implementing the Code of	This Royal Decree outlines the procedures and formalities related

		Companies and Associations '*Arrêté royal portant exécution du Code des sociétés et des associations'*. ("*hereinafter referred to as "Royal Decree of 29 April 2019*".)	to the incorporation, operation, and dissolution of companies and associations. https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/eli/arrete/2019/04/29/2019011967/justel
		The Royal Decree of 14 September 2022 amending the Royal Decree of 29 April 2019 implementing the Code of Companies and Associations, among other things following the transposition of Directive (EU) 2019/1151 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 amending Directive (EU) 2017/1132 as regards the use of digital tools and processes in company law '*Arrêté royal modifiant l'arrêté royal du 29 avril 2019 portant exécution du Code des sociétés et des associations entre autres suite à la transposition de la directive (UE) 2019/1151 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 20 juin 2019 modifiant la directive (UE) 2017/1132 en ce qui concerne l'utilisation d'outils et de processus numériques en droit des sociétés*' ("*hereinafter referred to as "Royal Decree of 14 September 2022"*.)	This Royal Decree of 14 September 2022 amends the Royal Decree of 29 April 2019 implementing the Code of Companies and Associations, published in the Official Journal on 13 October 2022. http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/eli/arrete/2022/09/14/2022042160/moniteur

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Entry into force of the cooperation agreement between the federal government and the federated entities including measures to enable the creation, modification and dissolution of business activities in full electronic format. The new digital system introduced by the cooperation agreement, encompassing three electronic forms for the creation, modification and dissolution of business activities, shall be an alternative administrative channel that shall provide a simplified alternative to the existing forms.

The Federal State, the three Communities (French, Flemish, German-speaking), the joint Community Commission, the French Community Commission and the three Regions (Walloon, Flemish, Brussels) are Parties to the cooperation agreement. The Parties to the cooperation agreement have adopted decrees approving the cooperation agreement, which have been published in the Official Journal as listed below:

- Publication on 11 June 2024 in the Official Journal of the decree approving the cooperation agreement by the Flemish Community/Region (evidence No. 2 page 40)
- Publication on 14 June 2024 in the Official Journal of the decree approving the cooperation agreement by the German-speaking Community (evidence No. 3 page 119)
- Publication on 23 July 2024 in the Official Journal of the decree approving the cooperation agreement by the French Community Commission (evidence No. 4 page 48)
- Publication on 3 September 2024 and 29 October 2024 in the Official Journal of the decrees approving the cooperation agreement by the Walloon Region (evidence No. 5 page 123 and evidence No. 6 page 100)
- Publication on 26 September 2024 in the Official Journal of the decree approving the cooperation agreement by the joint Community Commission (evidence No. 7 page 285)
- Publication on 17 April 2025 in the Official Journal of the decree approving the cooperation agreement by the French Community (evidence No. 8 page 12)
- Publication on 12 May 2025 in the Official Journal of the decree approving the cooperation agreement by the Brussels Capital Region (evidence No. 9 page 121)
- Publication on 12 May 2025 in the Official Journal of the decree approving the cooperation agreement by the Federal State (evidence No. 10 page 44)

Article 23 of Chapter IX: 'Final provisions' of the cooperation agreement states that the cooperation agreement enters into force on the date of the publication of the last decree approving the cooperation agreement in the Official Journal. The last decree being published on 12 May 2025, for all entities concerned, the cooperation agreement entered into force on this date.

Article 16 of Chapter V: 'Procedures to be offered fully online' of the cooperation agreement provides that the notification, the authorisation to carry on business activity, modification and cessation of business activity may be submitted via the common online platform, without affecting the prerogatives of the competent authorities. The same article states that the common online platform is a system set up to initiate notification of business activity and to submit applications for authorisation to carry out business activity, modifications and cessation of business activity. Applications are then forwarded to the competent authorities for further processing. Therefore, the cooperation agreement provides the legal framework enabling the creation, modification and dissolution of business activity in an electronic format.

The cooperation agreement lays the groundwork for a new digital system enabling the creation, modification and dissolution of business activity through an online platform. This new digital system provides a simplified alternative to the existing forms as the cooperation agreement emphasises cooperation between federal and federated entities to ensure simplification, accessibility and user-friendliness of procedures. Article 18 of Chapter VI: 'Access to support and problem-solving services' of the cooperation agreement provides that citizens and businesses (including cross-border users) shall have an easy online access to information and links to problem-solving services. To this end, a 'central contact point' managed by the Parties is set up to group together requests for assistance and problem resolution. Article 15 of Chapter IV 'Access to information' of the cooperation agreement focuses on the collaboration between Parties (federal state and federated entities) in access to information and quality control of the information provided. Article 16 of Chapter V 'Procedures to be offered fully online' of the cooperation agreement highlights that Parties collaborate to create and ensure the maintenance of the online platform. In addition, Article 17 Chapter V 'Procedures to be offered fully online' of the cooperation agreement states that Parties jointly ensure

compliance with national obligations regarding the technical system for the automated cross-border exchange of supporting documents.

The new system is not intended to replace existing forms but provides a simplified, digital alternative that enhances the overall ease of doing business. It reflects a balanced approach, allowing businesses to choose the method that best suits their needs, while still providing the traditional channels.

Entry into force of the legislative provisions gradually enabling the online creation, modification and dissolution of legal persons for all legal forms via notaries or via Just-Act.

As regards the online creation of a legal person by authentic deed, Article 26 of the Act of 12 July 2021 (evidence No. 9) amends Article 13(2) of the Notarial Act (evidence No. 10) and enables the authentic deed of incorporation of legal entities to be executed remotely and in a fully dematerialized (digital) form, without the physical presence of the parties at the notary's office, using secure digital tools. This Act of 12 July 2021 was published on 15 July 2021 in the Official Journal and entered into force on 1 August 2021.

As regards the online modification of a legal person by authentic deed, Article 12 of the Act of 22 November 2022 (evidence No. 11) extends the scope of Article 13(2) of the Notarial Act (evidence No. 1). In particular, it allows that authentic deeds for the modification of legal persons may also be received in dematerialised form (electronic form), whether remotely or not. This Act of 12 July 2021 was published on 22 November 2022 in the Official Journal. Chapter 9 the Act of 22 November 2022 states that Article 12 will enter into force on 1 January 2024.

Article 2 of the Royal Decree of 7 June 2023 (evidence No. 12) provides that the amendments made to Article 13(2) of the Notarial Act shall enter into force on 20 June 2023 instead of 1 January 2024.

Art. 2 of the Royal Decree of 7 June 2023 (evidence No. 12) makes it possible for all incorporation and amendment deeds of legal entities, including dissolutions, to be executed online in dematerialized form. The Royal Decree of 7 June 2023 was published on 16 June 2023 in the Official Journal and entered into force on 20 June 2023.

JustAct and eDepot (via notaries) are digital platforms designed to enable the creation, modification and dissolution of businesses. Together, these platforms support all legal forms of legal persons.

- JustAct developed by the Federal Public Service Justice is a secure platform through which legal entities can themselves manage their own deeds related to the creation, modification and dissolution of legal entities which does not need notarial deeds, including general partnerships, limited partnerships, non-profit associations and European Economic Interest Groupings.
- EDepot (via notaries) developed by the Federation of Notaries is a platform designed to support the electronic filling related to the creation, modification and dissolution of companies requiring the involvement of a notary, including public limited companies, limited liability companies, cooperative companies.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 82 - Team of experts created within the AI for the Common Good Institute

Related Measure: I-2.14 - Development of an AI institute in order to use this technology to meet societal challenges

Qualitative Indicator: Multi-disciplinary team of experts on AI, Data & Robotics created within the AI for the Common Good Institute

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

The objective of this investment is to promote the use of Artificial Intelligence in areas such as health and well-being, environment, mobility, energy, and media and democracy, by supporting activities of the AI for the Common Good Institute Brussels (FARI). This institute shall promote the development of AI solutions in collaboration with academia, business, policy-makers and citizens and shall also feature an AI test and Experience Lab, showcasing Artificial Intelligence driven technologies to create awareness for the general public and industry (including a training dimension).

Milestone 82 requires that a multi-disciplinary team of experts on AI, Data & Robotics within the AI for the Common Good Institute be created.

Milestone 82 is the second milestone of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 81. It will be followed by target 83, related to the delivery of three Artificial Intelligence services (i.e. digital twin support, trainings and advisory activities related to citizen services) to local authorities. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in Q4 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled.
	Spreadsheet milestone 82	An Excel spreadsheet comprising a list of the experts recruited to work within the Artificial Intelligence for the Common Good Institute. The list contains: their first name and last name (columns A and B), the position held within FARI (column C), the name of the entity employing the expert (column D), references to the employment contract copy (column F), references to the copy of the first pay slip within FARI (column G), the start date of the assignment to FARI (column H), the assignment closure date (column I) and the full-time equivalent for the FARI project (FTE) when relevant (column J).
	Employment contracts	Copies of the signed employment contracts between the experts employed at FARI and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel or the Université Libre de Bruxelles. The dates of signature of these contracts

		ranges from 10 December 2020 to 1 October 2024.
	Pay slips	Copies of pay slips of each expert employed at FARI. The pay slips all concern wage payments in 2022, 2023 and 2024 and were extracted from the financial systems used by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel or the Université Libre de Bruxelles in a period ranging from 2 January 2023 to 31 October 2024.
	VUB mission letters (9 separate PDF files)	Letters of assignment, in which the Rector of the Vrije Universiteit Brussels certifies that one staff member mentioned in the document was assigned to the team of experts at FARI as scientific expert in artificial intelligence. Eight further letters certify that eight professors from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel provided steering to the work at FARI. Signed by the Rector of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and the respective experts on 9 May 2025.
	ULB mission letters signed (one PFD file)	Letters of assignment, in which the director of the Department of Research of the Université Libre de Bruxelles certifies that nine staff members mentioned in the document were assigned to the team of experts at FARI as scientific experts in artificial intelligence. Five further letters certify that five professors from the Université Libre de Bruxelles provided steering to the work at FARI. All letters are signed by the director of the Department of Research of the Université Libre de Bruxelles on 5 May 2025.
	Link to researcher profiles	Link submitted by Belgian authorities on 5 June 2025 referring to the website https://www.fari.brussels/nl/onderzoekers, which contains profiles of the experts working at FARI, including their fields of expertise.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

A multi-disciplinary team of experts on AI, Data & Robotics within the AI for the Common Good Institute is created.

As evidenced by the letters of assignment submitted by Belgium, a team of experts was created within the AI for the Common Good Institute (hereafter: FARI). Nine letters of assignment were signed by the Rector of the Vrije Universiteit Brussels and by the respective experts themselves on 9 May 2025. One of these letters certifies that a staff member was “assigned to the project on a 10% basis from 2024-03-01 to 2024-12-31. During this period, [he/she] acted as a scientific expert in Artificial Intelligence.” The other eight letters of assignment certify that eight professors were “assigned to the project as a scientific expert in Artificial Intelligence. [He/she] contributes [his/her] time

and effort to the project, actively participating in defining the research strategy and mentoring new researchers and experts involved in FARI's initiatives, including its research and innovation activities." 14 letters of assignment were signed by the director of the Department of Research of the Université Libre de Bruxelles on 5 May 2025. Nine of these certify that a staff member "was assigned to the project for [X]% from [period of assignment between November 2021 and December 2024]. During this period, [he/she] acted as a scientific expert in Artificial Intelligence." The other five letters of assignment certify that five professors were "one of the professors heading one of the 5 groups linked to the ULB in our interfaculty and interuniversity institute FARI" and that they take part in the project. Belgium explained that the difference between the staff members and the professors is that while the former were paid for their activities at FARI, professors engaged in FARI serve in advisory capacities and are not compensated for this specific task.

The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 5 June 2025 to verify that the team of experts working at FARI is multidisciplinary and that their fields of expertise cover 'AI, Data & Robotics'. This check was completed successfully, confirming that some of the researchers mentioned in the letters of assignment, including those hired as staff members, are described as experts in robotics, while others are described as experts in Artificial Intelligence or social sciences, psychology, law.

The milestone is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which clarify that "**personal data in the employment contracts and payslips can be to a certain extent anonymised, provided that documents make it possible to verify that they relate to different employees."** Belgium provided a list of 37 experts (see 'Spreadsheet milestone 82') that were recruited to work within the AI for the Common Good Institute. For each of these 37 experts, signed employment contracts were submitted as evidence. These employment contracts also contain the dates at which these were signed, which is between 10 December 2020 and 1 October 2024. They are concluded between the named experts and their Institute, which is either the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) or the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). Belgium also provided copies of pay slips of each expert within FARI, which were extracted from the financial systems used by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel or the Université Libre de Bruxelles in a period ranging from 2 January 2023 to 31 October 2024.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 99 - Start of major infrastructure works for bus (smart road signals, and light metro (Charleroi)

Related Measure: I-3B - 'Enhancing public transport in Wallonia'

Quantitative Indicator: Projects

Baseline: 0

Target:2

Time: Q3 2023

1. Context:

This investment consists in refurbishing and extending the Charleroi light metro network and in installing smart traffic lights for public transport busses.

Target 99 relates to the building permits of the Metro extension and to the award of contracts for the smart traffic lights installation.

Target 99 is the first step of the implementation of the investment, and it will be followed by targets 100, 101 and 102 related to the completion of works and the conclusion of a public service contract with the public transport service operator. The investment has a final expected date for implementation of 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	230110E01 PU 1 Waterloo-Cora	Building permit
2	230110E02 PU 2 Cora-GHDC	Building permit
3	Avis d'attribution publié 2023-OJS238-749374-fr-ts	Notice of the award of the framework contract related to the installation of smart traffic lights
4	Cahier de charges -clauses administratives MI-O8.03.03-21-0951	Tender specifications - administrative clauses related to the installation of smart traffic lights

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Extension metro Charleroi – WAL (I-3.07) - Delivery of building permits

On 6 January 2023, the Government of Wallonia granted two building permits for the works related with the refurbishment and extension of the metro in Charleroi up to the *Grand Hôpital de Charleroi* (GHCD) in Viviers (metro line 5). One for the renovation of six stations and rail infrastructure, as well as for the installation of privacy screens and noise barriers in the segment Waterloo – Roctiau (230110E01 PU 1 Waterloo-Cora). Another for the construction of two stations, one technical building, a tunnel and the installation of privacy screens and noise barriers in the segment Roctiau-Viviers (230110E02 PU 2 Cora-GHDC). The building permits include technical conditions on

how the works need to be performed, such as the placement of noise- barriers and privacy screens, the construction of bicycle parking spaces, the use of backlit lettering for the stations' names. These conditions will be verified at the time of issuing the certificate of works (Art. D.IV.73 of the territorial development code -"Code du Développement territorial"- of the Walloon Region).

Smart road signals – WAL (I-3.08)- Award of contracts for public works (contract award notification has been published)

On 8 December 2023 the Government of Wallonia awarded the contract for the installation of smart road signals to three companies (the award notice was published in the European Union's Official Journal S: 238/2023 on 11 December 2023 and is also available on: https://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:749374-2023:TEXT:FR:HTML&src=0

The award followed the launch of a public tender. In the respective tender specifications, it is stated that the contract includes the modernization of traffic light equipment in the entire Walloon Region, which represents approximately 608 crossroads (section 1.1.4.4 of the tender specifications – administrative clauses).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 104 - Completion of rail refurbishment and modernisation works and station accessibility works (step 2)

Related Measure: I-3C - Rail refurbishment and station accessibility works

Quantitative Indicator: Completed works

Baseline: 32

Target: 62

Time: Q3 2023

1. Context:

The measure aims to refurbish rails and make railway stations more accessible. It consists of completing 59 interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure, making at least 25 stations accessible and building at least 6000 bicycle parking spaces in railway stations.

Target 104 entails the completion of 50 interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure and works to make 12 stations accessible.

Target 104 is the second step of the implementation of the investment. It is an intermediary target which follows the completion of target 103 and will be followed by final target 105, resulting in the completion of 59 interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure and works to make 25 stations accessible. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Public service contract of NMBS/SNCB and annexes, approved on 23 December 2022	NMBS/SNCB public service contract approved by the federal Council of Ministers, concluded for a 10-year period (2023-2032).
3	Performance contract of Infrabel and annexes, approved on 23 December 2022	Infrabel performance contract approved by the federal Council of Ministers, concluded for a 10-year period (2023-2032).
4	Interventions overview Excel	An Excel spreadsheet with an overview of the interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure, including for each intervention.
5	Copy of *procès verbal* (PV) for 22 interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure	A copy of *procès verbal* de reception signed by the competent authority demonstrating the completion of works for interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure.

6	Infrabel declaration Q4 2024	Document where Infrabel confirms the interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure carried out by the end of the fourth quarter of 2024.
7	Accessible stations overview Excel	An Excel spreadsheet with an overview of the railway stations made accessible, including for each station:
8	Copy of *procès verbal* (PV) for 5 accessible stations	A copy of *procès verbal de reception* signed by the competent authority demonstrating the completion of works to make railway stations accessible.
9	Copy of site visit report from the Ministry of Transport for works to make 2 stations accessible	A copy of site visit reports drawn up and signed by a representative from the Ministry of Transport demonstrating the completion of works to make railway stations accessible.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgium authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Completion of 50 interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure (I-3.10)

The Council Implementing Decision requires in the description of target 104 the completion of 50 interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure and make 12 stations accessible. The indicator of target 104 of the Council Implementing Decision also provides that the goal is 62 completed works, which is a cumulative amount of the required 50 interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure and works to make 12 stations accessible. This is confirmed by the costing for this target which indicates 59 interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure and interventions to make 25 stations accessible. These are the final numbers mentioned in the description of target 105 which is the final target for this investment. Target 103 and target 104 are only intermediate targets. This is why the amount of 50 interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure in target 104, is the sum of 27 interventions in target 103 and 23 interventions in target 104. The amount of 12 interventions to make stations accessible in target 104, is the sum of 5 interventions in target 103 and seven interventions in target 104. Therefore, the amounts of 50 interventions in target 104 should thus be interpreted as referring to 23 interventions, and the amount of 12 interventions to make stations accessible should be interpreted as referring to seven interventions.

The Belgian authorities have provided a list of interventions done to upgrade rail infrastructure, including their unique identifier, name, location of the intervention, category and type of works, and a short description of the intervention (Interventions overview Excel file). In addition, the Belgian authorities provided the following underlying evidence:

- PVs signed by the competent authority, dating from July 2021 to May 2025, which demonstrate full completion of the works in 22 interventions on lines L12, L21C, L36, L43, L50, L50A, L60, L130, L130A, L144, L154, L162, L165, and L166 and at the stations of Knokke, Ciney, and Kinkempois. The interventions consist of different types of works to upgrade rail infrastructure: electrification, introduction of signalling, and upgrading or renewal of tracks, bridges, structures and earthworks.
- A declaration signed by Infrabel confirming the conclusion of the 22 interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure mentioned above.

According to the evidence provided, Belgium has completed 22 interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure. As part of the second payment request, Belgium submitted evidence to support the completion of 29 interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure under Target 103 of the same investment, exceeding the requirement for Target 103 of 27 (which is the baseline for the interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure under Target 104) by two units. While these additional two interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure were not necessary for assessing the satisfactory fulfilment of Target 103, their inclusion in the assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of the sequential Target 104 is warranted. Notably, the cumulative number of the interventions completed to upgrade rail infrastructure under the investment I-3C so far is 51 and exceeds the goal of Target 104 by one unit.

Belgium has therefore overachieved the goal of 50 rail infrastructure interventions.

Make 12 stations accessible (I-3.09) in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) No 1300/2014 on at least 4 criteria:
- high platforms (76cm);
- platforms accessible through ramps or lifts;
- tactile warning surface guiding system; and
- at least one ticket vending machine accessible to persons with reduced mobility.

The Council Implementing Decision requires in the description of target 104 the completion of 50 interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure and make 12 stations accessible. The indicator of target 104 of the Council Implementing Decision also provides that the goal is 62 completed works, which is a cumulative amount of the required 50 interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure and works to make 12 stations accessible. This is confirmed by the costing for this target which indicates 59 interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure and interventions to make 25 stations accessible. These are the final numbers mentioned in the description of target 105 which is the final target for this investment. Target 103 and target 104 are only intermediate targets. This is why the amount of 50 interventions to upgrade rail infrastructure in target 104, is the sum of 27 interventions in target 103 and 23 interventions in target 104. The amount of 12 interventions to make stations accessible in target 104, is the sum of 5 interventions in target 103 and seven interventions in target 104. Therefore, the amounts of 50 interventions in target 104 should thus be interpreted as referring to 23 interventions, and the amount of 12 interventions to make stations accessible should be interpreted as referring to seven interventions.

The Belgian authorities have provided a list of railway stations which were made accessible, including their name, location, category of works completed and a short description of the project (Accessible stations overview Excel file). In addition, the Belgian authorities provided the following underlying evidence demonstrating completion of works to make **seven** railway stations accessible:

- PVs signed by the contracting authority, dating from November 2022 to August 2024, demonstrating full completion of works to make **five** railway stations (Blankenberge, Fexhe-le-Haut-clocher, Fleurus, Buggenhout and Louvain-La-Neuve) accessible, in accordance with Article 62 of the performance contract of Infrabel which explicitly requires the fulfilment of the four criteria established in Commission Regulation (EU) No 1300/2014. Specifically, for each of the five railway stations, works were done to ensure:
    - that the platforms are at least 76cm high;
    - that the platforms are accessible through ramps or lifts;
    - the presence of a tactile warning surface guiding system; and
    - the presence of one ticket vending machine accessible to persons with reduced mobility.
- Site visit reports signed by the Ministry of Transport, dating from May to June 2024, which demonstrate completion of works to make **two** railway stations (Watermaal and Diepenbeek) accessible, in accordance with Article 62 of the performance contract of Infrabel which explicitly requires the fulfilment of the four criteria established in Commission Regulation (EU) No 1300/2014. Specifically, for both railway stations, works were done to ensure:
    - that the platforms are at least 76cm high;
    - that the platforms are accessible through ramps and/or lifts;
    - the presence of a tactile warning surface guiding system; and
    - the presence of one ticket vending machine accessible to persons with reduced mobility.

  The site visits were performed pursuant to Annex IX of Infrabel's performance contract which stipulates that the Ministry of Transport in its supervisory role is authorised to carry out additional checks and controls on Infrabel sites to be able to monitor the execution of the investments, including site visits.
- A declaration signed by Infrabel confirming the conclusion of the works to make the seven railway stations mentioned above accessible.

Belgium has therefore reached the goal of making 12 stations accessible.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 111 - Approval of the new performance contracts of NMBS-SNCB and Infrabel and the pluri-annual investment plan, contract

Related Measure: R-301 - Performance Infrabel/NMBS-SNCB of the Federal State

Qualitative Indicator: Approval of contracts

Time: Q2 2023

1. Context:

The reform consists in the adoption of new performance contracts of NMBS-SNCB and Infrabel and the pluri-annual investment plan. This includes setting provisions to ensure the timely execution of RER-GEN suburban rail investments, right incentives for efficiency and service quality, and the completion of investments 'Rail-Accessible and multimodal train stations', 'Rail – efficient network' and 'Rail – Smart mobility' included in the RRP.

Milestone 111 consists in the approval of the new performance contracts of NMBS-SNCB and Infrabel and the pluri-annual investment plan.

Milestone 111 is the only milestone of this reform. The reform has a final expected date for implementation in June 2023.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Public service contract of NMBS/SNCB (*NMBS/SNCBCONTRAT DE SERVICE PUBLIC 2023-2032 ENTRE L'ETAT BELGE ET LA SNCB*), approved on 23 December 2022.	NMBS/SNCB public service contract approved by the federal Council of Ministers, concluded for a 10-year period (2023-2032).
	Annexes of public service contract of NMBS/SNCB (*NMBS/SNCB ANNEXES DU CONTRAT DE SERVICE PUBLIC SNCB*), approved on 23 December 2022.	Annexes to the NMBS-SNCB public service contract (including the multiannual investment plan 2023-2032 and the strategic multiannual investment plan 2018-2031)
	Royal Decree of 26 December approving the public service contract concluded between the State and the public limited company SNCB (*26 DECEMBRE 2022. — Arrêté royal portant approbation du contrat de service public conclu entre l'Etat et la société anonyme de droit public SNCB*), which entered into force on 1 January 2023. Link to the Royal Decree: Arrêté royal portant approbation du contrat de service public conclu entre l'Etat et la société anonyme de droit public SNCB	Royal Decree approving NMBS-SNCB's public service contract

	Performance contract of Infrabel (*CONTRAT DE PERFORMANCE 2023 – 2032 ENTRE L'ETAT BELGE ET INFRABEL*), approved on 23 December 2022.	Performance contract of Infrabel
	Annexes of performance contract of Infrabel (*ANNEXES DU CONTRAT DE PERFORMANCE D'INFRABEL*), approved on 23 December 2022.	Annexes to the performance contract of Infrabel (including the multiannual investment plan 2023-2032 and the strategic multiannual investment plan 2018-2031)
	Royal Decree of 26 December approving the performance contract concluded between the State and the public limited company Infrabel (*26 DECEMBRE 2022. — Arrêté royal portant approbation du contrat de performance conclu entre l'Etat et la société anonyme de droit public Infrabel*), which entered into force on 1 January 2023. Link to the Royal Decree: Arrêté royal portant approbation du contrat de performance conclu entre l'Etat et la société anonyme de droit public Infrabel	Royal Decree approving Infrabel's performance contract

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgium authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

In line with the description of the measure**, this reform consists in adopting the new performance contracts of NMBS-SNCB and Infrabel and its pluri-annual investment plan […]. The contract shall be concluded by 30 June 2023.**

The new performance contracts of NMBS-SNCB and Infrabel including the pluri-annual investment plan, laid out in annexes 4 of the performance contract of Infrabel (*evidence no. 5)* and annexes 4 of the performance contract of NMBS-SNCB *(evidence no. 2),* were approved on 26 December 2022 by Royal Decree (*evidence no. 3 and no. 6)* and published in the Official Journal on 10 January 2023. The respective performance contracts came into force on 1 January 2023. The contracts were therefore concluded by 30 June 2023.

The new performance contract shall include provisions to ensure:

- **The timely execution of the works for the RER-GEN in line with the law adopting the inter-regional cooperation agreement on strategic railway investments (Annex Ia of the Loi portant assentiment à l'accord de coopération du 5 octobre 2018 entre l'Etat fédéral, la Région flamande, la Région wallonne et la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale relatif au financement des infrastructures ferroviaires stratégiques / Wet houdende**

instemming met het samenwerkingsakkoord van 5 oktober 2018 tussen de Federale Staat, het Vlaamse Gewest, het Waalse Gewest en het Brusselse Hoofdstedelijke Gewest betreffende de financiering van de strategische spoorweginfrastructuren, Moniteur belge – 11.03.2019 – Belgisch Staatsblad). Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the** [...] **contracts** [...] **shall** [...] **ensure the** [...] **timely execution of the 'Réseau suburbain bruxellois - Geweestelijk ExpressNet' (RER-GEN) suburban rail investments until 2031.**

Article 129 of the performance contract of Infrabel (*evidence no. 4)* and Articles 7 and 120 of the performance contract of NMBS-SNCB (*evidence no. 1)* stipulate that the investment plan is in line with the cooperation agreements of 5 October 2018.

Article 129 of the performance contract of Infrabel (*evidence no. 4)* stipulates that the State guarantees to Infrabel a specific annual contribution for investments foreseen in the strategic pluri-annual investment plan and the necessary investments to achieve the RER-GEN infrastructure works. The annual contribution for investments decreases progressively and lasts until 2031. Article 110 of the performance contract of NMBS-SNCB (*evidence no. 1)* stipulates that the NMBS-SNCB must carry out these investments in accordance with the schedules and general conditions attached to the cooperation agreements mentioned above, by 2031. These provisions ensure a timely execution of the works until 2031 for the RER-GEN infrastructure works.

These decisions are implemented by the 2023-2032 strategic pluriannual investment plan laid out in annexes 4 and 6 of the performance contract of Infrabel (*evidence no. 5)* and annexes 4 and 22 of the performance contract of NMBS-SNCB *(evidence no. 2)*.

- **Right incentives for efficiency and service quality embedded in the contract**

Article 104 of the performance contract of Infrabel (*evidence no. 4)* provides for the introduction of performance dialogues where a list of objectives is followed up by means of key performance indicators (KPIs). Section 4.1 of Annex 2 of the performance contract of Infrabel (*evidence no. 5)* indicate KPIs related to improving efficiency and service quality (eg. client satisfaction, punctuality). Section 4.1 to 4.4 explain how the KPIs are monitored and what implications they have. If the value of a certain KPI is higher than a certain target, Infrabel receives a bonus. If the value is below another target for two successive years, Infrabel must construct a plan on how to reach the objective in the future. If the value of the KPI is between these two targets, then Infrabel receives no bonus and no action needs to be taken. The bonus can be a maximum of two million euro.

Article 97 of the performance contract of NMBS-SNCB (*evidence no. 1)* provides for the introduction of performance dialogues where a list of objectives is followed up by means of KPIs. Annex 9 of the performance contract of NMBS-SNCB (*evidence no. 2)* indicate KPIs related to improving efficiency and service quality (eg. client satisfaction, punctuality). Articles 94 to 98 of the performance contract of NMBS-SNCB (*evidence no. 1)* explain how the KPIs are monitored and what implications they have. If the value of a certain key KPI is higher than a certain target, NMBS-SNCB receives a bonus. If the value is below another target, NMBS-SNCB receives a fine and must construct a plan on how to reach the objective in the future. If the value of the KPI is between these two targets, then NMBS-SNCB receives neither a bonus or fine. The bonus and fine can be a maximum of five million euro.

The above provisions ensure right incentives for efficiency and service quality are embedded in the performance contracts.

- **The completion of investments I-3.09 'Rail-Accessible and multimodal train stations - FED', I-3.10 'Rail – efficient network - FED' and I-3.12 'Rail – Smart mobility - FED', included in this component of the RRP**

  Article 127 and Annex 7 of the performance contract of Infrabel (*evidence no. 4 and 5)* stipulate that Infrabel must meet the terms and conditions governing the subsidy granted under the Recovery and Resilience Facility laid out in Annex 7.1, concerning the completion of investments I-3.09 and I-3.10 indicated in Annex 7.2. Infrabel receives the full RRF subsidy on the condition that all milestones and targets under I-3.09 and I-3.10 are achieved in their entirety. In case of non-achievement based on objective and measurable criteria, the concerned costs will not be subsidised and possibly even recovered by the Belgian State. If Infrabel completes the investments earlier than planned, the RRF financing may be frontloaded.

  Article 112.2 and Annex 22 of the performance contract of NMBS-SNCB (*evidence no. 1 and 2)* stipulate that NMBS-SNCB must meet the terms and conditions governing the subsidies granted under the Recovery and Resilience Facility laid out in Article X12 of Annex 22, concerning the completion of investments I-3.09 and I-3.12 indicated in Article X11 of Annex 22. NMBS-SNCB receives the full RRF subsidy on the condition that all milestones and targets under I-3.09 and I-3.12 are achieved in their entirety. In case of non-achievement, without sufficient and acceptable justification, the concerned costs will not be subsidised and possibly even recovered by the Belgian State.

  The above provisions are included in the performance contracts to ensure the completion of investments I-3.09, I-3.10 and I-3.12 included in the RRP.

  4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

  Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 113 - 4 676 new modal shift grants awarded

Related Measure: I-3.14 Modal shift grants

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 4676

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

This investment consists in supporting a new revised modal shift grant, by extending it to all new types of sustainable modes of transport: car-sharing, bike-sharing, scooters.

Target 113 consists in the award of 4676 new modal shift grants.

Target 113 is the only target of this investment. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in Q4 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
	Decree of the Government of Brussels Capital Region of 15 July 2021, (published in the Official journal, *Moniteur Belge / Belgisch Staatsblad [C − 2021/21565*), which entered into force on 10 October 2021, except for its article 5 that entered into force on 5 August 2021	Legal act that establishes the new modal shift grant (*Arrêté relatif aux conditions d'octroi de la prime Bruxell'Air en échange de la radiation de la plaque d'immatriculation d'un véhicule)*
	Decree of the Government of Brussels Capital Region of 14 February 2024 (published in the Official journal, *Moniteur Belge / Belgisch Staatsblad C- C − 2024/001340*), which entered into force on 1 March 2024	Legal act that amends Decree of 15 July 2021
	Spreadsheet listing the new 4676 modal shift grants awarded	List indicating each modal shift grant awarded
	60 award decisions by Brussels Environment of 60 modal shift grants dated between 8 August 2022 and 20 December 2024	In the context of the sampling exercise, these are the supporting documents for the list of 60 units sampled

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgium authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

First 4 676 new modal shift grants have been awarded.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, this investment supports **a new revised modal shift grant, by extending it to all new types of sustainable modes of transport (car-sharing, bike-sharing, scooters)**

On 15 July 2021, the Government of Brussels Capital Region adopted a decree regarding the conditions to award the grant Bruxell'Air in exchange for the eradication of one's vehicle license plate (*Arrêté relatif aux conditions d'octroi de la prime Bruxell'Air en échange de la radiation de la plaque d'immatriculation d'un véhicule)*. The Decree of 15 July 2021 entered into force on 10 October 2021, with the exception of its article 5 that entered into force one day after its publication, on 5 August 2021 (article 19 of Decree of 15 July 2021). Article 5 establishes the conditions that the operators of sharing mobility services need to fulfil to be part of the new scheme of the modal shift grant.

The new modal shift grant covers public transport service subscriptions, the purchase of a bicycle, the subscription to mobility shared services, such as car sharing and bicycles sharing, and taxi services (article 3 (3) together article 1(15)). The Decree of 15 July was amended by Decree of 14 February 2024, among others, to include the purchase of the so-called micromobility vehicles, such as scooters, skateboards, skates, unicycles (article 1(1) as amended by Decree of 14 February 2024). The Decree of 14 February 2024 entered into force on 1 March 2024 (article 19 of Decree of 14 February 2024).

Belgium submitted a list identifying each of the 4 676 modal shift grants awarded since the Decree of 15 July 2021 entered into effect. The 4 676 grants were awarded between 7 March 2022 and 24 December 2024. Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, Belgium submitted 60 award decisions issued and signed by Brussels Environment which award the modal shift grants and indicate the type of sustainable mode of transport. The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the requirements of the target have been met. The 60 grants were awarded, supporting the modal shift to sustainable modes of transport, including car- and bicycle sharing and the purchase of scooters.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure the new revised modal shift **grant reinforces incentives to increase demand for collective and low emission transport**

The new modal shift grant offers more choices as regards: the coverage of collective and sharing mobility services, the coverage of bicycles and micromobility vehicles; and the possibility to combine the use of public transport with sharing mobility services. In extending the scope of services covered and increasing its amount, the new modal shift grant provides more incentives for citizens to leave the private car and start using collective and low emission transports.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: T121 - New public charging stations connected to the electric grid

Related Measure: Investment I-3F: 'Charging stations', in particular Reform R-3.05: 'Charging stations - RBC' of the Brussels-Capital Region

Quantitative Indicator: Number of charging stations

Baseline: 0

Target: 180

Time: Q2 2023

1. Context:

Investment I-3F: 'Charging stations' consists of four sub-measures all related to the deployment of charging stations and making charging points accessible.

Target 121 concerns in particular the connection of 180 charging stations to the electric grid in the Brussels Capital Region.

Target 121 is the second and last step of the implementation of this reform. It was preceded by Milestone 118 related to the adoption of an infrastructure delivery plan in the Brussels Capital Region. The reform has a final expected date for implementation in Q2 2026.

2. Evidence provided*:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the target was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	BRC Excel file	Excel file with the list of the new public charging stations connected to the electric grid in the Brussels Capital Region
3	Sibelga certificates with EAN numbers indicating the connection of 60 new public charging stations to the electric grid in the Brussels Capital Region	
4	SIB21DS6701 - Contrat EnergyDrive_Signed papier, signed on 1 June 2022	Signed concession agreement between distribution network operator Sibelga and charging point operator EnergyDrive, a subsidiary of Energy

	SIB 21DS6701 - OT - O1 - Technische offerte.PDF	Vision. The contract includes the technical offer from EnergyDrive containing technical details of the charging stations

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Brussels-Capital Region (related to R-3.05): 180 new charging stations connected to the electric grid.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure of Brussels Capital Region **the implementation of the measure as a whole shall be completed by 30 June 2026**.

The Brussels Capital Region provided a list of new public stations installed under the public concession contract concluded between Brussels-Capital Region's distribution network operator, Sibelga, and the charging point operator EnergyDrive, a 100% subsidiary of EnergyVision, on 1 June 2022. Section 3 of the public concession contract specifies that the charging stations to be installed and operated are public (Contract EneryDrive/ EnergyVision). Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, Belgium submitted 60 signed certificates issued by the Brussels Capital Regions' distribution network operator, Sibelga, stating that each of the 60 charging stations are connected to the electric grid (Sibelga certificates). The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the public charging stations have been connected to the electric grid in the Brussels Capital Region.

According to the evidence provided, Belgium connected 182 new public charging stations to the electric grid. The certificates submitted by the authorities demonstrate that 182 new charging stations were connected to the electric grid after the signature of the concession contract on 1 June 2022 . Therefore, Belgium has connected 182 charging stations, thus exceeding the goal of Target 121 by two charging stations.

Each charging station has two charging points.

According to the Technical Specifications, which are part of the Public Concession Contract (section 3 of the Contract EnergyDrive/EnergyVision) each charging station is equipped with two charging points, where two full-power electric vehicles are charged simultaneously and independently of each other (1.2.1 of the 'Technische offerte').

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 124 - Adoption of the legal framework for a new particle counter test during inspections and for on-road vehicle emission monitoring.

Related Measure: R-3.07 - Enhancing Flemish vehicle emission monitoring framework

Qualitative Indicator: Adoption of the legal framework

Time: Q1 2023

1. Context:

The measure aims to enhance the Flemish vehicle emission monitoring framework. It concerns the introduction of particle counter tests in periodic inspections, the regulation of on-road vehicle emission monitoring and the expansion of on-road inspections to light duty vehicles.

Milestone 124 concerns the adoption of the legal framework to introduce particle counter test in periodic inspections and to regulate on-road vehicle emissions monitoring.

Milestone 124 is the first step of the implementation of the reform, and it will be followed by milestone 125 related the creation of database with emission particle counter data and to the adoption the legal framework expanding the scope of roadside inspections. The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Flemish Government Order of 15 January 2022, (published in the Official journal, *Moniteur Belge / Belgisch Staatsblad C-2022/30822*), which entered into force on 1 July 2022	Legal act that introduces the particle counter tests in periodic inspections
2	Flemish Parliament Decree of 19 February (published in the Official Journal, *Moniteur Belge / Belgisch Staatsblad* C-2025/002227), which entered into force on 29 March 2025	Legal act which regulates on-road vehicle emissions monitoring

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgium authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Adoption of legislation required to include as of July 2022 the new particle counter tests in periodic inspections and non-periodic inspections

On 24 March 2022, Belgium published in its Official Journal the Flemish Government Decision of 15 January 2022, which establishes that periodic inspections shall include new particle counter tests by:

- adding a particle measurement fee to article 23undecies of the Royal Decree of 15 March 1968, which regulates the technical conditions that vehicles, trailers, their components and safety accessories must meet (article 2 of the Flemish Government Decision of 15 January 2022);
- adding as an inspection item 'measurement of particle number' to annex 15, point 8.2.23 (list of inspection items for periodic inspections) of the Royal Decree of 15 March 1968, as amended by the decree of the Flemish Government of 27 April 2018 (article 3 (2) of theFlemish Government Decision of 15 January 2022;
- adding as an inspection item 'measurement of particle number' to annex 41 (list of inspection items for non-Periodic Technical Inspection of the Royal Decree of 15 March 1968, as amended by the decree of the Flemish Government of 27 April 2018 (article 4 (2) of the Flemish Government Decision of 15 January;
- adding the particle counter equipment to article 8(2) of the Royal Decree of 23 December 1994 determining the conditions for approval and the rules for the administrative control of bodies responsible for the control of vehicles in circulation, as amended by the Decree of the Flemish Government of 27 April 2018 (article 5 of the Flemish Government Decision of 15 January 2022).

The amended provisions entered into force on 1 July 2022 (article 9).

(Adoption of) legislation to allow the use of data collected during on-road emissions monitoring to: supervise and enforce compliance with emission related technical vehicle requirements; to conduct research; and to summon owners of problematic vehicles to submit them to partial vehicle inspection

On 19 March 2025, Belgium published in its Official Journal, the Flemish Parliament Decree of 19 February 2025 on on-road vehicle emission monitoring (Flemish Parliament Decree), which entered into force 10 day after its publication, on 29 March 2025 (article 10).

According to article 1 of the Flemish Parliament Decree, and for the purposes of this Decree, emissions monitoring means checking the emissions of a motor vehicle while it is being used, in other words, on-road monitoring.

According to article 3(2) of the Flemish Parliament Decree, emission monitoring is used for one or more of the following purposes: (i) supervision and enforcement of compliance with emission-related technical vehicle requirements; (ii) follow-up research and policy-relevant research, including environmental quality modelling or for historical, statistical, or scientific purposes (iii) to identify and summon owners of problematic vehicles for the purpose of conducting a partial inspection.

Article 4 of Flemish Parliament Decree, establishes that the emission monitoring can be carried out using license plate recognition and article 5(2) of the Flemish Parliament Decree identifies the data to be collected, including gas emissions, speed, weather conditions and personal data.

According to article 6(1) of the Flemish Parliament Decree, the data gathered for the purposes of article 3(2) are kept in a data base managed by the Flemish Environmental Society (*De Vlaamse Milieumaatschappij*).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 127 - Adoption of new ICT framework for compulsory education in Flanders

Related Measure: R-4.01 - Digisprong

Qualitative Indicator: Adoption of new legislation by the Flemish Parliament to improve the ICT framework

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

Milestone 127 is part of reform R-4.01, which consists of actions related to four pillars: (1) ICT education, media literacy and computational thinking reforms, (2) promoting effective ICT school policies, by strengthening the role of ICT coordinators, (3) digitally skilled teachers and trainers for teachers and (4) creation of a knowledge and advisory centre to support schools in digitalising their educational provision.

Milestone 127 requires the Flemish Parliament to adopt new legislation to improve the current ICT framework on two aspects: the role of ICT coordinators in schools and the ICT minimum goals. The legislation shall allow to (i) strengthen the role of ICT coordinators in all levels of education and ensure better supervision on ICT policy in schools through the amendment of decree 31 and (ii) ratify the minimum goals for the 2nd and 3rd stage of secondary education.

Milestone 127 is the only milestone of this reform.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Cover Note	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled in line with the requirements set out in the Council Implementing Decision Annex
	Decreet__OD31ICT	Decree of the Flemish Government of 9 July 2021 on Education XXXI (*Decreet van 9 juli 2021 over het onderwijs XXXI)* was adopted on 7 July 2021 and was published in the Official Journal on 26 August 2021
	BVR_ICT	Decision of the Flemish government of 3 September 2021 amending various degrees of the Flemish Government on ICT coordination (*Besluit van de Vlaamse Regering van 3 septemer 2021 tot wijzging van diverse besluiten van de Vlaamse Regering met betrekking tot ICT-coordinatie)* was published in the Official Journal on 14 October 2021
	Omzendbrief_ICT	Communication to schools on ICT

		coordination
	Decreet_ET2en3	Decree of the Flemish Government of 14 July 2023, on the attainment goals for the second and third stage of secondary education (*decreet over de onderwijsdoelen voor de eerste graad van het secundair onderwijs en het zevende leerjaar gericht op het hoger onderwijs en diverse andere verwante maatregelen)*
	ArrestGW_20220616	Judgement No 82/2022 of 16 June 2022 on the annulment of Articles 2, 3 and 4 and Annexes 1 to 7 of the Flemish Community Decree of 12 February 2021 'on the educational objectives for the second and third degrees of secondary education and various other related measures'
	Decreet_Onderwijsdoelen_1	Decree of the Flemish Government of 17 May 2024 on the attainment goals for the first stage of secondary education and the seventh year aimed at higher education and various other related measures (*decreet over de onderwijsdoelen voor de eerste graad van het secundair onderwijs en het zevende leerjaar gericht op het hoger onderwijs en diverse andere verwante maatregelen)*
	VR 2021 2506 VV DOC.0088-1BIS Kenniscentrum Digisprong - government note	Note to the Flemish Government on the set up of a knowledge ad advisory center including the proposal for a decision to develop the knowledge and advisory Center
	Minutes_Flemish_Government_25-06-2021	Minutes of the Flemish Government Meeting on 25 June 2021
	2__KC_2023_048_Protocolakkoord_cesuurdoelen_ondertekend.	Protocol agreement of 1 September 2023 between the Flemish government and educational providers on the specific educational objectives of the second stage of secondary education
	2_1__Cesuurdoelen_D_finaliteit___230913	Annex 1 to the Protocol agreement between the Flemish government and educational providers on the specific

		educational objectives of the second stage of secondary education, on the cut-off targets which apply to the sequential path
	2_2__Cesuurdoelen_DA_finaliteit___230817	Annex 2 to the Protocol agreement between the Flemish government and educational providers on the specific educational objectives of the second stage of secondary education, on the cut-off targets which apply to the twofold finality path
	2_3__Overzicht_onderdelen_WSD_cesuurdoelen_D_finaliteit___230831	Annex 3 to the Protocol agreement between the Flemish government and educational providers on the specific educational objectives of the second stage of secondary education, on the relationship between the structural elements of the 2nd and 3rd stage of secondary education (sequential path)
	2_4__Overzicht_onderdelen_WSD_cesuurdoelen_DA_finaliteit___230825	Annex 4 to the Protocol agreement between the Flemish government and educational providers on the specific educational objectives of the second stage of secondary education, on the relationship between the structural elements of the 2nd and 3rd stage of secondary education (twofold finality path)
	1_2_1_tender_specifications	Tender specifications for the two lots of the ICT bootcamps
	1_3_announcement_results_TED_bootcamps	Contract Award Notice from the Flemish Department of Education and Training to Fourcast for the ICT bootcamps

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Adoption by the Flemish Parliament of the new legislation to improve the current ICT framework on two aspects:

- the role of ICT coordinators in schools

The legislation shall allow to (i) strengthen the role of ICT coordinators in all levels of education and ensure better supervision on ICT policy in schools through the amendment of decree 31

The Education Decree XXXI of 9 July 2021 (*Decreet over het onderwijs XXXI*) was adopted by the Flemish Parliament on 7 July 2021 and was published in the Official Journal on 26 August 2021 (evidence no. 2).

Regarding the function of ICT coordinators, the Decree introduces the function of ICT coordinators in secondary education, adult education centres, basic adult education centres and academies for part-time art education, makes permanent appointments possible and allows the points of the staffing envelope to be used to create one or more positions for ICT coordinators (evidence no. 2).

The Decision of the Flemish Government amending various decrees of the Flemish Government on ICT coordination (*Besluit van de Vlaamse Regering van 3 septemer 2021 tot wijzging van diverse besluiten van de Vlaamse Regering met betrekking tot ICT-coordinatie*) was published in the Official Journal on 14 October 2021 and took effect on 1 September 2021, as specified in Article 37 (evidence no. 3).

The Decision further strengthens the ICT framework on the role of ICT coordinators by establishing the certificates of competences and salary scales, determining the *ex officio* concordance, determining the weight of the position of ICT coordinator in schools and fixing the coefficient for the distribution of resources (evidence no. 3). Through the (formal) introduction of the function of ICT coordinator, a dedicated person responsible for overseeing ICT policies in these institutions is created and the permanent appointment will ensure continuity in the supervision of ICT policies, allowing for long-term planning.

The schools were informed by means of a circular of the Flemish Government "Communication on ICT coordination" (*mededeling betreffende ICT-coordinatie)* (evidence no. 4) of the impact of the changes for the schools such as the weighted factor and coefficient to be applied as well as how the funds may be used, which is also available on the Flemish Government website for Education (https://data-onderwijs.vlaanderen.be/edulex/document.aspx?docid=13401).

- and the ICT minimum goals.

The legislation shall allow to (ii) ratify the minimum goals for the 2nd and 3rd stage of secondary education.

The Decree of the Flemish Government of 14 July 2023 on the educational objectives for the second and third stage of secondary education (*decreet over de onderwijsdoelen voor de tweede en derde graad van het secundair onderwijs*), which was published in the Official Journal on 28 August 2023, sets out the educational objectives for the second degree and for the third degree of full time ordinary secondary education, with the exception of the third year of the third stage (seventh year), and entered into force on 1 September 2023 (evidence no. 5).

Educational programmes in secondary education consist of a general curriculum and a specific curriculum. For the general curriculum, the minimum goals are formulated in terms of 16 key competences, one of which being "Digital competence and media literacy". The minimum goals for "Digital competence and media literacy" are included in Annex 1 for the 2nd stage of secondary education (evidence no. 5, p. 15-16) and in Annex 2 for the 3rd stage of secondary education (evidence no. 5, p. 37). For the specific curriculum, specific learning objectives are developed for the 16 science domains, one of which being "Computer Science", with nine sub-competences being defined. The minimal goals for "Computer Science" of the 3rd stage of secondary education are

defined in Annex 3 (evidence no. 5, p. 75-76). For the 2nd stage of secondary education, cut-off targets are established as minimum goals for the specific curriculum. These targets are determined through the protocol agreement of 1 September 2023 between the Flemish government and educational providers on the specific educational objectives of the second stage of secondary education. Per article 1 of the protocol agreement, the cut-off targets are consistent with the specific learning objectives of the Decree of 14 July 2023 (evidence no.10). Annex 1 provides the cut-off targets for the sequential path (evidence no. 11) and Annex 2 provides the targets for the twofold finality path (evidence no. 12). For the sequential path, cut-off targets are defined for the field of "Computer Science" (evidence no. 11). For the twofold finality path, cut-off targets are for example defined for the field of "Business Science" (evidence no.12), which will in the 3rd stage of secondary education be the logical follow-up to the specific final learning objectives of "Computer Science" in the 3rd stage as shown in Annex 4. This Annex 4 provides an overview of the structural elements of the 3rd stage of the twofold finality path, which are a logical follow-up to the structural elements of the 2nd stage (evidence no. 14).

Additionally, the Decree of the Flemish Government of 17 May 2024, on the educational objectives for the first stage of secondary education and the seventh year aimed at higher education and various other related measures (*decreet over de onderwijsdoelen voor de eerste graad van het secundair onderwijs en het zevende leerjaar gericht op het hoger onderwijs en diverse andere verwante maatregelen*), sets out the educational objectives for the seventh year of secondary education , and entered into force on 1 September 2024. The educational objectives for the seventh grade are included in Annex 2 and 3 of the decree which includes minimum goals for "Competences in mathematics, science and technology" (evidence no. 7, p.41-52).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **this reform consists of actions related to four pillars: (1) ICT education, media literacy and computational thinking reforms, (2) promoting effective ICT school policies, by strengthening the role of ICT coordinators,**

Regarding actions related to ICT education, media literacy, and promoting effective ICT school policies, by strengthening the role of ICT coordinators, see analysis above.

(3) digitally skilled teachers and trainers for teachers and

To strengthen teachers' digital competences, ICT bootcamps were organized via public procurement, with the tender consisting of two lots. The first lot focused on two-year guidance trajectory for primary schools to increase ICT competences of teachers. The second lot focused on a two-year guidance trajectory to support ICT coordinators from all educational levels (evidence no. 15, p.4). Both lots were awarded to Fourcast (evidence no. 16). In addition to the (physical) bootcamps that have taken place, the materials that were developed for these ICT bootcamps are also available to all schools through KlasCement, and can be assessed online. The Commission services assessed the links provided by the authorities on 4 June 2025 to verify that the materials developed for the two lots of the ICT bootcamps are available online. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the materials are accessible. **(4) creation of a knowledge and advisory centre to support schools in digitalising their educational provision.**

The Note to the Flemish government (evidence no. 8) details the set up and tasks of the Digisprong Competence Centre within the Department of Education and Training, created to support the field of education in the use of ICT. The proposal to set up this knowledge and advisory centre included in the Note to the Flemish government was

subsequently approved, as shown in the minutes of the Flemish government meeting of 25 June 2021 (evidence no. 9, p.23). In addition, the Commission services assessed the link provided by the authorities on 5 June 2025 to verify that the knowledge and advisory centre was created and is operational. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the knowledge and advisory centre has been created,

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 128 - Vision paper for a future oriented, agile, and digital higher education

Related Measure: R-4.02 - Higher education advancement Fund

Qualitative Indicator: Adoption of a vision note by the Flemish government

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

Milestone 128 is part of reform R-4.02, which aims at delivering a vision paper on the following three objectives: (1) create a future-proof and flexible offer in Flemish higher education institutions, (2) further development of lifelong learning in higher education and (3) making the most of digital forms of education. Concretely, a vision note shall (i) define a new profile for higher education in Flanders to ensure that higher education institutions are state of the art and (ii) develop a vision on lifelong learning.

Milestone 128 requires the Minister of education and training to endorse a vision note by the Flemish government laying out the profile for higher education and life-long learning in Flanders. The new text aims at setting the vision to develop a Flemish high education portfolio that is future-proof and agile. It shall be elaborated in consultation with a broad spectrum of stakeholders including higher education institutions, the professional field, and social partners. Concretely, it shall (i) define a new profile for higher education in Flanders to ensure that higher education institutions are state of the art and (ii) develop a vision on lifelong learning.

Milestone 128 is the only milestone of this reform.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
	BE-C[C41]-R[R-402]-M[128] _Belgium_3rd_Payment_request_BE_C_C41__R_R_402__M_128__CN.docx	Cover note
	BE-C[C41]-R[R-402]-M[128] _Attachment3_AgendaFlemishGovernment.pdf	Agenda of the meeting of the Flemish Government (2 February 2024)
	BE-C[C41]-R[R-402]-M[128] _Attachment4_MinutesFlemishGovernment.pdf	Minutes of the meeting of the Flemish Government (2 February 2024)
	BE-C[C41]-R[R-402]-M[128] _Attachment2_VisionNote.pdf	2024 Vision note on “Origin Fund”
	BE-C[C41]-R[R-402]-M[128] _Attachment2bis_AttachmentVisionNote.pdf	Annex to the vision note – 18 reports of the educational institutions who received funding through the “Origin Fund”

	BE-C[C41]-R[R-402]-M[128] _Attachment1_summarydocument_ milestone128.pdf	Summary document, compiling all the other evidence.
	VR_2021_2602_VV_DOC_0011_2_Voorsprongfonds_hoger_onderwijs___bijlageBIS	2021 Vision Note
	VR_2021_2602_VV_DOC_0011_1_Voorsprongfonds_hoger_onderwijs___nota	Note to the Flemish Government on the Vision Note and the proposal for a decision on the approval of the Vision Note
	VR_PV_2021_10_VV___PUNT_0004	Agenda point 4 of the Flemish government meeting of 26 February 2021 approving the Vision Note

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Endorsement by the Minister of education and training of a vision note by the Flemish government laying out the profile for higher education and life-long learning in Flanders.

The 2021 Vision Note laying out the profile for higher education and lifelong learning in Flanders through the setup of the Higher Education Advancement Fund was submitted to the Flemish government on 26 February 2021 (evidence no. 7 and no. 8). It was subsequently approved by the Flemish government on 26 February 2021 and authorised the Flemish minister of education and training, the responsible minister, to submit the vision paper to the Flemish Parliament (evidence no. 9). It is also made publicly available on the Flemish government website: https://onderwijs.vlaanderen.be/nl/directies-en-administraties/hoger-onderwijs/projecttoelagen-voorsprongfonds-voor-hogescholen-en-universiteiten.

In addition, the 2024 Vision Note provides an overview of the achievements of the Higher Education Advancement Fund (evidence no. 4). It was put on the agenda of the Flemish government (evidence no. 2) and endorsed as shown under the first point of the minutes of the government meeting (evidence no. 3). It is made available on the same government website as the 2021 Vision Note.

The Council Implementing Decision required a vision note by the Flemish government. The Flemish government has approved the 2021 Vision Note and has also approved the 2024 Vision Note, both of which lay out the profile for higher education and life-long learning in Flanders. Whilst this constitutes a minimal formal deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, the submission of two vision notes instead of one allows for a more adaptive approach. The first vision note sets out the initial vision, while the second one provides an update on the progress made and a more detailed approach. As of this, this minimal deviation does not change the nature of the measure and does not affect the nature of the progress towards achieving the reform

that the milestone represents. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

The new text aims at setting the vision to develop a Flemish high education portfolio that is future-proof and agile.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the reform aims at delivering a vision paper on the following three objectives: (1) create a future-proof and flexible offer in Flemish higher education institutions, (...).**

The 2021 Vision note outlines the Flemish government's strategy to capitalize on post-COVID opportunities while addressing structural challenges in higher education. The aim is to create a robust, well-designed, and internationally oriented higher education system that further develops a robust and well-designed higher education offer with a strengthened international dimension and a stronger focus on lifelong learning and the labour market (evidence no. 7, p.4).

The post-COVID labour market is expected to be more flexible, digital, and diverse, with a growing demand for additional higher education training, especially among working individuals and those with family commitments. To respond to this shift, the higher education system must adapt to attract adult learners and working students, offering flexible and specialized training options. However, according to the 2021 Vision Note, the current Flemish higher education offerings, such as work pathways, are limited, and new forms of education are underdeveloped and inaccessible. The COVID pandemic has accelerated the adoption of digital technologies in higher education, but these solutions were often temporary, and crisis driven. The vision paper and the connected Higher Education Advancement Fund aim for innovations that give higher education a stronger labour market/societal focus, a focus on lifelong learning and a 21st century digital character, with flexibility, innovation and sustainability being important focus points.

To deliver on this ambition, the Flemish government has put forward three spearheads, to which it links seven action points. The first spearhead being the development of a Flemish training portfolio that is future-proof and agile, with the Flemish government aiming to fulfil this ambition by i) implementation pathways towards a future-proof and adaptable training portfolio, ii) refocusing curricula, and iii) broad process of new profiling of higher education in Flanders (evidence no. 7, p.5-6).

It shall be elaborated in consultation with a broad spectrum of stakeholders including higher education institutions, the professional field, and social partners.

The 2024 Vision Note states that the Flemish government gathered input from a wide field of stakeholders (evidence no. 4, p.2). For instance, the Lifelong Learning Partnership was established by the Flemish government in 2020 with the explicit assignment to develop a strong policy on lifelong learning in Flanders. The Action Plan "Action plan for Lifelong Learning. Setting course for a learning Flanders" (Action Plan for Lifelong Learning. Setting course for a learning Flanders | Vlaanderen.be) of the Lifelong Learning Partnership, itself is a result of the co-creative process between the members of the Partnership and other relevant stakeholder working groups. One of the flagships in the Action Plan focuses on the importance of digital forms of education, which was taken on board and expanded upon in the 2024 Vision Note featuring a special commitment to embed digital forms of education and further professionalise their staff in digital didactic. Additionally, the Flemish Education Council (VLOR), which brings together representatives from across the education field and from socio-economic and socio-cultural organisations, delivered an opinion on 30 March 2021 on the 2021 Vision

Note and its further operationalisation (Voorwaarden voor een relance van het Vlaamse hoger onderwijs | Vlor).

Concretely, it shall (i) define a new profile for higher education in Flanders to ensure that higher education institutions are state of the art and ...

Under the first spearhead ("Building a future-proof and agile Flemish education portfolio"), the 2021 Vision Note emphasizes the need for higher education institutions to respond flexibly to labour market demands and societal needs. To achieve this, the 2021? Vision Note also emphasises the need to stay attuned to international developments in higher education as focusing on international profiling, international benchmarks and international targeting as an essential pillar of supply development. The setting up of new courses and the improvement and renewal of the existing offer should be organised faster and more transparent and should lead to a rational higher education offer. Through the Higher Education Advancement Fund, the connected RRF investment of this reform, the Flemish Government will encourage higher education institutions to critically review their existing programme portfolio and take actions to make their offerings more forward-looking and agile. The institutions can submit an action plan, whereby they evaluate their current portfolio and detect the needs for renewal, rationalisation, and adaption (evidence no. 7, p. 7).

Through the renewal of the training offer under the Higher Education Advancement Fund, actions are taken by education institutions such as adapting existing trainings, through for example the design of new training courses or renewing training components, giving institutions the opportunity to boost the content of training for example towards building STEM or artificial intelligence into the agenda, as well as evaluating trainings that no longer meet the needs of society and the labour market, as well as allowing for further flexibilization and modularisation of the curriculum, to make training(s) more accessible to non-generational students (evidence no. 7, p. 7-8).

... (ii) develop a vision on lifelong learning.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the reform aims at delivering a vision paper on the following three objectives: (1) (...), (2) further development of lifelong learning in higher education, (...).**

Under the second spearhead ("Offering more opportunities for lifelong learning within higher education"), the Flemish government aims to take the following actions: i) call for a flexible offer of lifelong learning, and ii) Flemish vision development on lifelong learning in higher education (evidence no. 7, p. 9). With the first action point, the focus is on the development or adaptation of an educational offer that focuses specifically on those who wish to reskill/redirect or upskill through courses as well as micro-credentials, working to strengthen cooperation with industry as well as setting up innovative training pathways specifically targeting groups that are not sufficiently connected to today's higher education such as job-seekers, non-native speakers or newcomers with a higher education degree that is not (fully) recognised (evidence no. 7, p. 9).

In addition to the concrete actions within the institutions, the 2021 Vision Note also goes into the need for Flanders to develop a broad and shared vision of lifelong learning in higher education, as the current educational regulations on flexibilization and funding do not contain specific guidelines on the organisation and promotion of lifelong learning activities. As such, the second action point requires public authorities, together with higher education institutions, social partners and other relevant stakeholders, to develop a vision of lifelong learning in higher education, including exploring the

possibility of developing a business model/funding mechanism to stimulate lifelong learning in higher education (evidence no. 7, p. 10).

Notably, the 2024 Vision Note states that the provision of lifelong learning requires additional commitment and therefore includes a proposal for an appointment framework for the use of micro-credentials (evidence no. 4, p. 12).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the reform aims at delivering a vision paper on the following three objectives: (1) (…), (2) (…) and (3) making the most of digital forms of education. The vision paper shall be endorsement by the Minister of education and training of the Flemish government by 31 December 2023.**

In addition to the analysis above, with the third spearhead point of the 2021 Vision Note ("Quality sustainability of new forms of work in higher education"), the Flemish government aims to take the following actions: i) support for improving the sustainability of new (digital) forms of education, and ii) strengthening competences around new forms of education.

Through the Higher Education Advancement Fund, institutions may receive support for investments to adapt to the new forms of education, which may include investments in IT materials, investments in setting up study rooms, providing recording facilities or designing new course materials or evaluation methods (e.g., digital examination centre, proctoring system, etc.). To support this, the aim is also to focus on sharing best practises already developed to foster cooperation and exchanges between institutions (evidence no. 7, p. 10). The 2021 Vision Note also focuses on the need for institutions to ensure that teachers are sufficiently and continuously professionalised in digital teaching and evaluation. In this regard, the Flemish government envisions setting up a learning network with a strong focus on sharing and disseminating good practises and professionalising higher education teachers (evidence no. 7, p. 10-11).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 134 - Improving High Education offering in Flanders to make it more future-proof and agile

Related Measure: I-4.02 - Higher education advancement fund

Quantitative Indicator: Number of higher education institutions who received funds

Baseline: 0

Target: 7

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

The objective of the investment I-4.02 is the creation of a future proof and flexible offer in Flemish higher education institutions, the further development of lifelong learning and supporting the sustainable implementation of new digital forms of education.

Target 134 concerns 7 higher education institutions who have benefitted from the Higher Education Advancement Fund. Through the Higher Education Advancement Fund, higher education institutions, based on analyses of training portfolios, shall draw up action plans to adjust and reduce the existing offerings and, where necessary, create new ones. In addition, attention shall be paid to adapting programs, based on the requirements of the labour market and society. All Flemish higher education institutions are eligible to suggest and submit projects under this call for projects. However, participation in this call is not obligatory for higher education institutions, nor is submitting a plan a guarantee of acceptance.

Target 134 is the only target of this investment related to the creation of a higher education advancement fund. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2023.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Cover Note	Summary document duly justifying how the target was satisfactorily fulfilled
	Attachment2_Grant funding	Decision of the Flemish Government of 26 November 2021 on the award of project allowances under the Origin Fund, in implementation of the Recovery and Resilience plan, which grants funding under the Higher Education Advancement Fund to 18 higher education institutions
	Attachment3_Grant sfundingadaptation	Decision of the Flemish Government of 17 December 2021 adapting the decision of 26 November 2021 on the award of project allowances under the Origin Fund, in implementation of the Recovery and Resilience plan
	VR_2021_0907_VV_ DOC_0105_1BIS_O	Decision of the Flemish Government of 9 July 2021 to launch a project call for the Higher Education Advancement Fund

	perationalisering_Voorsprongfonds___nota	
	VR_2021_0907_VV_DOC_0105_2BIS_Operationalisering_Voorsprongfonds___bijlage	Explanatory memorandum of the Flemish governments project call of 9 July 2021, which includes the design of the call, applicable conditions and the submission and decision procedure
	Beslissingsfiche_VV_punt_10	Agenda point 10 of the Flemish government meeting of 9 July 2021
	Attachment6_projectplans	Application fiches of the 18 higher education institutions following the project call for the Higher Education Advancement Fund
	annex_6_T134	Jury report for both selection rounds
	annex_2_T134	Spreadsheet listing all selected projects of the higher education institutions
	annex_5_T134	Vision Note of 2 February 2024 including the final reports submitted by all higher education institutions who have benefitted from the Higher Education Advancement Fund

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgium authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

7 higher education institutions have benefitted from the Higher Education Advancement Fund.

Following the decision of the Flemish government of 9 July 2021 to launch a project call for the Higher Education Advancement Fund (evidence no. 4), which was approved as shown by the agenda point of the Flemish government meeting of 9 July 2021 (evidence no.6), 18 Flemish higher education institutions submitted project proposals (evidence no. 7). The design of the call is included as an annex to the decision (evidence no. 5). All the projects submitted by the institutions were assessed by a jury, which sent its opinion for a positive or negative advice on the project, with the possibility of submitting adapted projects for the second round of project calls to the Minister of Education (evidence no. 8).

On 26 November 2021, the decision of the Flemish Government on the award of project allowances under the Origin Fund, in implementation of the Recovery and Resilience plan 'Vlaamse Veerkracht' (*Besluit van de Vlaamse Regering betreffende de toekenning van projecttoelagen in het kader van het Voorsprongsfonds, in uitvoering van het relanceplan 'Vlaamse Veerkracht' (VV112)*), which was proposed by the Flemish Minister of Education, was approved (evidence no. 2).

Following the decision of 26 November 2021, 18 higher education institutions benefit from the Higher Education Advancement Fund, namely:

- Arteveldehogeschool (Article 1)
- AP Hogeschool Antwerpen (Article 2)
- Erasmushogeschool Brussel (Article 3)
- Hogeschool Ghent (Article 4)
- Hogeschool West-Vlaanderen (Article 5)
- Hogere Zeevaartschool (Article 6)
- Karel de Grote Hogeschool, Katholieke Hogeschool Antwerp (Article 7)
- KU Leuven (Article 8)
- LUCA School of Arts (Article 9)
- Odisee (Article 10)
- Hogeschool PXL (Article 11)
- Thomas More Kempen vzw (Article 12)
- Universiteit Antwerpen (Article 13)
- UC Leuven vzw (Article 14)
- Universiteit Ghent (Article 15)
- Universiteit Hasselt (Article 16)
- Katholieke Hogeschool VIVES Zuid (Article 17)
- Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Article 18)

On 17 December 2021, the decision was amended based on the second round of the project call and the jury's advice (evidence no.3), increasing the funding amount for 17 higher education institutions (evidence no.3).

Through the Higher Education Advancement Fund, higher education institutions, based on analyses of training portfolios, shall draw up action plans to adjust and reduce the existing offerings and, where necessary, create new ones.

The call for proposals allows for four types of possible projects through the Higher Education Advancement Fund, (i) the analysis of the training offer at the level of an individual college/university, (ii) Flemish-wide analysis of the training portfolio for a specific subject area (with multiple institutions); (iii) analysis of the training portfolio for a specific region (with multiple institutions) in line with the needs of students/labour market/society; (iv) renewal of the training portfolio by renewing and refocusing the curriculum (evidence no. 5).

The final reports submitted by each institution on the implementation of the Higher Education Advancement Fund includes, for each institution, a section on how the projects have influenced the institution's training portfolios, and whether the projects have resulted in new training/plans for new training, or changes or removal of existing offers (evidence no.10).

In addition, attention shall be paid to adapting programs, based on the requirements of the labour market and society.

The first priority area of the Higher Education Advancement Fund, titled “Towards a forward-looking and agile training portfolio” under the call for proposals, has as a general requirement that projects should respond flexibly to labour market demands and societal needs (evidence no. 5, p.3). Furthermore, the analysis of training portfolios for a specific region should focus on meeting the needs of students, the labour market and society (evidence no.5, p.5). The design of training portfolios for vulnerable groups should be aimed at their full participation in the labour market (evidence no.5, p.6).

These requirements, as part of the focal point criteria, are also elements of the jury's assessment (evidence no. 5, p.14).

For example, the PXL Hogeschool carried out an analysis of societal developments and regional needs, looking at the Limburg economy and labour market and identified gaps in their regional training offer (evidence no. 10, p.44). Similarly, Vives and Hogeschool West-Vlaanderen collaborated on the Argendeal project to better respond to the needs of the regional labour market, which led to the creation of new programs such as the professional Bachelor's program in Media and Entertainment Business (evidence no. 10, p.22-23).

All Flemish higher education institutions shall be eligible to suggest and submit projects under this call for projects. However, participation in this call is not obligatory for higher education institutions, nor is submitting a plan a guarantee of acceptance.

The call for projects for the Higher Education Advancement Fund states in its conditions that all colleges and universities of the Flemish community are eligible to submit a plan, with institutions also being able to submit a plan jointly (point 3.1, evidence no.5). While all Flemish higher education institutions are eligible to submit projects, the guarantee of acceptance of these projects is subject to their approval (evidence no. 5).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **this investment consists of (1) the creation of a future-proof and flexible offer in Flemish higher education institutions,**

The Higher Education Advancement Fund investment consists of the creation of a future-proof and flexible offer in Flemish higher education institutions, as evidenced by the first priority area of the Higher Education Advancement Fund, titled “Towards a forward-looking and agile training portfolio” (evidence no.5) with the projects financed under the fund having to respond to certain criteria such as the general requirement for projects to respond flexibly to labour market demands and societal needs and the requirement that the design of training portfolios for vulnerable groups should aim at their full participation in the labour market, as detailed in the analysis above.

(2) the further development of lifelong learning in higher education and

In the frame of this investment, the Universiteit Antwerpen, Universiteit Gent, and Vrije Universiteit Brussel have for example developed a joint digital platform, the Nova Academy, that offers lifelong learning programs (evidence no. 10, p.30). Further higher education institutions expanded their lifelong learning offerings, including micro credentials, such as the Universiteit Gent and Hogeschool Gent (evidence no. 10, p.35-37).

(3) supporting the sustainable implementation of new digital forms of education.

In the frame of this investment, a number of institutions have invested in digital infrastructure to support the development and sustainable implementation of new digital forms of education. For example, the Hogeschool PXL developed a digital self-scan tool to help teachers assess their digital skills and create a personalized training programme. The Universiteit Antwerpen developed a collaborative online education project, COIL, which allows students from different universities and cultural backgrounds to work together on projects or assignments (evidence no. 10, p.55).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 140 **-** Adapted regulatory framework and improved application of discriminatory tests

Related Measure: R-4.04 - Tackling discrimination at the labour market

Qualitative Indicator: Publication of the adapted regulatory framework in the Official Journal

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

Milestone 140 is part of reform R-4.04, which aims at tackling discrimination at the labour market and consists of: (1) improving the regulatory framework of discrimination tests (2) publishing a law establishing a department within the Federal Public Service for Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue responsible for monitoring diversity and for establishing sectoral fact sheets relating to the employment structure of each sector of activity and (3) training for social law monitoring services of the Federal Public Service for Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue in order to improve the effectiveness of discriminatory tests. The adapted regulatory framework on discrimination tests shall enter into force by 1 January 2024.

Milestone 140 requires: (1) the publication of the adapted regulatory framework on discriminatory tests (Article 42/1 of the Social Criminal Code) in the Official Journal, (2) the publication in the Official Journal of a law establishing a department within the FPS Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue responsible for monitoring the issue of diversity and for establishing sectoral fact sheets relating to the employment structure of each sector of activity (3) training for the social law monitoring services of the Federal Public Service for Employment, Labour, and Social Dialogue to enhance the effectiveness of discriminatory tests.

Milestone 140 is the only milestone of this reform.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Cover Note	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled.
	Law of 1 April 2022 amending Section 2/1 of the Social Criminal Code concerning the specific powers of social inspectors in relation to findings of discrimination	1 AVRIL 2022. - Loi modifiant la section 2/1 du Code pénal social concernant les pouvoirs spécifiques des inspecteurs sociaux en matière de constatations relatives à la discrimination
	Law of 3 October 2022 laying down various provisions relating to employment	3 OCTOBRE 2022. - Loi portant des dispositions diverses relatives au Travail https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/eli/loi/2022/10/03/2022206360/justel
	Extract of the e-academy database evidencing the	Extract of a database providing an overview of the participants of social law monitoring

	completion of training hours		services of the Federal Public Service for Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue in discrimination courses since April 2022
	00for1213 - Training for new inspectors (in Dutch)		Presentation related to the training on anti-discrimination for new inspectors by the inter-federal centre for equal opportunities and combating racism and discrimination (UNIA) in Dutch
	00for1639 - Mystery calls		Presentation related to the training for specialists on mystery calls by SIRS/SIOD
	00for1855 - Discrimination for reference inspectors		Legislation and methodology related to anti-discrimination by the inter-federal centre for equal opportunities and combating racism and discrimination (UNIA) in Dutch and French.
	00for1580 - Training for new inspectors (in French)		Presentation related to the training on anti-discrimination for new inspectors by the inter-federal centre for equal opportunities and combating racism and discrimination (UNIA) in French
	00for2897 - Discrimination - Mystery calls – Training for specialists		Presentation related to the training on mystery shopping regarding discrimination on the work floor for the federal police and update of the training regarding discrimination and mystery calls by SIRS.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgium authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Publication in the Official Journal of the adapted regulatory framework on discriminatory tests (art.42/1 Social Criminal Code)

The Law of 1 April 2022 (evidence no. 2), which amends Section 2/1 of the Penal Social Code concerning the specific powers of social inspectors in relation to findings on discrimination, was published in the Official Journal on 28 April 2022. This law entered into force on 8 May 2022, following the general rule of 10 days after publication, as it did not contain a specific provision regarding its entry into force.

Articles 2 to 6 of the Law of 1 April 2022 modify the section of the Social Penal Code related to the powers of social inspectors concerning discrimination tests. Specifically, these amendments include the modification of Article 42/1 and the insertion of a new Article 42/2 within the Social Penal Code.

Article 42/1 of the Social Penal Code has been amended to grant social inspectors the authority to conduct discriminatory tests by impersonating potential candidates.

The insertion of Article 42/2 into the Social Penal Code extends the competence of inspectors to conduct discrimination tests across all discrimination criteria protected

by the three federal anti-discrimination laws. This encompasses not only racial and gender-related grounds but also other criteria such as disability, age, and more, thereby broadening the scope of protection against discrimination.

Publication in the Official Journal of a law establishing a department within the FPS Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue responsible for monitoring the issue of diversity and for establishing sectoral fact sheets relating to the employment structure of each sector of activity

The Law of 3 October 2022 (evidence no. 3), which introduces various labour-related provisions, was published in the Official Journal on 10 November 2022. Chapter 11 (Articles 45 to 49) relates to monitoring diversity in business sectors and companies. According to Article 49 of the law, this chapter came into force on the date of its publication, i.e. 10 November 2022.

Article 45 of the law of 3 October 2022 establishes a department within the FPS Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue that is tasked with monitoring diversity issues. This department is responsible for creating sectoral fact sheets that provide information on the employment structure within each sector of activity.

Training for social law monitoring services of the Federal Public Service for Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue to improve the effectiveness of discriminatory tests.

The Belgian authorities provided an extract of the database 'e-academy' that registers all training courses attended by employees of the Federal Public Service for Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue (hereafter "FPS Employment") (evidence no. 4), as well as the training material of the courses mentioned in the database extract (evidence no. 5 to 9).

The extract from the e-academy database (evidence no. 4), an internal database of the FPS Employment that tracks all training courses attended by the administration's employees, provides an overview of the participants in training courses related to discriminatory tests. Participants to these courses are inspectors of the social law monitoring services and the database extract mentions their unique inspector number (*Inspecteursnummer*), as well as the training attended (*Opleiding*) and the date of the training (*Momenten*). Access to the e-academy database is limited to the Training Department, which records attendance based on signed attendance lists checked by trainers. The database extract shows the attendance of inspectors of the social law monitoring services to 5 trainings related to discriminatory tests: (i) Training for new inspectors (in Dutch), (ii) Mystery calls, (iii) Discrimination for reference inspectors, (iv) Training for new inspectors (in French), (v) Discrimination –Mystery calls - Training for specialists.

The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 22 May 2025 to verify that the data in the database extract provided by Belgium matches the data in the e-academy database. This check was completed successfully, confirming that inspectors of the social law monitoring services attended trainings related to discriminatory tests.

The training material for each of these courses (evidence no. 5 to 9) shows the content of these trainings, which aim at enabling inspectors to identify potential discrimination in the field or at enhancing the inspectors' abilities to conduct effective discriminatory tests (e.g. mystery calls).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Non-repayable support

Number and name of the Target: 141 - Completion of sectoral non-discrimination actions

Related Measure: C42.R-4.06 An inclusive labour market

Quantitative Indicator: Sectors

Baseline: 0

Target: 37

Time: Q1 2023

1. Context:

Target 141 is part of reform R-4.06, which aims at integrating disadvantaged groups into the labour market and consists of (1) revising legislation to foster the integration of migrants into the labour market and (2) addenda on non-discrimination and inclusion added to sector covenants.

Target 141 requires the (1) entry into force of the revised Flemish integration decree to foster the integration of migrants into the labour market; (2) that 37 professional sectors implement action plans on non-discrimination (see Addenda non-discrimination and inclusion 2021-2022). The Flemish government evaluates the implementation of each sectoral action plan."

Target 141 is the only milestone of this reform.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the target was satisfactorily fulfilled.
	37 sector covenants (2021-2022)	Copy of the 37 sector covenants (2021-2022), which include the individual predetermined commitments of each sector.
	37 addenda on non-discrimination and inclusion (2021-2022)	Copy of the 37 addenda to the sector covenants on non-discrimination and inclusion (2021-2022), which include the individual predetermined commitments of each sector.
	Policy report	Policy report by the Flemish Department of Work and Social Economy (WSE), validated by the Flemish Minister for Economy, Innovation, Work, Social Economy and Agriculture on 22 May 2023.
	Decree of the Flemish Government of 9 July 2021, amending the Decree of 7 June 2013 on	Copy of the Decree of the Flemish Government of 9 July 2021, amending the Decree of 7 June 2013 on the Flemish integration and civic integration policy.

	the Flemish integration and civic integration policy.	Published in the Belgian Official Gazette on 11 August 2021, pages 44 to 60.
	Decision of the Flemish Government of 17 December 2021, amending the Decree of 7 June 2013 on the Flemish integration and civic integration policy.	Copy of the Decision of the Flemish Government of 17 December 2021, amending the Decree of 7 June 2013 on the Flemish integration and civic integration policy. Published in the Belgian Official Gazette on 28 February 2022, pages 94 to 122.
	Note to the Cabinet of the Flemish Minister for Economy, Innovation, Work, Social Economy and Agriculture	Note prepared by the Flemish Department of Work and Social Economy (WSE) with regard to the final evaluation of 37 sector covenants and their accompanying addenda on non-discrimination and inclusion (2021-2022), submitted for validation to the Cabinet of the Flemish Minister for Economy, Innovation, Work, Social Economy and Agriculture on 4 May 2023.
	Report of the Parliamentary Committee hearing of 18 June 2021.	Report of the Parliamentary Committee hearing of 18 June 2021, about the 8th generation of sector covenants (2021-2022) and the newly introduced addenda on non-discrimination and inclusion.
	Email from the Cabinet of the Flemish minister for Economy, Innovation, Work, Social Economy and Agriculture (Hilde Crevits).	Copy of the email of 22 May 2023 from the Cabinet of the Flemish minister for Economy, Innovation, Work, Social Economy and Agriculture (Hilde Crevits), validating the final evaluation of the 8th generation of sector covenants and accompanying addenda (2021-2022).

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgium authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Entry into force of the revised Flemish integration decree to foster the integration of migrants into the labour market

The Decree of the Flemish Government of 9 July 2021 (hereafter "the Decree"), amending the Decree of 7 June 2013 on the Flemish integration and civic integration policy (hereafter "the Flemish integration decree"), entered into force on 1 March 2022 (evidence no. 5, Art. 44; Evidence no. 6, Art. 64).

The revised Flemish integration decree includes new requirements to foster the integration of migrants into the labour market (evidence no. 5, Art. 21). More specifically, in addition to the existing social orientation and Dutch language programme components, Article 29(1) sub-paragraph 3 of the Flemish integration decree now also

requires an enrolment with the public employment service of Flanders (VDAB) or with the Brussels Regional Office of Employment (Actiris). After registering with these services, migrants will receive tailor-made support in their job search, with the aim of ensuring quick and sustainable employment and improving their economic and social self-reliance.

37 professional sectors implement action plans on non-discrimination (see Addenda non-discrimination and inclusion 2021-2022)

In March 2021, the Flemish government and the social partners from 37 sectors adopted the 8th generation of sector covenants, for the period 2021-2022 (evidence no. 2). Each sector covenant is accompanied by a series of thematic addenda, in which the specific professional sector commits itself to carry out actions and projects regarding a specific theme (e.g., lifelong learning, workable work, dual learning, etc.). Through the conclusion of these addenda, sectors can access additional (financial) support to *inter alia* employ sector consultants, develop digital tools, organise training courses, and produce awareness-raising material.

With the 8th generation of sector covenants (2021-2022), the Flemish government introduced a new thematic addendum, namely the addendum on 'Non-discrimination and inclusion', which lays out a list of actions and projects to support proportional labour participation of disadvantaged groups and diversity (evidence no. 3). The addendum contains for a specific sector both obligations of means and obligations of result, which mainly pertain to awareness raising, information and support actions related to non-discrimination and inclusion, and the start-up of a risk analysis and self-regulation process. For instance, of the 37 sectors, 34 committed to carry out a baseline measurement in order to chart the nature and extent of discrimination within their sector.

The Flemish government evaluates the implementation of each sectoral action plan

The sectors report annually to the Flemish Department of Work and Social Economy (WSE) on their achievements in the context of the sector covenants, including any progress made in terms of non-discrimination and inclusion (interim report in January 2022, final report in January 2023). On the basis of this information, WSE writes a policy report (evidence no. 4) outlining the overall progress made on the individual commitments and awarding each sector with a positive, positive with comments or a negative opinion. Based on the final opinion, the WSE can advise the Flemish government to cut the allocated budget by up to 20% (evidence no. 7). The WSE policy report was validated by the Flemish minister for Economy, Innovation, Work, Social Economy and Agriculture on 22 May 2023 (evidence no. 9).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 143 - Award of grants related to social innovation initiatives

Related Measure: I-4.07 - Re-qualification strategy

Qualitative Indicator: Written notification of contract awards to successful candidates

Time: Q2 2023

1. Context:

Milestone 143 is part of investment I-4.07, which aims at promoting the sustainable integration of vulnerable groups into the labour market and consists of (1) setting up a systematic language and digital skills assessment of jobseekers, (2) providing 'emergency' childcare for parents that were recruited or follow a training and (3) supporting social innovation projects.

Milestone 143 requires the Public Employment Services to award grants to social innovation initiatives.

Milestone 143 is the first step of the implementation of the investment. It will be followed by target 144 and target 145, related to the creation of a competence profile and systematic job counselling of 6 000 job seekers in Brussels, on the one hand, and the training of 450 people with disabilities, on the other hand. The investment has a final expected date for implementation by 31 December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled.
	Decree of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region of 28 February 2008, implementing Article 7 of the Ordinance of 18 January 2001 on the organisation and operation of the Brussels Regional Employment Office	Copy of the decree of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region of 28 February 2008, implementing Article 7 of the Ordinance of 18 January 2001 on the organisation and operation of the Brussels Regional Employment Service. Published in the Official Journal on 11 March 2008 (https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi/article_body.pl?language=nl&caller=summary&pub_date=08-03-11&numac=2008031092). Entry into force on 11 March 2008.
	Restricted call for projects - projets pilotes thématiques - 2021	Public procurement specifications of the call for projects "Projets Pilotes Thématiques (2021) – Cahier des charges, launched by the Brussels Regional Employment Service on 22 April 2021.
	Call for projects "Accompagnement des Artistes (2023-2026)"	Public procurement specifications of the call for projects "Accompagnement des Artistes (2023-2026) – Cahier des charges", launched by the Brussels Regional Employment Service on 29 August 2022.

	Partnership agreement for “Digimobile” project	Copy of the contract between Actiris and Local Mission of Schaarbeek, signed on 25 August 2021. Contract commences on 1 September 2021 and terminates on 31 December 2022.
	Partnership agreement for “Accompagnement des Artistes” project	Copy of the contract between Actiris and Mediarte, signed on 9 March 2023. Contract commences on 1 January 2023 and terminates on 31 December 2026.
	Partnership agreement for “Accompagnement des Artistes” project	Copy of the contract between Actiris and ILES, signed on 10 March 2023. Contract commences on 1 January 2023 and terminates on 31 December 2026.
	Partnership agreement for “Allô-DigiParcours” project	Copy of the contract between Actiris and the Central Employment Agency in Brussels, signed on 16 September 2021. Contract commences on 1 September 2021 and terminates on 31 December 2022.
	Partnership agreement for “Diginômes” project.	Copy of the contract between Actiris and the Local Employment Agency in Uccle, signed on 25 October 2021. Contract commences on 1 September 2021 and terminates on 31 December 2022.
	Rental agreement for “Maison d’enfants d’Actiris” project	Copy of the contract between the municipality of Anderlecht and the “Maison d’enfants d’Actiris” for the occupation and management of the “Boutons d’or” day-care center, signed on 17 May 2023. Contract commences on 1 June 2023 and terminates on 31 May 2032.
	Decision of the Office for Birth and Childhood of the French Community	Decision of the Office for Birth and Childhood of the French Community of 26 September 2024, confirming that the new childcare center in Anderlecht has been authorised to open.
	Statutes of “Maison d’enfants d’Actiris”	Statutes of “Maison d’enfants d’Actiris” of 20 December 2023, confirming that the purpose of the non-profit organisation is to provide ‘emergency’ childcare for parents that were recruited or follow a training. Published in the Official Journal on 2 January 2024

		(https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/tsv_pdf/2024/01/02/24000581.pdf).

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgium authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Award of grants by the Public Employment Services to social innovation initiatives.

In accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 9(1) of the Decree of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region of 28 February 2008 implementing Article 7 of the Ordinance of 18 January 2001 on the organisation and operation of the Brussels Regional Public Employment Service (evidence No. 2), the Brussels Regional Public Employment Service (hereinafter referred to as "Actiris") launched two calls for projects and defined related public procurement specifications. One call for projects relates to thematic pilot projects (*Projets pilotes thématiques*) and was launched on 22 April 2021 with the related public procurement specifications (evidence No. 3). Another call for projects relates to the support of artists (*Accompagnement des artistes*) and was launched on 29 August 2022 with the related public procurement specifications (evidence No. 4).

The specifications for thematic pilot projects define that support will be given to innovative projects that aim to make it easier for jobseekers to access, use and benefit from digital tools that are useful when looking for a job (evidence No. 3, p. 3-4). The specifications for projects supporting artists indicate that skills related to the employability of artists are under-developed, although artists account for almost 8% of jobseekers in Brussels and more than half of them have been unemployed for more than two years (evidence No. 4, p. 6). Improving the employability of artists is therefore a social innovation initiative. The specifications for projects supporting artists define that support will be given to projects helping job-seeking artists increase their employability and their volume of activity (evidence No. 4, p. 6).

Following these calls for projects, grants were awarded through five partnership agreements in order to implement the following social innovation projects:

- On 25 August 2021, Actiris signed a partnership agreement with the Local Mission of Schaarbeek for the implementation of the "Digimobile" project (evidence No. 5). The Local Mission of Schaarbeek has set up a contact point to combat the digital divide by *inter alia* making available IT equipment to jobseekers, improving their digital skills through trainings and awareness-raising initiatives, and offering support with online job applications.
- On 16 September 2021, Actiris signed a partnership agreement with the Central Employment Agency in Brussels for the implementation of the "Allô-Digiparcours" project (evidence No. 8). The actions implemented by the Central Employment Agency in Brussels aim to make a relevant diagnosis of the jobseeker's digital skills and offer a tailored training programme to both French- and Dutch-speaking jobseekers in Brussels.
- On 25 October 2021, Actiris signed a partnership agreement with the Local Employment Agency of Uccle for the implementation of the "Diginômes" project (evidence No. 9). The Local Employment Agency of Uccle aims to combat the digital divide by setting up a mentoring and peer-learning programme to enable jobseekers to acquire basic digital skills and the self-confidence needed to conduct an independent online job search.

- On 9 March 2023, Actiris signed a partnership agreement with Mediarte (evidence No. 6). The actions implemented by Mediarte aim to support artists by providing tailor-made solutions and comprehensive support to increase their employability and volume of activity.
- On 10 March 2023, Actiris signed a partnership agreement with ILES (evidence No. 7). The actions implemented by ILES aim to support artists by providing tailor-made solutions and comprehensive support to increase their employability and volume of activity.

These five partnership agreements show that grants were awarded by the Public Employment Service Actiris to implement social innovation projects.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, the milestone aims at providing 'emergency' childcare for parents that were recruited or follow a training.

On 17 May 2023, a rental agreement was signed between the municipality of Anderlecht and the non-profit organisation 'Maison d'enfants d'Actiris asbl', with a view to opening a new childcare center in one of the municipality's buildings ("Actiris 5", located on Rue du Bronze 12, 1070 Anderlecht) (evidence No. 10). On 26 September 2024, the Office for Birth and Childhood of the French Community ('*Office de la Naissance et de l'Enfance'*) authorised the new childcare center to open (evidence No. 11).

On 2 January 2024, the statutes of the non-profit organisation 'Maison d'enfants d'Actiris asbl' were published in the Official Journal (evidence No. 12). Article 3 of the statutes specifies that the social purpose of the organisation is (i) to host children under three years of age, of jobseekers registered with Actiris in order to enable them to take the necessary steps to re-enter the labour market and (ii) to host those children for the period where their parents are bound by an employment contract or a back-to-work programme. This type of short-term childcare for a specific time period is considered 'emergency' childcare.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 146 - Award of grants

Related Measure: I-4.08 - E-inclusion for Belgium – Federal state

Quantitative Indicator: Grants awarded

Baseline: 0

Target: 15

Time: Q2 2024

1. Context:

Target 146 is part of investment I-4.08, which aims at fostering the social and economic integration of vulnerable groups into society by improving their digital skills. The investment consists of a call for projects to support the digital inclusion of vulnerable groups.

Target 146 requires the award of 15 grants by the competent body and the PPS Social Integration to the projects matching the criteria of the call for projects E-INCLUSION

FOR BELGIUM. Projects shall aim at (1) raising awareness for vulnerable target groups to get acquainted with relevant ICT in order to improve their personal situation and strengthen social integration, (2) improving the digital skills of vulnerable target groups in order to improve their personal situation and strengthen social integration, and (3) improving the digital skills of the caregivers of vulnerable target groups.

Target 146 is the only target of this investment. It is related to the award of grants to projects as part of the 'e-inclusion for Belgium' investment. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in Q2/2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Cover Note of 4 March 2025	A summary document of 04 March 2025 duly justifying how the target was satisfactorily fulfilled with respect to actions falling within the remit of the federal state.
	BE-C[C42]-I[I-408]-T[146]_BE_C_C42__I_I_408__T_146__Project_Call_1___Project_e_inclusion_for_Belgium___grants_criteria.pdf	Call for projects 'E-inclusion for Belgium' of 28 April 2022.
	BE-C[C42]-I[I-408]-T[146]_BE_C_C42__I_I_408__T_146__Project_Call_1___Royal_Decree_Grants_PCSW_CHALEROI.pdf Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2023/10/24_1.pdf#page=75	Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 on the granting of a subsidy to the CPAS/OCMW of Charleroi for the implementation of a project aimed at the digital inclusion of vulnerable groups as part of the 'e-inclusion for Belgium' project of the European Recovery and Resilience Plan
	BE-C[C42]-I[I-408]-T[146]_BE_C_C42__I_I_408__T_146__Project_Call_1___Royal_Decree_Grants_PCSW_MORLANWELZ.pdf Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2023/10/24_1.pdf#page=57	Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 on the granting of a subsidy to the CPAS/OCMW of Morlanwelz for the implementation of a project aimed at the digital inclusion of vulnerable groups as part of the 'e-inclusion for Belgium' project of the European Recovery and Resilience Plan

	BE-C[C42]-I[I-408]-T[146]_BE_C_C42__I_I_408__T_146__Project_Call_1___Royal_Decree_Grants_PCSW_NAMUR.pdf Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2023/10/24_1.pdf#page=79	Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 on the granting of a subsidy to the CPAS/OCMW of Namur for the implementation of a project aimed at the digital inclusion of vulnerable groups as part of the 'e-inclusion for Belgium' project of the European Recovery and Resilience Plan
	BE-C[C42]-I[I-408]-T[146]_BE_C_C42__I_I_408__T_146__Project_Call_1___Royal_Decree_Grants_PCSW_LESSINES.pdf Royal Decree of 22 November 2022 https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2024/12/27_2.pdf#page=59	Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 on the granting of a subsidy to the CPAS/OCMW of Lessines for the implementation of a project aimed at the digital inclusion of vulnerable groups as part of the 'e-inclusion for Belgium' project of the European Recovery and Resilience Plan
	BE-C[C42]-I[I-408]-T[146]_BE_C_C42__I_I_408__T_146__Project_Call_1___Royal_Decree_Grants_PCSW_GEMBLOUX.pdf Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2024/12/27_2.pdf#page=72	Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 on the granting of a subsidy to the CPAS/OCMW of Gembloux for the implementation of a project aimed at the digital inclusion of vulnerable groups as part of the 'e-inclusion for Belgium' project of the European Recovery and Resilience Plan
	BE-C[C42]-I[I-408]-T[146]_BE_C_C42__I_I_408__T_146__Project_Call_1___Royal_Decree_Grants_PCSW_FLEMALLE.pdf Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2024/12/27_2.pd	Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 on the granting of a subsidy to the CPAS/OCMW of Flémalle for the implementation of a project aimed at the digital inclusion of vulnerable groups as part of the 'e-inclusion for Belgium' project of the European Recovery and Resilience Plan

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	BE-C[C42]-I[I-408]-T[146]_BE_C_C42__I_I_408__T_146__Project_Call_1___Royal_Decree_Grants_PCSW_JETTE.pdf Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2023/10/24_1.pdf#page=187	Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 on the granting of a subsidy to the CPAS/OCMW of Jette for the implementation of a project aimed at the digital inclusion of vulnerable groups as part of the 'e-inclusion for Belgium' project of the European Recovery and Resilience Plan
	BE-C[C42]-I[I-408]-T[146]_BE_C_C42__I_I_408__T_146__Project_Call_1___Royal_Decree_Grants_PCSW_SINT_GILLIS.pdf Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2023/10/24_1.pdf#page=97	Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 on the granting of a subsidy to the CPAS/OCMW of Sint-Gillis for the implementation of a project aimed at the digital inclusion of vulnerable groups as part of the 'e-inclusion for Belgium' project of the European Recovery and Resilience Plan
	BE-C[C42]-I[I-408]-T[146]_BE_C_C42__I_I_408__T_146__Project_Call_1___Royal_Decree_Grants_PCSW_SCHAARBEEK.pdf Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2023/10/24_1.pdf#page=105	Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 on the granting of a subsidy to the CPAS/OCMW of Schaerbeek for the implementation of a project aimed at the digital inclusion of vulnerable groups as part of the 'e-inclusion for Belgium' project of the European Recovery and Resilience Plan
	BE-C[C42]-I[I-408]-T[146]_BE_C_C42__I_I_408__T_146__Project_Call_1___Royal_Decree_Grants_PCSW_LIER.pdf Royal Decree of 21 November 2022	Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 on the granting of a subsidy to the CPAS/OCMW of Lier for the implementation of a project aimed at the digital inclusion of vulnerable groups as part of the 'e-inclusion for Belgium' project of the European Recovery and Resilience Plan

	https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2023/10/24_1.pdf#page=101	
	BE-C[C42]-I[I-408]-T[146]_BE_C_C42__I_I_408__T_146__Project_Call_1___Royal_Decree_Grants_PCSW_BRUSSEL.pdf - Royal Decree of 22 November 2022 https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2023/10/24_1.pdf#page=177	Royal Decree of 22 November 2022 on the granting of a subsidy to the CPAS/OCMW of Brussel for the implementation of a project aimed at the digital inclusion of vulnerable groups as part of the 'e-inclusion for Belgium' project of the European Recovery and Resilience Plan
	BE-C[C42]-I[I-408]-T[146]_BE_C_C42__I_I_408__T_146__Project_Call_1___Royal_Decree_Grants_PCSW_MENEN.pdf Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2024/05/06_1.pdf#page=123	Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 on the granting of a subsidy to the CPAS/OCMW of Menen for the implementation of a project aimed at the digital inclusion of vulnerable groups as part of the 'e-inclusion for Belgium' project of the European Recovery and Resilience Plan
	BE-C[C42]-I[I-408]-T[146]_BE_C_C42__I_I_408__T_146__Project_Call_1___Royal_Decree_Grants_PCSW_ZINNIK.pdf Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2023/10/24_1.pdf#page=119	Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 on the granting of a subsidy to the CPAS/OCMW of Soignies for the implementation of a project aimed at the digital inclusion of vulnerable groups as part of the 'e-inclusion for Belgium' project of the European Recovery and Resilience Plan
	BE-C[C42]-I[I-408]-T[146]_BE_C_C42__I_I_408__T_146__Project_Call_1___Royal_Decree_Grants_PCSW_TONGEREN.pdf Royal Decree of 21 November	Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 on the granting of a subsidy to the CPAS/OCMW of Tongeren for the implementation of a project aimed at the digital inclusion of vulnerable groups as part of the 'e-inclusion for Belgium' project of the European Recovery and Resilience Plan

	2022 https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2023/10/24_1.pdf#page=144	
	BE-C[C42]-I[I-408]-T[146]_BE_C_C42__I_I_408__T_146__Project_Call_1___Royal_Decree_Grants_PCSW_MOUSCRON.pdf Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2023/10/24_1.pdf#page=173	Royal Decree of 21 November 2022 on the granting of a subsidy to the CPAS/OCMW of Mouscron for the implementation of a project aimed at the digital inclusion of vulnerable groups as part of the 'e-inclusion for Belgium' project of the European Recovery and Resilience Plan

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgium authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Award of 15 grants by the competent body and the PPS Social Integration to the projects matching the criteria of the call for projects E-INCLUSION FOR BELGIUM**.**

The target is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which mention that the PPS Social Integration is considered as the competent body for the award of grants.

On 28 April 2022, the Federal public planning service (PPS) for Social Integration launched a call for projects E-INCLUSION FOR BELGIUM publicly available on the website of the PPS Social Integration: https://www.mi-is.be/fr/subsides-appels-projets/lappel-projets-e-inclusion-belgium-cpas-2022 (evidence No.2). To ensure that the projects match the criteria of the call for projects, a two-stage assessment was used. First, the competent body, namely the PPS Social Integration assessed the 'eligibility criteria' and pre-selected the projects matching all these eligibility criteria (evidence No.2, p.8). Second, an independent bilingual jury assessed the 'selection criteria' based on a scoring system (evidence No.2, p.8-11). The jury includes the Minister for poverty reduction and representatives of the PPS Social integration, representatives of the public social welfare centres (hereafter referred to as "CPAS/OCMW") federation, a specialist from a specialized organization in digital inclusion and an academic expert in the field. The jury attributed a score to each of the pre-selected projects and projects were ranked based on that score. On 21 and 22 November 2022, the PPS Social Integration awarded 15 grants through Royal Decrees, to the pre-selected projects starting from the highest score until the available budget was fully allocated:

- Project 'Clic…Tous connectés !' from the CPAS/OCMW of Charleroi: evidence No.3
- Project 'Digital pour tous' from the CPAS/OCMW of Morlanwelz: evidence No.4
- Project 'E-inclusion - CPAS Namur' from the CPAS/OCMW of Namur: evidence No.5

- Project 'Femmes connectées' from the CPAS/OCMW of Lessines: evidence No.6
- Project 'Tous connectés !' from the CPAS/OCMW of Gembloux: evidence No.7
- Project 'L'appui numérique' from the CPAS/OCMW of Flémalle: evidence No.8
- Project 'TIC@Jette' from the CPAS/OCMW of Jette: evidence No.9
- Project 'Connect1060' from the CPAS/OCMW of Sint-Gillis: evidence No.10
- Project 'CyberRogier et formations' from the CPAS/OCMW of Schaarbeek: evidence No.11
- Project 'De Digitale KLIK' from the CPAS/OCMW of Lier: evidence No.12
- Project 'Num@tic' from the CPAS/OCMW of Brussel: evidence No.13
- Project 'Amicaal Digitaal' from the CPAS/OCMW of Menen: evidence No.14
- Project 'DigiCap'' from the CPAS/OCMW of Soignies: evidence No.15
- Project 'DIGI-taal' from the CPAS/OCMW of Tongeren: evidence No.16
- Project 'Digithurlu' from the CPAS/OCMW of Mouscron: evidence No.17

Projects shall aim at (1) raising awareness for vulnerable target groups to get acquainted with relevant ICT in order to improve their personal situation and strengthen social integration, (2) improving the digital skills of vulnerable target groups in order to improve their personal situation and strengthen social integration, and (3) improving the digital skills of the caregivers of vulnerable target groups.

The 15 projects that received grants fulfilled the three objectives (1-2-3), as evidenced through article 3 of Royal Decrees of 21 and 22 November 2022 on the granting of a subsidy to the selected CPAS/OCMW for the implementation of a project aimed at the digital inclusion of vulnerable groups as part of the call for projects 'e-inclusion for Belgium'. Article 3 of the Royal Decrees describes the objectives and target groups for each selected project. The objectives and target groups of each project match the objectives (1), (2) and (3) of the target description:

- Project 'Clic...Tous connectés !' from the CPAS/OCMW of Charleroi aims at opening 9 spaces across the region offering individual and group activities to use digital tools and maintaining fundamental rights using online services (1,2). The project also involves raising awareness and providing training for social workers, so that new social support practices become widespread (3). (evidence No.3, Art.3)
- Project 'Digital pour tous' from the CPAS/OCMW of Morlanwelz aims at creating a unit specialising in the management of everyday digital tools. As part of this, the CPAS will train its teams (3) and set up drop-in sessions/workshops for the public at the CPAS headquarters, in decentralised locations or at the beneficiary's home (1,2). Finally, the project aims to improve its website to make it more user oriented. (evidence No.4, Art.3)
- Project 'E-inclusion - CPAS Namur' from the CPAS/OCMW of Namur aims at creating a digital space to develop both individual and group initiatives, and to offer appropriate support to beneficiaries by giving them access to equipment and support to use the equipment (1,2). The project also aims to train social workers (3) to equip them to identify people at risk of digital exclusion, and to support these people individually or through information workshops or group training courses, depending on the needs of the various groups. The project will also direct the target groups to digital skills tests to provide them with better guidance. (evidence No.5, Art.3)
- Project 'Femmes connectées' from the CPAS/OCMW of Lessines aims at offering interactive training and social support to women aged 25 to 55 with a child in primary school, to give them the means to complete administrative procedures online and to acquire to help their children at school (1,2). The project also involves training members of the CPAS services (3)

in digital tools to support these women and to provide help to the disadvantaged public of the CPAS for online procedures (evidence No.6, Art.3)

- Project 'Tous connectés !' from the CPAS/OCMW of Gembloux aims at creating synergy between existing services, to communicate clearly on all services/training, to set up a network of volunteer peer helpers and to develop access to services for isolated people (1,2). The project also aims to ensure the presence of a coordinator-animator within the various technological spaces to federate the network, train and equip volunteers and assist the public (3). (evidence No.7, Art.3)
- Project 'L'appui numérique' from the CPAS/OCMW of Flémalle aims at designing a rapid diagnostic tool to enable social workers to analyse users' digital needs during one-to-one interviews, to provide them with the best possible guidance (1,2). The project will also aim to offer drop-in sessions during which a social worker will guide the public with their digital needs. It also aims to encourage social workers to discover the self-training platforms for digital tools (3). (evidence No.8, Art.3)
- Project 'TIC@Jette' from the CPAS/OCMW of Jette aims at offering a permanent service provided by a public IT specialist, offer training courses designed to improve the digital skills of senior citizens on tablets, smartphones and PCs (1,2), and offer training courses to equip family carers, housekeepers and social workers (3) to provide the best possible support to digitally vulnerable elderly beneficiaries. (evidence No.9, Art.3)
- Project 'Connect1060' from the CPAS/OCMW of Sint-Gillis aims at offering the public a permanent digital support service (at the CPAS support point, in decentralized services, and at various social operators in the municipality) and to train digital supporters and field social workers (3) to help them better diagnose a possible digital divide and provide concrete responses. It also aims at assigning a social worker to maintain and enhance information sessions and listening posts, to study the digital needs of the public, and to manage requests for financial aid (1,2). Finally, the project aims to create a working group on the theme of digital inclusion within the Coordination of Social Action of Saint-Gilles. (evidence No.10, Art.3)
- Project 'CyberRogier et formations' from the CPAS/OCMW of Schaarbeek aims at developing a Digital Public Space that offers free access with a comprehensive program of training and workshops aimed at the digital autonomy of beneficiaries (1,2). It also involves raising awareness among frontline workers of the CPAS about the issues of the digital divide and updating their digital skills through a complete training program (3). Finally, the project aims to improve the digital accessibility of CPAS services. (evidence No.11, Art.3)
- Project 'De Digitale KLIK' from the CPAS/OCMW of Lier aims at integrating a new digital pillar into the right to social integration. This involves incorporating 'digital autonomy' into the individualized social inclusion project, within which a tailored digital inclusion plan is developed for the client (1,2). Moreover, the project establishes a broader support network to assist frontline aids in their ability to assess the digital profile of beneficiaries and to guide them correctly (3). (evidence No.12, Art.3)
- Project 'Num@tic' from the CPAS/OCMW of Brussel aims at creating a mobile team of digital helpers who travel to different social branches, set up digital workshops, create a public digital space with public IT specialists, and train social workers (3) in identifying digital needs and guiding the public (1,2). (evidence No.13, Art.3)
- Project 'Amicaal Digitaal' from the CPAS/OCMW of Menen aims at detecting, tracking and making essential services and digital skills more accessible (1,2). The current training offer will be made accessible and tailored through a mobile meeting place. Furthermore, digital inclusion ambassadors are used as part of a peer collaboration (3) and/or to provide advice, critical reflection, and signals for policymakers. (evidence No.14, Art.3)
- Project 'DigiCap'' from the CPAS/OCMW of Soignies aims at training staff so that they are capable of informing and training target audiences (3). The project also aims to set up

collective activities led by trained agents, provide laptops and tablets as part of the information and training process to make them more interactive and practical, and install a digital kiosk in the waiting area of the Social Department (1,2). (evidence No.15, Art.3)

- Project ‘DIGI-taal’ from the CPAS/OCMW of Tongeren aims at two training initiatives and a digital platform. First, it trains frontline service staff as "digital assistants" and then disseminates the acquired knowledge according to a "train the trainer" principle (3). Furthermore, the staff of the CPAS participates in workshops on raising awareness among beneficiaries and finding correct information online, to be able to help beneficiaries more quickly and effectively (1,2). Finally, the project develops the use of the digital platform "Hoplr" to reach more vulnerable target groups. (evidence No.16, Art.3)
    - Project ‘Digithurlu’ from the CPAS/OCMW of Mouscron aims at offering 10-week training sessions based on the European digital competence framework ‘DIG COMP’ for digitally vulnerable audiences (1,2). The project also aims at training frontline workers to become 'digital facilitators' so that they can support users in their digital processes (3). (evidence No.17, Art.3)

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 148 - Participation of women to field-projects

Related Measure: I-4.10 - Gender and work

Quantitative Indicator: Projects

Baseline: 0

Target: 18

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

Target 148 is part of investment I-4.10, which aims at analysing gender inequality on the labour market and promoting the integration of women into the labour market. The investment consists of launching a call for projects focused on the integration of vulnerable women on the labour market.

Target 148 requires the signature of 18 grant agreements following the call for projects “Bread and Roses”.

Target 148 is the only target of this investment. The investment has a final expected date for implementation by 31 December 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Cover note	Summary document from 5 March 2025 duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled.
	BE-C[C42]-I[I-410]-T[148]_Du_pain_et_des_roses___Guide_appel___projet_FR.pdf	Call of projects “Bread and Roses” by the Institute for Gender Equality
	i410036a-convention-sign-e-annexes	Grant agreement of 13 March 2023 related to project "Telles Qu’Elles" of "Perspectives"
	i410036b-convention-sign-e-annexes	Grant agreement of 23 March 2023 related to project "Formations soudure en mixité choisie à destination d’agricultrices*" of "Fabriek Paysanne"
	i410036c-conventie-ondertekend-bijlagen	Grant agreement of 3 April 2023 related to project "FXMME LABO® - textiel" of "Globe Aroma"
	i410036d-conventie-ondertekend-bijlagen	Grant agreement of 20 March 2023 related to project "Sterk Vrouwenwerk" by "Vlaams Netwerk tegen Armoede"

	i410036e-convention-sign-e-annexes	Grant agreement of 20 March 2023 related to project "Toutes des Graines de Changement !" by "VENTURELAB"
	i410036f-convention-sign-e-annexes	Grant agreement of 23 March 2023 related to project "S'émanciper" by "PLOUF ASBL"
	i410036g-convention-sign-e-annexes	Grant agreement of 22 March 2023 related to project "Elles boss(ent)" by "Zéphyr Asbl"
	i410036h-convention-sign-e-annexes	Grant agreement of 31 March 2023 related to Project "Luttons pour les roses, pas seulement pour le pain" by "Mode d'Emploi - Initiatives d'insertion socio-professionnelles de vie Féminine en région de Namur"
	i410036i-convention-sign-e-annexes	Grant agreement of 3 April 2023 related to project "More Women in Tech" by "BeCode vzw"
	i410036j-convention-sign-e-annexes	Grant agreement of 22 March 2023 related to project "PAIRE - Projet d'Accompagnement Intergénérationnel pour la Recherche d'Emploi" by "DUO for a JOB"
	i410036k-convention-sign-e-annexes	Grant agreement of 15 March 2023 related to project "S'initier, s'orienter et s'insérer dans les métiers informatiques et techniques" by "Interface3"
	i410036l-convention-sign-e-annexes	Grant agreement of 23 March 2023 related to project "Empo'Women" by "Interra"
	i410036n-convention-sign-e-annexes	Grant agreement of 23 March 2023 related to project "WOW – WOmen knoW" by "Le Monde des Possibles"
	i410036o-conventie-ondertekend-bijlagen	Grant agreement of 24 March 2023 related to project "Grote kuis tegen onrecht!" by "Welkom"
	i410036p-convention-sign-e-annexes	Grant agreement of 24 March 2023 related to project "Entreprenoires Class" by "Belgian Entreprenoires"
	i410036q-conventie-ondertekend-bijlagen	Grant agreement of 20 March 2023 related to project "Women to work" by "Humanitarian Welfare Association"
	i410036r-convention-sign-e-	Grant agreement of 24 March 2023 related

	annexes	to project "Coaching individuel pour la construction et le développement de perspectives professionnelles" by "Frauenliga / Vie Féminine"
	i410036s-convention-sign-e-annexes	Grant agreement of 23 March 2023 related to project "Proeftuin Workin' Moms" by "IN-Z"

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgium authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

signature of 18 grant agreements following the call for projects "Bread and Roses"

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure**, the investment consists of launching a call for projects focused on the integration of vulnerable women on the labour market.**

On 28 September 2022, a call of projects "Bread and Roses" was launched by the Institute for the Equality of Women and Men (hereafter the Institute) (evidence No.2). The call for projects aims at promoting the inclusion and sustainable retention of women in vulnerable situations in the Belgian labour market, whether as employees or self-employed (evidence No.2, p.7)

The project selection begins with the Institute reviewing all proposals to ensure they meet basic eligibility criteria (evidence No.2, p.12). Once eligibility is confirmed, the most promising proposals are shortlisted for further consideration. A jury is formed, comprising members from the Institute, representatives from the strategic team of the Secretary of State, and external experts. Each jury member then scores the projects individually out of 100 based on specific criteria. After scoring, the jury deliberates to create a list of selected projects. This list is then submitted to the Board of Directors for approval. The Board makes the final decision on grant allocations, taking care to distribute resources appropriately across languages and budgets (evidence No.2, p.12).

The Belgian authorities provided the grant agreements for 18 projects that were selected following the call for projects "Bread and Roses". All grant agreements include a recital mentioning that the Management Board of the Institute decided on 24 January 2023 to grant funding for the implementation of the project. All 18 grant agreements were signed by the Institute and by the implementing non-profit organisation:

1. Project "Telles Qu'Elles" by "Perspectives asbl" aims at mobilizing vulnerable women through several actions: construction of a professional project using a bottom-up method, analysis of the needs of local businesses and construction of a network of employers with a social aim, activation of social partners and employment monitoring in the first months of integration (evidence No.3, p.12). The grant agreement was signed by a representative of "Perspectives asbl" and by the Director of the Institute on 17 March 2023 (evidence No.3, p.10).
2. Project "Formations soudure en mixité choisie à destination d'agricultrices*" by "Fabriek Paysanne" aims at offering welding workshops, collective construction sites, knowledge sharing and discussion groups for women involved in agricultural/farming to strengthen their integration into the agricultural environment (evidence No.4, p.7). The grant

agreement was signed by a representative of “Fabriek Paysanne” and by the Director of the Institute on 3 April 2023 (evidence No.4, p.5).

3. Project "FXMME LABO® - textiel" by "Globe Aroma" is designed for women with a newcomer background, with the aim of developing talent, building a professional network and taking the first steps towards sustainable and social entrepreneurship within the textile sector. The trajectory consists of 1) introductory workshops, followed by 2) a coaching trajectory and ends with 3) finished products and the start-up of small businesses (evidence No.5, p.12). The grant agreement was signed by a representative of “Globe Aroma” and by the Director of the Institute on 3 April 2023 (evidence No.5, p.10).
4. Project "Sterk Vrouwenwerk" by "Vlaams Netwerk tegen Armoede" consists of a trajectory that guides women in poverty towards sustainable employment at a leading company in the retail sector (evidence No.6, p.8-9). The grant agreement was signed by a representative of “Vlaams Netwerk tegen Armoede” and by the Director of the Institute on 3 April 2023 (evidence No.6, p.6).
5. Project "Toutes des Graines de Changement !" by "VENTURELAB" is a program for young women who undertake an activity linked to the sustainable development objectives of the province of Liège. The program gathers collective and individual support, sharing of experience and creation of a network (evidence No.7, p.8). The grant agreement was signed by a representative of “VENTURELAB” and by the Director of the Institute on 3 April 2023 (evidence No.7, p.6).
6. Project "S’émanciper" by "Plouf asbl" aims to create links and empower women who are far removed from social codes and the job market, having lived long periods without fixed accommodation. It gathers creation of links, cultural, culinary or sporting activities, support in the creation of a project to get back to work (evidence No.8, p.9). The grant agreement was signed by a representative of “Plouf asbl” and by the Director of the Institute on 3 April 2023 (evidence No.8, p.7).
7. Project "Elles boss(ent)" by "Zéphyr asbl" consists of an employment support program for women from migrant backgrounds. It contains "career-oriented" French courses, collective and individualised socio-professional support, training on female empowerment, computer initiation module, conference, testimonial and company visit, company observation internship and individual support after training (evidence No.9, p.8). The grant agreement was signed by a representative of “Zéphyr asbl” and by the Director of the Institute on 22 March 2023 (evidence No.9, p.6).
8. Project "Luttons pour les roses, pas seulement pour le pain" by "Mode d'Emploi - Initiatives d'insertion socio-professionnelles de vie Féminine en région de Namur" is aiming at integrating women into jobs traditionally described as masculine and into sustainable development, through several actions: a communication campaign aimed at deconstructing stereotypes and the establishment of an individual and collective support service for women with little education and few qualifications (evidence No.10, p.8-9). The grant agreement was signed by a representative of “Vie Féminine” and by the Director of the Institute on 31 March 2023 (evidence No.10, p.6).
9. Project "More Women in Tech" by "BeCode vzw" aims at implementing three 6-week introductory training courses in digital professions, dedicated to female job seekers (young, low-skilled, long-term job seekers, women with non-EU immigrant backgrounds or with disabilities) in Ghent, Brussels and Charleroi. The objective of the introductory course is to serve as a first step towards longer training that can lead to employment (evidence No.11, p.6). The grant agreement was signed by a representative of “BeCode vzw” the Director of the Institute on 3 April 2023 (evidence No.11, p.4).
10. Project "PAIRE - Projet d'Accompagnement Intergénérationnel pour la Recherche d'Emploi" by "DUO for a JOB" consists of the support of a volunteer mentor for 60

vulnerable young women with immigrant backgrounds in their job search. Sourcing will be implemented using new methods and channels to reach the project's specific target group (evidence No.12, p.6). The grant agreement was signed by a representative of “Duo for a Job” and by the Director of the Institute on 3 April 2023 (evidence No.12, p.4).

11. Project "S’initier, s’orienter et s’insérer dans les métiers informatiques et techniques" by "Interface3" consists of supporting employment for 30 low-skilled female job seekers through the organization of two introductory and orientation training courses focused on digital inclusion and the discovery of technical and IT professions (evidence No.13, p.12). The grant agreement was signed by a representative of “Interface3” and by the Director of the Institute on 17 March 2023 (evidence No.13, p.10).
12. Project "Empo’Women" by "Interra" consists of a support service for the self-creation of sustainable employment for vulnerable immigrant women. It gathers awareness of entrepreneurship, information and guidance, tailor-made support program adapted to each situation, development of a network, moments of exchange between new arrivals and local women (evidence No.14, p.8-9). The grant agreement was signed by a representative of “Interra” and by the Director of the Institute on 23 March 2023 (evidence No.14, p.6).
13. Project "WOW – WOmen knoW" by "Le Monde des Possibles" has two focuses. First, a training program for migrant women seeking to acquire skills in setting up social economy projects. Secondly, participatory research on childcare (evidence No.15, p.8). The grant agreement was signed by a representative of “Le Monde des Possibles” and by the Director of the Institute on 3 April 2023 (evidence No.15, p.6).
14. Project "Grote kuis tegen onrecht!" by "Welkom" focuses on employee representatives from the service voucher sector and their role. It aims to help both themselves and other women in the service voucher sector escaping the isolation created by the work context. A learning network will be created, supported by a steering group of experts, after which results will be disseminated (evidence No.16, p.9-10). The grant agreement was signed by a representative of “Welkom” and by the Director of the Institute on 3 April 2023 (evidence No.16, p.6).
15. Project "Entreprenoires Class" by "Belgian Entreprenoires" consists of a training program focused on "SME management" for women entrepreneurs who experience both sexism and racism and whose business is no longer at the "start-up" stage but at the "scale-up" stage (evidence No.17, p.8). The grant agreement was signed by a representative of “Belgian Entreprenoires” and by the Director of the Institute on 3 April 2023 (evidence No.17, p.6).
16. Project "Women to work" by "Humanitarian Welfare Association" is dedicated for women with a migration background. It consists of theoretical training, practical coaching in the form of volunteer work, individual coaching and guidance to look for a work. (evidence No.18, p.8-9). The grant agreement was signed by a representative of “Humanitarian Welfare Association” and by the Director of the Institute on 3 April 2023 (evidence No.18, p.6).
17. Project "Coaching individuel pour la construction et le développement de perspectives professionnelles" by "Frauenliga / Vie Féminine" consists of individual coaching for women in long-term unemployment situation and with one or more vulnerability factors. The project includes support, networking, planning professional objectives, assistance in finding employment or training and self-management workshop (evidence No.19, p.8). The grant agreement was signed by a representative of “Frauenliga / Vie Féminine” and by the Director of the Institute on 3 April 2023 (evidence No.19, p.6).
18. Project "Proeftuin Workin’ Moms" by "IN-Z" guides 20 unemployed mothers with a migration background towards sustainable employment by approaching, informing and enticing them to take part in a preliminary trajectory on an orientation work floor in the

care context of a school (evidence No.20, p.8). The grant agreement was signed by a representative of "IN-Z" and by the Director of the Institute on 23 March 2023 (evidence No.20, p.6).

The analysis of the provided evidence confirmed that all 18 grant agreements were signed by the Institute and by the implementing non-profit organisation.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Target: 154 - Award of works contracts for project promoters

Related Measure: I-4.13 – 'Creation and renovation of early childcare infrastructure' of the Walloon Region

Quantitative Indicator: Childcare places

Baseline: 0

Target: 255

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

The investment aims at improving the coverage in early childcare by construction and energy-efficient renovation of childcare places, and opening of additional new places in existing Office of Birth and Childhood ('*Office de la naissance et de l'enfance*'). New places **shall be created in level 2 childcare facilities (accessibility subsidy facilities, pursuant to Article 88 of the Decree of Government of the French Community of 2 May 2019).**

Target 154 concerns awarding the work contracts for project promoters to construct or renovate childcare facilities for 15% of the newly created childcare placed, i.e. 255 childcare places.

Target 154 is the first step of the implementation of the investment and it will be followed by target 155, related to opening of the childcare places. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Cover note	
	Awarded contract for 42 places in Farciennes of 19 July 2024	Notification of contract award with works provider for conception and construction of creche for 42 places
	Detailed information of the project in Farciennes of 4 February 2023	Document providing detailed information about the project, demonstrating the number of childcare places to be created (42)
	Awarded contract for 56 places in La Louviere of 29 July 2024	Notification of contract award with works provider for construction of creche for 56 places
	Detailed information of the project in La Louviere of 24 February 2023	Document providing detailed information about the project, demonstrating the number of childcare places to be created (56)

	Awarded contract for 39 places in Mons of 29 July 2024	Notification of contract award with works provider for construction of creche for 39 places.
	Detailed information of the project in Mons of 10 July 2024	Document providing detailed information about the project, demonstrating the number of childcare places to be created (39)
	Awarded contract for 14 places in Hermalle-Sous-Huy of 4 September 2024	Notification of contract award with works provider for reconstruction and extension of creche for 14 places
	Detailed information of the project in Hermalle-Sous-Huy of 24 February 2023	Document providing detailed information about the project, demonstrating the number of childcare places to be created (14)
	Awarded contract for 49 places in Liege of 8 July 2024	Notification of contract award with works provider for construction of creche for 49 places
	Detailed information of the project in Liege of 24 February 2023	Document providing detailed information about the project, demonstrating the number of childcare places to be created (49)
	Awarded contract for 6 places in Andenne of 29 August 2024	Notification of contract award with works provider for reconstruction and extension of creche for 6 places
	Detailed information of the project in Andenne of 24 February 2023	Document providing detailed information about the project, demonstrating the number of childcare places to be created (6)
	Purchase contract of real estate for creche of 49 places Stembert of 25 August 2023	Notary approved purchase contract of a real estate for creche of 49 places
	Detailed information of the project in Stembert of 24 February 2023	Document providing detailed information about the project, demonstrating the number of childcare places to be created (49)
	Call for proposals	Public call for joint projects for subsidies of 5200 places in creches, launched by Wallonie-Brussels Federation, Wallonie, the Brussels-Capital Region and French Community.
	Annex 1 of the Call for proposals	Annex to the call for projects
	Decree of 2 May 2019	Order of 2 May 2019 of the Government of the French

	Government of French Community	Community, laying down the scheme for authorising and subsidising creches, childcare services and independent child care
	Annex 2 f the Call for proposals	Annex to the call for projects

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgium's authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

Award of works contracts by operators (crèches) for 15 % of the newly created childcare places, i.e. 255.

Belgium has provided six awarded work contracts with operators for construction, renovation or extension of creche buildings:

- Conception and construction of creche for 42 places in Farciennes (evidence no. 2, 3),
- Construction of creche for 56 places in La Louviere (evidence no. 4, 5),
- Construction of creche for 39 places in Mons (evidence no. 6, 7),
- Reconstruction and extension of communal creche for 14 new places in Hermalle-Sous-Huy (evidence no. 8, 9),
- Construction of creche for 49 places in Liege (evidence no. 10, 11),
- Renovation and extension of creche for 6 new places in Andenne (evidence no. 12, 13).

Additionally, one building was purchased to create 49 childcare places, as demonstrated by evidence no. 14 and 15.

Belgium has demonstrated that all together, contracts have been awarded to create 15% of the newly created childcare places, i.e. 255.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **new places shall be created in level 2 childcare facilities (accessibility subsidy facilities, pursuant to Article 88 of the Decree of Government of the French Community of 2 May 2019).**

To implement the measure and to award the work contracts mentioned above, Belgium launched a call for proposals (evidence no. 16).

Annex 1 of the call for proposals (evidence no. 17), page 2, states that a "crèche" that is eligible for this call is a "*Crèche within the meaning of Article 3.1° of the Decree of 21 February 2019 aimed at strengthening the quality and accessibility of early childhood care in the French Community and of which the destination is a model level 2 childcare facility (basic and accessibility subsidy facility within the meaning of Title III of the Decree of the Government of the French Community of 2 May 2019*)."

The Decree of the Government of the French Community of 2 May 2019 (evidence no. 18) lays down the scheme for the authorisation and subsidy of creches. Titre III of the Decree contains Article 88that defines the accessibility subsidy facility.

Therefore, only creche within the meaning of the accessibility subsidy facility pursuant to Article 88 of the Decree of the Government of the French Community of 2 May 2019, i.e. level 2 childcare facilities, are eligible for the call.

The target is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which requires that **'Project leader' refers to the landlord, who is in the position to award works**

contracts. If the landlord is not the operator of the crèche, he/she is bound by a convention to that operator, a non - profit organisation ('association sans but lucratif' asbl) managing the crèche.

Annex 2 of the call for proposals, page 2, point 2 (evidence no. 19) specifies the following: "*The infrastructure project leader must hold, or undertake to hold within six months of the Government's decision on the selection of projects, a real right of ownership, long-term lease, or the right of superficies over the building or land to be developed, for a sufficient period to maintain the activity for a period set out in point 3. When the project involves the purchase of a building, the infrastructure project leader must have a sales agreement on the date of submission of his application to the call for projects.*"

Further, on page 7, point 10, it is specified that: "*If the infrastructure project leader is distinct from the project leader, he or she shall specify the terms and conditions for the management of the infrastructure benefiting from the planned works, (...).*"

Therefore, the call for proposals specifies that the project leader refers to a landlord. If the landlord is not the project leader of the creche, a convention with terms and conditions needs to be put in place.

For the purposes of this operational arrangement, the creation of new childcare places further to the acquisition of new infrastructure (without building works) is considered as equivalent to childcare places created as a result of the construction of new buildings or of the renovation of existing buildings.

Annex 2 of the call for proposals, page 2 (evidence no. 19) lists the type of interventions supports, which includes also the purchase of a building and retrofitting.

As mentioned above, Belgium has provided six awarded work contracts with operators for construction, renovation or extension of creche buildings. Additionally, one building was purchased to create 49 childcare places in Stembert, as demonstrated by evidence no. 14 and 15.

4. **Commission Preliminary Assessment:**

Satisfactory fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 159 – Activity developed through A6K-E6K

Related Measure: BE-C[C51]-I[I-501], 'A6K/E6K Digital and Technological Innovation and Training Hub' of the Walloon Region

Qualitative Indicator: Report on business steps completed delivered by the steering committee

Time: Q1 2023

1. Context:

Milestone 159 is part of investment I-5.01 'A6K/E6K Digital and Technological Innovation and Training Hub', which aims to develop a multi-disciplinary centre for engineering science (A6K) co-locating industrial enterprise teams, start-ups, universities and research centres to stimulate innovation and industrial transformation in Wallonia, as well as a technological education centre (E6K), an innovative physical platform bringing together public and private digital and technological education operators in the city centre of Charleroi offering varied training in content and duration. The investment consists in the renovation and construction of buildings hosting the centres, and the

support of activities necessary for the acceleration and scaling-up of the project. The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 30 June 2026.

Milestone 159 requires the Walloon Region to deliver a report on the business development steps completed for the establishment of the Digital and Technological Innovation and Training Hub: development of the incubation offer by setting up a venture builder, development of digital training offer, call for projects for start-ups completed, technological demonstrators and infrastructure linked to collaborative and projects operational.

Milestone 159 is the first step of the implementation of investment I-5.01 and it will be followed by target 162, related to the renovation and construction of 25.000 m^2 of buildings hosting the training centres and supporting the training, employment and incubation services. The investment has a final expected date of implementation in Q2 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled. Author: Cabinet de la Ministre de l'Emploi, de la Formation, de la Santé, de l'Action sociale et de l'Economie sociale, de l'Egalité des chances et des Droits des femmes – Christie Morreale - Date: 23/05/2025
2	Annexe 1 - Présentation offre incubation A6K	Slide deck which provides an overview of the different incubation and acceleration programs offered by A6K. Author: A6K – Date: 28/01/2025
3	Annexe 2 - Rapport d'audit A6K	Example of deliverable: Audit of a project by A6K Author: A6K - Date: 29/06/2023
4	Annexe 3 - Liste opérateurs formation E6K	Slide deck with overview of the different operators. Author: A6K – Date: 28/01/2025
5	Annexe 4 - Liste des formations TTIC @ E6K	List of training offer for job seekers. Author: Technofutur TIC – Date: 28/01/2025
6	Annexe 6 - Appel à projet A6K x BMB	Fiche/Report on call for projects by A6K - Author: A6K – Date: 31/08/2023
7	Annexe 7 - Newsletters inaugurations 5G Lab & HPC	Newsletter on 5G lab - Author: A6K – Date: 28/10/2021

8	Annexe 8 - Plan développement immobilier A6K	Plan of facilities and infrastructure of A6K and E6K Author: A6K - Date: 28/01/2025
9	A6K - Rapport de pilotage Jalon 159	Steering Committee Report for milestone 159. Author: Steering Committee of the A6K-E6K project, Abd-Samad HABBACHI. Date: 23/01/2025
10	Note Evolution de l'offre E6K	Note on evolution of the E6K training offer. Author: Nathalie Etienne Directrice du pôle formation d'A6K-E6K – Date: 28/01/2025
11	Funnel Start-ups Blue Magic 2023	List of selected Start-ups for Blue Magic Event Author: A6K - Date: 25/04/2025

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Report on business development steps completed for the establishment of the Digital and Technological Innovation and Training Hub:

On 23 January 2025, the A6K-E6K steering committee delivered a report (Evidence No. 9 - "*A6K - Rapport de pilotage Jalon 159*") (the Report), demonstrating that the different business development steps for the establishment of the Digital and Technological Innovation and Training Hub in Charleroi were completed. A6K-E6K is a multidisciplinary centre dedicated to engineering sciences, which collocates industrial companies, start-ups, universities, research and training centres. A6K-E6K provides collaborative workspace, tools, incubation programs and trainings in collaboration with technological demonstrators and training providers.

... development of the incubation offer by setting up a venture builder

Venture builders are organisations that use their in-house resources to help develop ideas into a business venture. A6K is a multidisciplinary centre dedicated to engineering sciences, which was created in 2019. The centre collocates industrial companies, start-ups, universities, research and training centres. The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 28 January 2025 to verify the services offered at A6K. This check was completed successfully, confirming that A6K offers incubation and acceleration programs.

As evidenced by the Report (evidence No. 9) on page one, A6K has since Q2 2023, hired a dedicated team that has structured a complete incubation process and launched its first calls for thematic projects. It is being reinforced to increase the number of accompanying start-ups thereby further developing the incubation offer. This allows A6K to create, host and accelerate young start-ups by providing them with the necessary technological skills to boost entrepreneurship.

A6K offers two different incubation programs as explained in the A6K incubation offer presentation (Annexe 1 - Présentation offre incubation A6K): (1) “Expansion”, which is tailored for both early-stage and advanced start-ups seeking customized and intensive support; (2) “Seed”, which focuses on early-stage start-ups looking to participate in cohort-based programs.

An example of a deliverable (Annexe 2 - Rapport d'audit A6K) provides insight in the analyses done and by A6K and strategies proposed, including services that A6K offer to help businesses achieve their goals.

... development of digital training offer

E6K is a technological education centre, which was created in 2020. The centre offers a wide range of training to students, job seekers and professionals who are looking to develop their digital skills.

As evidenced by the Report (evidence No. 9) on pages one and two, activities related to digital training (E6K) are continuously growing, both in terms of the number of training providers, the number of training courses available, and the number of learners enrolled in them.

Initially consisting of 13 premises spread over 1,300 m^2 in 2020, E6K inaugurated two new training spaces, reaching nearly 2,500 m^2. The number of training courses provided has grown in line with the available space. E6K ensures that the training offered by training providers matches the needs of industry and eliminates duplication between different training providers. Moreover, training programs co-developed with manufacturers present at A6K are being developed to address market gaps (i.e., "punch-out" training).

Annexe 3 - Liste opérateurs formation E6K provides and overview of operators that offer training at E6K, and Annexe 4 - Liste des formations TTIC@E6K lists the digital training offer provided by one of those operators: Technifutur TIC (a compentence centre).. The Note Evolution de l'offre E6K provides further insight into the evolution of the digital training offer at E6K, from 35 training courses in 2022 to almost 70 in 2024, offered by the operators IFAPME Charleroi, Technofutur TIC, Be Code, l’UCL, TechnoCité and the FOREM. The note further includes a list of digital trainings offered by these partners/operators.

... call for projects for start-ups completed

As evidenced by the Report (evidence No. 9) on page two, A6K **launched its first thematic project call** for start-ups in the beginning of 2023. The event, Blue Magic Belgium **closed on 10 May 2023** at A6K.

Annexe 6 - Appel à projet A6K x BMB provides the details of the above-mentioned call for projects including the different phases, the selection process and closing of the call.

The call gave 42 selected companies the opportunity to pitch their ideas and cutting-edge capabilities in the field of defense technologies with the aim of connecting tech and aerospace companies with funding and allowing them to collaborate with industry leaders.

The document Funnel Start-ups Blue Magic 2023 furthermore provides a list of start-ups selected based on the call.

... technological demonstrators and infrastructure linked to collaborative and projects operational

As evidenced by the Report (evidence No. 9) on page two, A6K set up the first 5G laboratory in

Wallonia, inaugurated in October 2021, in order to make it available to Walloon companies. Since November 2022, A6K also hosts Cenaero's Lucia supercomputer, part of the supercomputers' Top 500 in terms of power. Under the project, A6K finances the accommodation (and sometimes the purchase) of these **demonstrators**.

The Reports provides an exhaustive list of active demonstrators in Q3 2023:

- FabLab
- ULB Data Centre
- Lucia Supercomputer
- Additive manufacturing farm
- Mecatech demonstrators
- 5G Lab

Annexe 7 - Newsletters inaugurations 5G Lab & HPC further details that A6K has acquired several technological demonstrators and/or provided the **infrastructure** to its partners to intensify fundamental and applied research activities.

As further detailed in the Report (evidence No. 9) on page 2, the infrastructure upgrade and development have enabled the launch of new shared workspaces in the first half of 2023 and additional demonstration spaces and new workspaces by the end of 2023. Annexe 8 - Plan développement immobilier, further details that A6K finalised the development of over 1.200m^2 of new shared workspaces in June 2023, which offers the possibility for start-ups and small businesses to work in a **collaborative environment** with easy access to the necessary technological demonstrators.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Positive Assessment

Number and name of the Milestone: 174 Reform establishing compulsory registration in the public employment service

Related Measure: C51.R-503 Learning account

Qualitative Indicator: Provisions in the decree indicating the entry into force

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

The reform measure aims (i) to grant an individual right to training to each worker; (ii) to develop tax advantages for companies which provide employees with more hours of training than those already provided for by law and (iii) to remove, in consultation with the federated entities, obstacles to participation in training for workers in temporary unemployment. The implementation of the reform shall be completed by 31 December 2023.

Milestone 174 concerns the entry into force of the decree establishing the obligation for the workers in long-term or structural temporary unemployment to be registered in the competent regional service.

Milestone 174 is the third and last milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 172 and milestone 173, related to the granting of an individual right to training to each worker and the development of tax advantages for companies which provide employees with more hours of training than those already provided for by law, respectively.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Cover note	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Ministerial Decree amending Articles 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38 of the ministerial decree of 26 November 1991 laying down the terms of application of unemployment regulations. Entry into force on 1 September 2022.	Copy of the publication in the Official Journal of the Ministerial Decree amending Articles 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38 of the ministerial decree of 26 November 1991 laying down the terms of application of unemployment regulations. Link : 9 SEPTEMBRE 2022. - Arrêté ministériel modifiant les articles 34, 35, 36, 37 et 38 de l'arrêté ministériel du 26 novembre 1991 portant les modalités d'application de la réglementation du chômage Source: Emploi, Travail et Concertation sociale

		Entry into force on 1 September 2022. Publication: 30 September 2022 Nr: 2022205218 Page: 70962 Dossier nr: 2022-09-09/06 This text modifies the following text: 1992013272

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgium authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Entry into force of the decree establishing the obligation for the workers in long-term or structural temporary unemployment to be registered in the competent regional service.

The Ministerial Decree of 9 September 2022, modifying articles 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38 of the ministerial decree of 26 November 1991 establishing the methods of application of unemployment regulations, has been published in the national Official Journal on 30 September 2022 (https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2022/09/30_1.pdf). Article 1 of the Ministerial Decree of 9 September 2022, replacing Article 34 of the Ministerial Decree of 26 November 1991, outlines **the obligation for the workers who become temporarily unemployed** [...], **to be registered with the competent regional employment agency after the first three months**, as evidenced by the copy of the Ministerial Decree. The Ministerial Decree of 9 September 2022 entered into force on 1 September 2022, as per Article 6 of the Decree.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **"The measure aims [...] to remove, in consultation with the federated entities, obstacles to participation in training for workers in temporary unemployment.**" Prior to the entry into force of the Ministerial Decree of 9 September 2022 there was no obligation for the unemployed to register with the regional bodies. Unemployed persons who had not undertaken the necessary administrative steps, could avoid training, skill evaluation and coaching programmes put in place by the regional bodies. Article 2 of the Ministerial Decree of 9 September 2022, replacing Article 35 of the Ministerial Decree of 26 November 1991, outlines that "the temporarily unemployed person who must be registered as a job seeker in application of Article 34 is required to actively cooperate with the regional employment agency in the context of a proposed trajectory with a view to better integration into the labour market". The new Ministerial Decree of 9 September 2022 makes the inscription and the adherence to re-activation programmes mandatory for the unemployed, thereby increasing their re-insertion and upskilling potential.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Positive assessment

Number and name of the Milestone: 184 - Award of public contract for the construction of a Material Treatment facility (MaT)

Related Measure: I-5.10 - R&D: Minimization of waste during dismantling

Qualitative Indicator: Written notification of the award of the public contract for the construction of a Material Treatment facility (MaT)

Time: Q4 2023

Context:

The objective of the investment is to fund the necessary investments that will allow the scaling up to industrialisation of Belgian expertise in radiological characterisation and decontamination techniques and methodologies towards their application during the decommissioning of the Belgian nuclear power plants, to be carried out in the framework of the planned phase-out of nuclear power generation in Belgium and the possible valorisation in other decommissioning and site remediation projects.

Milestone 184 concerns the notification of the award of the contract by the Federal Minister of Economics and Labour for the construction of a Material Treatment facility (MaT), which is needed to perform cold tests and demonstrations of the technologies to be developed for the re-use, recycling and final disposal of non-nuclear waste from the decommissioning operations of nuclear plants. The necessary building permits will be obtained. The building will be compliant with all the applicable legislation on the Federal and Flemish level related to Directive 2011/92.

Milestone 184 is the first step of the implementation of the investment. It will be followed by milestone 185, related to the construction and operationalisation of the Material Treatment facility (MaT) and the finalisation of a case study. The investment has a final expected date for implementation in Q2/2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Cover Note	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactory fulfilled
	2022_038_EV_Verslag_van_nazicht_van_de_offertes_ZP	Review reports of the offers of the open procedure including the regulatory examination of the bids of successful tenders and the proposal to terminate the contract by SCK CEN of 10 July 2022
	dossier_d_attribution_M184_1_7_12__2022_038_EV_2_SCKDIR_Goedkeuring___Gunning_Bouw_MaT_doc__1	Approval of award by SCK CEN (contracting authority) of 25 January 2023 for the MaT building (reference: 2022-038-EV_2)
	Notification CEN	Contract award notice, Results of the procurement procedure to Stadsbader NV of 24 February 2023

	Permis_environnement_vergunning _OVA_MaT	Ministerial Decree of the Flemish government on the environmental permit application by son Studiecentrum voor Kernenergie- Centre d'Etude de l'Energie Nucléaire for works on and around some buildings located at 2400 Mol, Boeretang 200 on 7 July 2023
	MER_GOED 31 mei 2023 103117	Environmental screening by the Flemish government of 31 May 2023
	EFFECT_OMGEVING_SV 31 mei 2023 103117	Environmental screening (Effects section) by the Flemish government of 31 May 2023
	Summary_document_M184_Signed _Nota_justification_Milestone_1__o cr	Note from SCK CEN on how the deliverables for the award of public contract for MaT construction were fulfilled of 30 June 2020

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgium authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Notification of the award of the contract by the Federal Minister of Economics and Labour for the construction of a Material Treatment facility (MaT), which is needed to perform cold tests and demonstrations of the technologies to be developed for the re-use, recycling and final disposal of non-nuclear waste from the decommissioning operations of nuclear plants;

On 3 June 2022, a public tendering procedure with reference 2022-038-EV_2 was launched by the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (hereafter "SCK-CEN") for the design and construction of a new Material Treatment facility. Due to unjustified high pricing quoted in all the proposals submitted, particularly forelectricity, the public procedure wasdiscontinued and, pursuant to Article 38(1)(2) of the Law of 17 June 2016, a competitive procedure with negotiations was initiated. According to Article 38(1)(2) of the Law of 17 June 2016, when an open procedure yields only irregular or unacceptable tenders, the contracting authority can initiate a competitive procedure with negotiations without publishing a new call for applicants. This is allowed if the contracting authority invites all tenderers, who submitted compliant tenders in accordance with the criteria set out in Articles 67 to 78, and who submitted tenders that met the formal requirements in the previous open procedure, to submit a new proposal. In this case, all tenderers from the initial procedure submitted formally compliant tenders and were invited to submit new proposals under the competitive procedure with negotiations, eliminating the need for new publication. (Evidence No. 2). Following the closure of the competitive procedure with negotiations on 9 December 2022, the Board of Directors of SCK-CEN approved the awarding of the contract to Stadsbader NV on 25 January 2023 (Evidence No. 3). The contract award notification was published on the Federal Bulletin of Tenders on 24 February 2023 (Evidence No. 4).

The floorplan of the building shows that the Material Treatment facility (hereafter “MaT”) includes the necessary rooms to perform (cold) tests and demonstrations of the technologies to be developed for the re-use, recycling and final disposal of non-nuclear waste from the decommissioning operations of nuclear plants (Evidence No. 8).

The Council Implementing Decision required a notification of the award of the contract by the Federal Minister of Economics for the construction of a MaT. The board of Directors of SCK-CEN, the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre, approved the award of contract, with the contract award notification being published on the Federal Bulletin of Tenders. While this constitutes a minimal formal deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision which required the notification of the award of the contract by the Federal Minister of Economics, the contract for the MaT was awarded by the board of Directors of SCK-CEN in line with applicable Belgian law. Therefore, the minimal deviation does not affect the progress towards achieving the investment that the milestone represents. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

necessary building permits shall be obtained.

The environmental permit to build the MaT facility was prepared by SCK-CEN and filed with the Flemish Authorities on 17 February 2023. The permit was granted by the Decree of the Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment, Energy and Tourism (Zuhal Demir) on 7 July 2023. The Decree authorises the urban planning operations in connection with the renovation and construction projects located at 2400 Mol, Goorstraat 15 and Boeretang 200, which includes the Material treatment facility building and the Central Radiochemical Facility building (Evidence No. 5).

Building shall be compliant with all the applicable legislation on the Federal and Flemish level related to Directive 2011/92.

The Ministerial Decree of 7 July 2023 contains a section on its obligations under European Legislation on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). As the application relates to an activity listed in Annex III of the Flemish government degree of 10 December 2004 which determines the categories of projects subject to an EIA screening, an EIA screening is required *(*Evidence No. 5, p. 16-17). The environmental permit application of SCK-CEN was assessed against the criteria of Annex II of the Flemish Decree on General Provisions for Environmental Policy (DABM) of 5 April 1995, which sets out the criteria for determining whether certain projects or activities require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in Flanders (Evidence No. 6-7). The screening report assessed the potential environmental impacts of the project, including effects on biodiversity, soil, water, air, and human health. According to the report, the project is not expected to have significant effects on the environment (evidence no. 6 and no.7). It was concluded that, in light of the characteristics of the project, the local conditions and the characteristics of its potential effects, there are no significant effects on the environment and therefore the projects is not subject to an EIA requirement, with this conclusion being supported by the EIA screening report (Evidence No. 6-7). This is in line with the Directive 2011/92/EU, which defines the environmental impact assessment process, thereby complying with all the applicable Federal and Flemish legislation related to Directive 2011/92.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 207 - Spending review integration into budgetary process (1) or (2) / Spending review ex-post analysis

Related Measure: Spending reviews (R-6)

Qualitative Indicator: Government decision

Time: Q4 2023

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to integrate spending reviews into the budgetary process of different entities (Federal Government, Flemish Region, Walloon Region, Brussels-Capital Region, and the French Community) to ensure improvements in the quality and efficiency of their public spending and contribute to strengthening their budgetary position. The reform is organised along five sub-elements: Reform R-6.01 'Spending reviews' of the Federal State, Reform R-6.02 'Spending reviews - Flemish general revision and spending norm' of Flanders, Reform R-6.03 'Spending Reviews — Zero-based budget' of the Walloon Region, Reform R-6.04 'Spending review' of the Brussels-Capital Region, and Reform R-6.05 'Spending reviews' of the French Community.

Milestone 207 is part of the reform R-6, and requires for the French Community authorities: Spending review integration into budgetary process (1): Government decisions defining how spending reviews (or similar approach) are integrated into budgetary process. The decisions define the spending review strategy and a calendar for future reviews, potentially including quantified targets. In line with the Eurogroup guidance, ensure, amongst other elements, clear scope and design of the reviews as well as transparent monitoring, reporting and evaluation. For the (i) federal, (ii) Flemish Region, (iii) Walloon Region and (iv) Brussels Capital-Region authorities: Spending review integration into budgetary process (2): Systematic inclusion of the outcome of spending reviews into annual and/or multiannual budget planning as of the preparation of the budgetary law for 2024. This shall include, among others, the quantification ex-post of the outcomes, including savings, associated to the spending review programme. Furthermore, milestone 207 requires for the federal and Flemish Region authorities: Spending review ex-post analysis: Publication of assessment report of spending reviews.

Milestone 207 is the third milestone of the R-6 reform, following the completion of milestone 206. It will be followed by milestone 208, on spending review integration into budgetary process / spending review ex-post analysis. The requirements under each milestone reflect the initial position of the different entities in the implementation of the reform. The reform has a final expected date of implementation on 31 December 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

French Community

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Cover Note of 15 October 2024	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled with respect to actions falling within the remit of the French Community authorities
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-	Decree introducing the principle

	M[207]_M207___Projet_de_d_cret_22_Nov_23___N_610__23_24_.pdf Decree of 22 November 2023 Published in the Official Journal (Belgisch Staatsblad/Moniteur Belge) on 5 February 2024	of spending reviews in the budgetary and accounting legislation of the French Community.
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_AGCF_DispoG_n_rales_RD.pdf Arrêté du Gouvernement de la Communauté française portant applications et modifications de dispositions budgéetaires et comptable » of 16 May 2024 Published in the Official Journal (Belgisch Staatsblad/Moniteur Belge) on 19 September 2024	Decision organising in a detailed way the governance of spending reviews in the French Community

Federal Government

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Cover Note of 03 July 2024	A summary document of 03 July 2024 duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled with respect to actions falling within the remit of the federal state
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_M_207_Appendix_A___Council_of_ministers_26_04_2024__pt_23__Methodology_French	Decision of the Council of Ministers on 26 April 2024, approving the implementation and the calendar of the spending reviews
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_M_207_Appendix_E_General_Notes_Budget_2024	General Note of 10 November 2023, accompanying the budget of 2024, with the section on spending reviews (p.61-78) outlining the quantified outcome of spending reviews integrated in the budget
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_M_207_Appendix_D___General_Notes_Budget_2023.pdf	General Note of 10 November 2022, accompanying the budget of 2023, with the section on spending reviews (p.68-75) outlining the quantified outcome of spending reviews integrated in the budget

	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[208]_M_208_Appendix_A_Assessment_report_spending_reviews_French.pdf	Ex-post report on the assessment of spending reviews, dated from December 2024 Publicly available at: https://bosa.belgium.be/nl/publications/spending-review-assessment-report-rrf-mijlpaal-208-0

Flemish Region

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Cover Note of 19 January 2024	A summary document of 19 January 2024 duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled with respect to actions falling within the remit of the Flemish region
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_Vlaamse_Codex_Overheidfinanci_n_van_29_maart_2019 Adopted by the Flemish Parliament on 29 June 2022, published in the Belgian Official Journal on 16 September 2022.	Decree of 1 July 2022 amending the Flemish Public Finance Codex of 29 March 2019 Publicly available at: http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/eli/decret/2022/07/01/2022015510/moniteur
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_20231020_AT_2024	General notes of the 2024 Flemish Community budget (p. 145)
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_20240123_Rapport_ex_post_kwantitatieve_gevolgen_VBH	Report on the ex-post quantification Flemish Broad Review (“Rapport ex post kwantitatieve gevolgen Vlaamse Brede Heroverweging”).
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_Toelichtingen_begroting_2023	General notes of the 2023 Flemish Community budget from the Flemish Parliament (p. 48-49) Publicly available at: https://www.vlaamsparlement.be/nl/parlementaire-documenten/parlementaire-initiatieven/1678077
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_Toelichtingen_begroting_2024	General notes of the 2024 Flemish Community budget from the Flemish Parliament (p. 48) Publicly available at: https://www.vlaamsparlement.be/nl/parlementaire-

		documenten/parlementaire-initiatieven/1776506
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[208]_Evaluatierapport_uitgaventoetsingen_2019_2024_i_h_k_v__RRF_mijlpaal_208.pdf	Ex-post report on the assessment of spending reviews, dated from May 2025 Publicly available at: Evaluatierapport uitgaventoetsingen 2019-2024 i.h.k.v. RRF mijlpaal 208

Brussels Capital Region

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Cover Note of 18 December 2024 BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_BE__C61__R_R_6__M_207____cover_note.pdf	A summary document of 18 December 2024 duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled with respect to actions falling within the remit of the Brussels Capital Region
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_Codex_vd_openbare_financien_BHG_bl_45999.pdf published 25 April 2024 in the Belgian official journal.	Addition of two articles in the Brussels-Capital Finance Codex (p.207 and p.223)
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_CodexFinance__Joint_Community_Commission_p87100.pdf published 19 July 2024 in the Belgian official journal.	Addition of two articles in the Finance Codex of the Joint Community Commission (p.557 and p. 573)
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_General_explanation.pdf	General Presentation of the 2024 Budget (p.203-206) dated on 31 October 2023
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_Spending_Review___Investissement_dans_la_RDI___finalit___conomique.pdf	Final report of the spending review 'Investment in Research, Development, Innovation with economic impact (Innoviris)'
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_report___spending_review_mobility.pdf	Final report of the spending review 'Mobility'
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_BE_C_C61__R_R_6__M_206____report___spending_reviews_in_social_housing.pdf	Final report of the spending review 'Social housing'

Walloon Region

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Cover Note of 22 January 2025	A summary document of 22 January 2025 duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled with respect to actions falling within the remit of the federal state
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_1_2022_12_15_Decision_Gouvernement_Wallon_Integration_Spending_review_processus_budgetaire.pdf Decision of 15 December 2022	Decision of the Walloon government regarding the improved methodology of spending reviews.
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_8__20240424_adoption_modification_decret_15_12_2011_WBFin_par_Parlement_Wallon_1669.pdf Published in the Belgian official journal the 13 September 2024	Decree of 25 April 2024 amending the decree of 15 December 2011 regarding the organisation of the budget, accounting and reporting of Walloon public administration units (p.3) Publicly available at: https://etaamb.openjustice.be/fr/decret-du-25-avril-2024_n2024204573.html
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_3__2022_08_06_Extrait_Rapport_Spending_Review_Emploi_Titres_Services.pdf	Extract from the Spending review report on the Service Vouchers mechanism
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_6__20231201_Arrete_Gouvernement_wallon_modifiant_arrete_royal_titres_services_Moniteur_Belge_p252_255.pdf published in the Belgian Official Journal on 12 December 2023.	Decree amending the Royal Decree of 12 December 2001 on service vouchers, with the aim of reforming the financing of service voucher companies and regulating the cost-of-service vouchers for users.
	BE-C[C61]-R[R-6]-M[207]_9__2024_03_Note_explicative_CID_expost_VM2_M207__Annexe_rapport.pdf	Explanatory note on the expenditure review process for the Service vouchers mechanism

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

French Community

For the French Community authorities: Spending review integration into budgetary process (1): Government decisions defining how spending reviews (or similar approach) are integrated into budgetary process.

The French Communities authorities have integrated spending reviews into the budgetary process by decree of 22 November 2023. Article 47/1 of decree of 20 December 2011 "Décret portant organisation du budget et de la comptabilité des Services du Gouvernement de la Communauté française" as amended by article 5 of decree of 22 November 2023 of French speaking community specifies that each year, the results of the spending review projects carried out in the previous year are presented in the general budget statement, including the plan for spending reviews to be carried out in the following year (evidence no.2, p.3).

The decisions define the spending review strategy and a calendar for future reviews, potentially including quantified targets.

The French Community authorities have defined the spending review strategy, potentially including quantified targets, by decision of the French Communities government of 16 May 2024 published in the Official Journal (Belgisch Staatsblad/Moniteur Belge) of 19 September 2024 (evidence no. 3). The decision of 16 May 2024 amended the « Arrêté du Gouvernement de la Communauté française du 28 novembre 2013 portant organisation des contrôle et audit internes budgétaires et comptables ainsi que du contrôle administratif et budgétaire », hereinafter the 'amended decision', introducing new provisions (article 28/1 to article 28/10) detailing the spending review strategy. Notably, article 28/9 and 28/10 of the amended decision stipulate that as part of the budget circular governing the preparation of initial budgets, the government solicits entities and invites the Finance Inspectorate to submit proposals for spending review topics and sets a deadline for submitting these proposals to the spending review unit established within the General Directorate of Budget and Finance. The government may also invite other bodies to submit proposals. These proposals are subject to an opinion from the steering committee of the ministry of the French Community. These proposals are approved at the latest when the government approves the initial budget for the following year and then communicated to the Parliament. Moreover, article 28/2.1 of the amended decision stipulates that the implementation of spending reviews takes place, except in exceptional circumstances, over a period of a maximum of 11 months, in line with the budget cycle, in order to provide the government and parliament with relevant information for the preparation of the budget. For 2025, at least 5 spending reviews have been planned. These are listed on the webpage of the French Community: https://budget-finances.cfwb.be/budget-et-comptabilite/ressources/. The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 13 June 2025 to verify whether spending reviews to be carried out in 2025 were listed. This check was completed successfully, confirming that a calendar for spending review has been defined. Notably, in 2025 the following spending reviews are planned: 1) Optimization of budgetary management of Public Youth Protection Institutions; 2) Energy investments in school buildings; 3) End-of-career scheme for teaching staff; 4) Financial mechanism relating to the pay of teaching staff with partial workload loss; and 5) Grants to professional federations recognized by the General Administration of Culture.

In line with the Eurogroup guidance, ensure, amongst other elements, clear scope and design of the reviews as well as transparent monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

The decision of 16 May 2024 (evidence no. 3) ensures that each spending review has a clear scope, design and that it ensures a transparent monitoring, reporting and evaluation for each spending review. Article 28/2 of the amended decision stipulates that spending reviews are carried out on the basis of detailed specifications ("cahier des charges". According to article 28/7 of the amended decision, the specifications contain elements such as the scope, the reason, the objectives of the spending review, specific research questions, options to be pursuit and a budget table concerning the theme under spending review. These provisions ensure that, spending reviews have a clear scope and design. Article 28/4, article 28/8 and article 28/10 of the amended decision ensure transparent monitoring, reporting and evaluation in line with the principles set in the Eurogroup guidance. Article 28/4 stipulates that a steering committee is established for all spending reviews on a permanent basis. The steering committee is tasked with the supervision of spending review works. Article 28/8 stipulates that for each spending review, a final report has to be prepared. The report contains a number of elements, including a description of potential options of reform, a description of their potential impact (also budgetary) and a plan for implementing the reform options. Article 28/10 stipulates that for each spending review, the final report is submitted, at the latest by 10 September of each year, to the Minister-President, and to the minister responsible for the subject of the spending review. The government decides then on the follow-up to the reform options and communicates its decision to the Parliament. This decision, along with the summary of the final report, is included in the budget documents for the initial budget for the following year. Finally, article 28/11 of the amended decision stipulated that the Minister of Budget may decide to carry out an ex- post evaluation of a spending review by external experts. This is in line with the principles set out in the Eurogroup guidance of 9 September 2016 which stated that the design and implementation of spending reviews should include a clear strategic mandate specifying the objectives and scope and a center of coordination and provided that spending reviews should be subject to independent ex-post evaluation to learn lessons for future reviews.

(i) *Federal Authorities*

Spending review integration into budgetary process (2): Systematic inclusion of the outcome of spending reviews into annual and/or multiannual budget planning as of the preparation of the budgetary law for 2024.

The federal government systematically includes the outcome of spending reviews into annual and multiannual budget planning through the Decision of 26 April 2024 (evidence No.2, p.6). With this Decision, the federal government approved the improved methodology of spending reviews to systematically include the outcome of the spending reviews into annual federal budget planning. The Decision of 26 April 2024 stipulates that in September of year X+1, completed spending reviews will be discussed within the Council of Ministers. The minister(s) responsible for the public federal services (hereafter referred as SPF) or organizations involved in the completed spending reviews will present a proposal to the government. If the government decides to implement one or more reform options, this decision will also include an implementation roadmap. This roadmap will outline a concrete timeline, expected outcomes (including savings minus implementation costs), the trigger for implementation, and key baseline conditions. The Decision of the government will be made during, or no later than, the budget conclave of year X+1, so that the impact can be considered in the preparation of the budget for year X+2 (evidence No.2, p.6).

The outcome of the spending reviews has systematically been included into budget planning as of the preparation of the budgetary law for 2024. Indeed, the "general presentation of the 2024 federal budget" (*Budget des recettes et des dépenses pour*

l'année budgétaire 2024 - exposé général/begrotingen van ontvangsten en uitgaven voor het begrotingsjaar 2024 – algemene toelichting) includes a specific section dedicated to the outcome of spending reviews (evidence No.3, p.61-78). The same section was already present in the general presentation of the 2023 federal budget (evidence No.4, p.68-75).

The federal authorities incorporated spending review outcomes into annual and multiannual budget planning by highlighting potential multiannual savings in their annual budgetary law for 2024 tabled by federal government to the Parliament on 10 November 2023. The 2024 budgetary law contains five spending reviews with quantified outcomes. For instance, the spending review on 'The impact of widespread teleworking on the organization and expenditure' anticipates annual savings of EUR 37 million starting in 2028, with an additional EUR 30 million per year expected by 2042 (evidence No.3, p.61).

This shall include, among others, the quantification ex-post of the outcomes, including savings, associated to the spending review programme.

Five spending reviews generated ex-post quantification of the outcomes. The outcomes of these five spending reviews were quantified and included in chapter 1, section 4 of the annual budgetary law for 2024 tabled by federal government to the Parliament on 10 November 2023 (evidence No.3, p.61-78).

- **The spending review 'Efficient Care'** reviewed the health insurance system with the goal, among others, to making the health care system more efficient. The outcome associated to the spending review generated a reallocation of EUR 40 million which was redistributed in the 2022 federal health care budget of the Belgian House of Representatives (evidence No.3 p.64).
- **The spending review 'BELSPO'** focused on optimizing the telecommunications network. The outcome of the spending review revealed that centralization would create synergies and decrease the cost of the Federal authorities. With the first centralization, the cost to the federal authorities dropped from EUR 303k to EUR 114k, representing a realised saving of EUR 189k in the 2024 federal budget of the Belgian House of Representatives (evidence No.3 p.66). Additionally, the spending review estimated potential annual savings of EUR 1.2 million as from the end of the project (evidence No.3 p.65). The final report of the spending review is publicly available on the website of the FPS Policy and Support: https://bosa.belgium.be/fr/publications/spending-review-belspo-rapport-final.
- **The outcome associated to the spending review 'The impact of widespread teleworking on the organisation and expenditure'** presents a potential recurring saving of EUR 37 million per year starting in 2028 with an additional long-term saving of EUR 30 million from 2042 in office rental costs. Moreover, potential annual rental cost savings were estimated at EUR 6.4 million for utilities. The estimated cost for initial installations and for the furniture incentive was quantified at EUR 214 million in the 2024 federal budget of the Belgian House of Representatives (evidence No.3, p.61).
- Regarding the **spending review 'nuclear passive'**, the Belgian State committed to cover the clean-up costs for nuclear liabilities with three funds: the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (hereafter referred to as "SCK CEN"), Belgoprocess and the National Institute for Radioelements (hereafter referred to as "IRE"). Three outcomes of the spending review were quantified and included in the 2024 federal budget of the Belgian House of Representatives (evidence No. 3 p.66-68). First, the spendings of the three funds for the period 1989-2020 were calculated to be EUR 1,932 million. Secondly, by 31 December 2021, the financial resources still available in each fund were determined to be EUR 16

million for the SCK CEN, EUR 52,8 million for Belgoprocess and EUR 0.4 million for the IRE. Third, the spending review estimated the future expenditure related to the nuclear liabilities. These reach EUR 781.6 million for the SCK CEN, EUR 5,210.5 million for Belgoprocess and EUR 372,2 million for the IRE (evidence No. 3 p.66-68). The final report of the spending review is publicly available on the website of the FPS Policy and Support: https://bosa.belgium.be/fr/publications/spending-review-passif-nucleaire-rapport-final.

- The **spending review 'Cybersecurity'** quantified the cybersecurity spendings of five federal entities. The outcome associated to the spending review presents an increase in terms of cybersecurity spending from EUR 81.947k in 2022 to a range between EUR 120.000k and 130.000k in the 2024 federal budget of the Belgian House of Representatives (evidence No.3 p.69).

(ii) *Flemish Region*

Spending review integration into budgetary process (2): Systematic inclusion of the outcome of spending reviews into annual and/or multiannual budget planning as of the preparation of the budgetary law for 2024.

The Flemish Region systematically includes the outcome of spending reviews into annual and multiannual budget plannings through the Decree of 1 July 2022 amending the Flemish Public Finance Codex of 29 March 2019. The latter defines "comprehensive reviews" and "spending reviews" and integrates them into the budgetary process. The Decree of 1 July 2022 amending the Flemish Public Finance Codex of 29 March 2019 introduced the following amendments (evidence No.2, p.7):

- **Article 10, §1. al.2. of the Flemish Public Finance Codex as amended** lays down that "the Flemish Government organises the budget of revenues and expenditures of the Flemish Government according to the principles of performance-informed budgeting, in light of a multi-year perspective. Comprehensive reviews and spending reviews are used for this purpose. The Flemish Government determines the principles with which the comprehensive reviews and spending reviews comply."
- **Article 10, §1, al.3. of the Flemish Public Finance Codex as amended defines the "Comprehensive reviews"** as the "comprehensive examinations of policies with a budgetary impact, aimed at offering policy options for a more efficient or effective approach to underpin possible policy choices for the future of Flanders in the longer term."
- **Article 10, §1, al.3. of the Flemish Public Finance Codex as amended defines the "Spending reviews" as** the "systematic, in-depth and specific studies of expenditure categories with a substantial budgetary impact in order to improve, under constant policies, the efficiency or effectiveness of policies."

This revision anchors the systematic nature of spending reviews and integrates their outcome in the budget of the Flemish Region through the 'performance-informed budgeting' method used by the Flemish Region to organize their annual and multiannual budget (evidence No.2, p.7).

The systematic inclusion of the outcome of spending reviews in the annual and multiannual budget planning was effective as from the preparation of the budgetary law for 2024. The budgetary law for 2024 has been accompanied by an annex named "notes to the 2024 budget and multi-year estimate for 2023-2028" produced by the Flemish government which is part of the budget itself. This annex includes a quantified outcome

of the spending reviews in a dedicated section, namely section 5.3 'additional measures budget preparation'(evidence No.6, p.48-56).

This shall include, among others, the quantification ex-post of the outcomes, including savings, associated to the spending review programme.

Four spending reviews generated ex-post quantification of the outcomes. The outcome of these reviews were quantified in the 'report ex post quantitative impact Vlaamse Brede Review from Department of Finance and Budget' from 23 January 2024 (evidence No.4, p.6). The savings associated to the spending reviews were included in the annual and multiannual budget notes of the Flemish Parliament. The notes are annexed to the Flemish Parliament budget and are part of it. The document is publicly available on the website of the Flemish Parliament:

- Note to the 2023 annual and 2022-2027 multiannual budget (hereafter 2023 annual and multiannual budget) (evidence No.5).
- Note to the 2024 annual and 2023-2028 multiannual budget (hereafter 2024 annual and multiannual budget) (evidence No.6).

The four spending reviews with the quantification ex-post of the outcomes are the following:

- **Based on the outcome of the spending review regarding target group discounts**, the Flemish Government decided to lift the target group reductions for older workers and a category of young people as from 1 July 2024. The ex-post outcome was quantified in the 'report ex post quantitative impact Vlaamse Brede Review from Department of Finance and Budget' from 23 January 2024 (evidence No.4, p.6) and integrated in the annual and multiannual budget of 2023 of the Flemish Parliament (evidence No.5, p.48-49) and 2024 (evidence No.6, p.48).
- **Outcome of the spending review regarding oldtimers tax.** The ex-post outcome of this review was quantified to EUR 8.7 million per year increase in revenue and was included in the Flemish annual and multiannual budget of 2023 (evidence No.5, p.48).
- **Outcome of the review regarding real estate tax, also named 'abolition of portability'**. Portability allowed buyers of a second family home to deduct the sales duty paid on a prior residence from the duty owed on a new purchase, subject to conditions. However, due to its complexity and failure to promote mobility, the measure was discontinued. The ex-post outcome of the review has been quantified and integrated in the annual and multiannual budget of 2024 of the Flemish Parliament. The saving associated to the outcome reaches EUR 35 million per year as from 2024 (evidence No.6, p.48).
- **Outcome of the review regarding the cancellation of compensation for Km-levy of the transport sector.** As part of the Flemish Brede Review, it was found that much subsidized equipment is now standard on trucks, leading to a decision to systematically reduce the grants. By cancelling the compensation of the kilometre charge for the transport sector, the ex-post outcome of the review could be quantified with a saving of EUR 12 million in 2022, EUR 24 million in 2023 and EUR 36 million as from 2024. This was included in the annual and multiannual budget of 2024 of the Flemish Parliament (evidence No.6, p.48).

(iii) *Brussels Capital Region*

Spending review integration into budgetary process (2): Systematic inclusion of the outcome of spending reviews into annual and/or multiannual budget planning as of the preparation of the budgetary law for 2024.

The **Brussels-Capital Region** anchored the integration of spending reviews outcomes in the budgetary process through an executive order of the Brussels-Capital Region Finance Codex. Two articles regarding spending reviews were included in the Codex. The Brussels-Capital Region Finance Codex was voted by the Brussels Parliament on 4 April 2024 and published on 25 April 2024 in the Belgian official journal.

- Article 34, §1 (evidence No.2, p.207):

  "The general notes of the initial budget shall contain at least:

  …

  7° planned and executed reviews of spending and revenues, with justification of the obtained results."

- Article 141, §1 (evidence No.2, p.223):

  "The spending and revenue of the regional entity are evaluated on a regular basis. These spending and revenue reviews are tools that develop, assess and recommend policy options by analysing the existing spending and revenue of the Government. They link these options to the budgetary process."

  In addition, two articles regarding spending reviews were added to the Finance Codex of the Joint Community Commission, voted by the Brussels Parliament on 16 April 2024 and published on 19 July 2024 in the Belgian official journal (evidence No.3, p. 557). The Joint Community Commission manages shared competencies between French and Flemish communities in Brussels. Its Finance Codex mirrors the Brussels-Capital Region's amendments, requiring spending and revenue reviews in the budget. This ensures coordinated, transparent, and accountable financial governance across the different authorities.

- Article 33, §1 (evidence No.3, p.557):

  "The general notes of the initial budget shall contain at least:

  …

  7° planned and executed reviews of spending and revenues, with justification of the obtained results."

- Article 135, §1 (evidence No.3, p.573):

  "*The spending and revenues of the bi-communal entity are evaluated on a regular basis. These spending and revenue reviews are tools for developing, evaluating and recommending policy options by analysing the existing spending and revenue of the combined College. They establish a link between these options and the budgetary process.*"

  The outcome of the spending reviews was systematically included into annual and multiannual budget planning as of the preparation of the budgetary law for 2024. Indeed, the "General presentation of the revenue and expenditure budget for the 2024 financial year" (*Budget des recettes et des dépenses pour l'année budgétaire 2024 - exposé général/begrotingen van ontvangsten en uitgaven voor het begrotingsjaar 2024 – algemene toelichting*) includes a specific section dedicated to the outcome of spending reviews (evidence No.4, p.203-204).

The Brussels-Capital Region authorities incorporated spending review outcomes into annual and multiannual budget planning by highlighting potential multiannual budget impact in their annual budgetary law for 2024. For instance, the spending review 'Investment in Research, Development, Innovation with economic impact (Innoviris)' considers scenarios with either a 10% annual increase or decrease of grant budget for innovation in the 2024 budget of the Brussels-Capital Region (evidence No.4, p.203-204).

This shall include, among others, the quantification ex-post of the outcomes, including savings, associated to the spending review programme.

Three spending reviews generated the quantification ex-post of the outcomes:

- **The spending review 'Investment in Research, Development, Innovation with economic impact (Innoviris)'** (*Investissement dans la RDI à finalité économique/Investeringen in OOI voor economische doeleinden*) reviewed the spendings of grants for innovation. The outcome of the spending review was quantified and integrated into the general presentation of the revenue and expenditure budget for the 2024 financial year through recommendations (evidence No.4, p.203-206). Following the spending review, three recommendations of reform packages were formulated based on three possible budget options: increase of the grant for innovation of 10%, identical budget, decrease of the grant for innovation of 10%. As an example, the impact of a saving of EUR 1 million per year was also quantified and integrated into the general notes of the 2024 budget (evidence No.4, p.206). The final report of the spending review outcome is publicly available on the website of the Brussels-Capital Region: https://be.brussels/en/about-region/publications-open-data-statistics/other-publications/spending-reviews#The-final-reports-of-the-spending-reviews-13704 (evidence No.5).
- **Spending review 'Mobility'** focused on the policies surrounding the maintenance and the new projects of road infrastructures. The final report of the spending review is publicly available on the website of the Brussels-Capital Region: https://be.brussels/en/about-region/publications-open-data-statistics/other-publications/spending-reviews#The-final-reports-of-the-spending-reviews-13704. The report contains policy proposals with estimated savings (evidence No.6).
- **Spending review 'Social housing'** aimed at reducing waiting lists, long-term financial sustainability, improving transparency in funding mechanisms, and enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of social housing policy implementation. The outcome of the spending review was quantified and presented in the final report of the spending review, publicly available on the website of the Brussels-Capital Region: https://be.brussels/en/about-region/publications-open-data-statistics/other-publications/spending-reviews#The-final-reports-of-the-spending-reviews-13704 (evidence No.7).

(iv) *Walloon Region*

Spending review integration into budgetary process (2): Systematic inclusion of the outcome of spending reviews into annual and/or multiannual budget planning as of the preparation of the budgetary law for 2024.

The Walloon Region anchored the systematic inclusion of spending reviews outcome into annual and multiannual budget plannings through the Decision of 15 December 2022. With this Decision, the government approved the improved methodology of

spending reviews to systematically include the outcome spending reviews into annual Walloon budget planning (evidence No. 2, p.25).

The Decision of 15 December 2022 mentions the following (evidence No.2, p.1):

"The spending review process generally consists of three main steps:

(1) Planning, namely the phase in which decisions on the objectives, scope and terms of reference of the review are taken at political level.

(2) Execution, the phase during which civil servants carry out analyses at administrative level and prepare alternative options which are submitted to the political level.

(3) Implementation of the chosen options and monitoring, which refers to the implementation and follow-up of decisions taken based on the results of the spending review."

Additionally, the Walloon Region adopted further measures ensuring the systematic inclusion of spending reviews outcome into budget plannings through the adoption of a decree. The decree amending the decree of 15 December 2011 regarding the organisation of the budget, accounting and reporting of Walloon public administration units Belgian was adopted by the Walloon Parlement on 24 April 2024 and published in the Belgian official Journal on 13 September 2024 (evidence No.3, p.3).

Article 9, §1, 1° of the decree added the following:

"[…] Spending reviews means a re-examination of expenditure from the point of view of effectiveness, efficiency and consistency with government policy, in order to identify opportunities for more effective policies and room for manoeuvre that can be used for new operating and intervention spending or for the overall control of spendings."

The Walloon Region authorities incorporated spending review outcomes into multiannual budget planning by highlighting potential multiannual savings in their annual budgetary law for 2024. For example, the spending review 'service voucher' (titres-services) anticipates a saving of EUR 13.2 million per year starting in 2024 (evidence No.6, p.2).

This shall include, among others, the quantification ex-post of the outcomes, including savings, associated to the spending review programme.

One spending review generated a quantified outcome that was integrated into the budget. The spending review 'service voucher' (titres-services) analysed the financing of service voucher companies and the system regulating their cost for users. An extract of the results of the spending review is available in a dedicated report (evidence No.4). This report offered three potential measures to reduce the government spendings:

- Change the quota for using service vouchers
- (Single) indexation of the price of service vouchers
- Abolish the tax deduction

The Walloon government decided to adopt part of the second proposal which increase the price of service vouchers. This was completed through the adoption by the Walloon Government of a Decree amending the Royal Decree of 12 December 2001 on service vouchers. It was published in the Belgian Official Journal on 12 December 2023 (evidence No.5, p.2-3). The outcome of the spending review is to generate a saving of EUR 13.2 million per year as from 2024 (evidence No.6, p.2).

For the federal and Flemish Region authorities: Spending review ex-post analysis: Publication of assessment report of spending reviews.

(v) Federal authorities

*The federal au*thorities published an assessment report of spending reviews on the website of the Belgian federal public service for strategy and support – BOSA on 23 December 2024 (evidence No.5). The report is publicly available at: https://bosa.belgium.be/nl/publications/spending-review-assessment-report-rrf-mijlpaal-208-0. The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 5 June 2025 to verify whether the assessment report of spending review was drafted and published. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the assessment report of spending reviews has been published.

This report is an ex-post analysis of the performed spending reviews of the federal authorities. It provides a comprehensive analysis of the spending review program implemented, including specific quantifications of the outcomes such as savings, and contains reflections on the integration of these outcomes into the federal budget planning process. Additionally, it offers an evaluation of the methodologies applied and lessons learned, laying the groundwork for informed future spending reviews and budgetary decisions.

(vi) Flemish region

*The Flemish region au*thorities published an assessment report of spending reviews on the website of the Flemish Parliament on May 2025 (evidence No.7). The report is publicly available at: https://www.vlaanderen.be/publicaties/evaluatierapport-uitgaventoetsingen-2019-2024-ihkv-rrf-mijlpaal-208. The Commission services accessed the link provided by the authorities on 5 June 2025 to verify whether the assessment report of spending reviews was drafted and published. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the assessment report of spending reviews has been published.

This report is an ex-post analysis of the performed spending reviews of the Flemish region authorities. It analyses the effectiveness of previous spending reviews, specifically examining their influence on current budget allocations and financial planning. It outlines the lessons learned and methodological improvements, ensuring that past experiences inform future budgetary strategies and spending reviews.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone 228 - Entry into force of legislation

Related Measure: R-7.02 - Appeal procedure to the Council of State

Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the law shortening procedures for obtaining renewable energy permits

Time: Q2 2024

1. Context:

This reform of the Council of State consists in reducing the time taken to deal with appeal procedures relating to decisions on energy investments and renewable energy projects; and granting priority to the treatment of energy transition files. This measure aims at increasing the share and accelerating the deployment of renewable energy in Belgium by removing the administrative bottlenecks linked to appeal procedures in the process of executing the investments in renewable energy.

The milestone consists of the entry into force of the law reforming the appeal procedures against decisions relating to renewable energy installations and energy investments before the Administrative Litigation Division of the Council of State, and of the entry into force of the Royal Decree regarding priority treatment of energy transition projects.

Milestone 228 is the only milestone of this reform.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled
	Royal Decree of 19 November 2024 on determining the summary proceedings procedure and amending various decrees relating to the procedure before the Administrative Litigation Section of the Council of State	Legislation that reduced the time taken to deal with appeal procedures relating to decisions on energy investments and renewable energy projects, in so far the Council of State is the competent body, and granted the priority to the treatment of energy transition files.
	Royal Decree of 21 July 2023 on determining the case of overriding public interest	Legislation establishing the rules with regard to cases of overriding public interest. The Decree identifies matters relating to the energy transition or the use and deployment of renewable energy sources as matters of overriding public interest.
	Royal Decree of 21 July 2023 amending various decrees relating to the procedure before the Administrative Litigation Section of the Council of State	Legislation that modifies the rules of procedures of the Council of State that are applicable in case of renewable energy installations and energy investments.
	Law of 11 July 2023 amending the	Legislation that amends those

	laws on the Council of State coordinated on 12 January 1973		provisions of the various decrees relating to the procedure before the Administrative Litigation Section of the Council of State.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgium's authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

(1) Entry into force of the law reforming the appeal procedures against decisions relating to renewable energy installations and energy investments before the Administrative Litigation Division of the Council of State.

Belgium adopted four pieces of legislation that reform the appeal procedures against decisions relating to renewable energy installations and energy investments before the Administrative Litigation Division of the Council of State:

1) Royal Decree of 19 November 2024 on determining the summary proceedings procedure and amending various decrees relating to the procedure before the Administrative Litigation Section of the Council of State (evidence no. 2) entered into force on 1 January 2025. This Decree i) reduced the time taken to deal with appeal procedures relating to decisions on energy investments and renewable energy projects (cases of extreme urgency), in so far the Council of State is the competent body (through measures in Article 4), and ii) granted the priority to the treatment of energy transition files (Chapter II).
2) Royal Decree of 21 July 2023 on determining the case of overriding public interest (evidence no. 3) entered into force 1 January 2024. The Decree identifies matters relating to the energy transition or the use and deployment of renewable energy sources as matters of overriding public interest (Articles 1 to 4).
3) Law of 11 July 2023 amending the laws on the Council of State coordinated on 12 January 1973 (evidence no. 5) entered into force on 1 September 2023. This Law modifies the rules of procedures of the Council of State that are applicable in case of renewable energy installations and energy investments (Articles 5,7 and 23).

This law aims at shortening procedures for obtaining renewable energy permits, by

• abolishing the provisional intervention order,

Articles 12 and 13 of the Royal Decree of 21 July 2023 amending various decrees relating to the procedure before the Administrative Litigation Section of the Council of State (evidence no. 4) provides for an abolishment of the provisional intervention order. The two provisions make changes to Order of the regent of 23 August 1948 determining the procedure before the Council of State, and the article-by-article description of the Royal Decree of 2 July 2023 states that: "*The purpose of this amendment is to abandon the rule of making an interim order on the admissibility of the intervention, and then to grant the intervener a period of time for the submission of a pleading. Interested persons wishing to intervene in annulment proceedings set out their views at the outset in the application to intervene and the judgment rules on the admissibility of the application.*"

• limiting the time in which the auditorate submits its report on the case to 6 months,

Article 7 of the Law of 11 July 2023 amending the laws on the Council of State coordinated on 12 January 1973 (evidence no. 5) amends the laws on the Council of

State coordinated on 12 January 1973 to introduce a deadline of six months within which the report of the Auditor's Office needs to be drafted. The new provision introduces the following: *"After the completion of the preliminary measures, a member of the Auditor's Office shall draw up a report on the case. This report, dated and signed, shall be sent to the Chamber within six months of the date on which the member of the Auditor's Office received the complete file of the case."* Under certain circumstances and upon a request, this period can be prolonged.

• amending the suspension procedures,

Article 5 of the Law of 11 July 2023 amending the laws on the Council of State coordinated on 12 January 1973 (evidence no. 5) amends the laws on the Council of State coordinated on 12 January 1973 to introduce new Article 17 in the Acts 'on the Council of State' to revise the suspension procedure. The new provision introduces, besides others, the following:

"*The Administrative Jurisdiction Division shall have the sole power to order, after hearing or duly summoned the parties, by judgment the suspension of the enforcement of an instrument or regulations, which may be declared invalid pursuant to Article 14 (1) and (3), and to order any measures necessary to safeguard the interests of the parties or the persons having an interest in the resolution of the case.*

The application for suspension or interim measures shall be made and processed electronically, and in any case, where the parties are assisted or represented by a lawyer or are an authority referred to in Article 14(1).

Suspension or interim measures may be ordered at any time: § 1 'there is an urgency incompatible with the handling of the case for annulment; § 2 if at least one serious plea is raised, the examination of which lends itself to expedited processing and which is prima facie capable of justifying the annulment of the contested act or regulation."

Article 17 of the Acts 'on the Council of State' introduces two types of suspension procedures: "ordinary" suspension procedure and the "extreme emergency" suspension procedure (as demonstrated by Article 5 of the evidence no. 5).

To optimise the suspension procedure and to allow to speed up the process, the new Article 17, paragraph 4 of the 'Acts on the Council of State' (as evidenced by Article 5 of the evidence no. 5) introduced a requirement for the President of the Chamber to set up a timetable for the procedure, which includes the dates on which the various pleadings and procedural documents must be lodged, and a requirement to adopt a decision within ten days after the hearing.

Additionally, Article 1 up to 24 of the Royal Decree of 19 November 2024 on determining the summary proceedings procedure and amending various decrees relating to the procedure before the Administrative Litigation Section of the Council of State (evidence no. 2) implement the new Article 17 of the Acts 'on the Council of State', as explained in the preamble of the Royal Decree of 19 November 2024. Articles 1 to 7 and 11 to 24 contain general rules applicable to the suspension procedure, while Articles 8 to 10 set out the specific rules, derogating from the ordinary procedure, that apply in cases of extreme urgency.

• giving priority to energy transition cases,

Article 23 of the Law of 11 July 2023 amending the laws on the Council of State coordinated on 12 January 1973 (evidence no. 5) introduced a provision allowing the King to determine, by a decree, cases of overriding public interest which require special treatment.

Article 2 of the Royal Decree of 21 July 2023 on determining the case of overriding public interest (evidence no. 3) defines that matters of overriding public interest are the following:

- permits and authorisations for installations using renewable energy sources:

  a) onshore or offshore wind farms with an energy production capacity of 8 megawatts or more; b) areas or structures with photovoltaic solar panels with an energy production capacity of 4 megawatts or more;
  c) units for energy recovery from biomass with an energy production capacity of 4 megawatts or more;
  d) geothermal energy recovery units with an energy production capacity of 4 megawatts or more; e) hydropower plants with an energy production capacity of 4 mega-watts or more;

- permits and authorisations for natural gas transmission and storage facilities, the hydrogen transmission network and hydrogen transmission facilities and large hydrogen storage facilities;
- permits or authorisations for transmission and distribution system infrastructure projects and large energy storage facilities, including their connections;

Furthermore, pursuant to Article 3, the college of heads of the bodies of Council of State may adopt the following organisational measures:

- priority treatment of the cases of matters of overriding public interest;
- redistribution of those cases within the Chambers or within the departments of the Auditorates
- strengthening chambers of the Administrative Jurisdiction Division or Administrative Jurisdiction Departments of the Auditorate;
- the creation of additional chambers to deal with these cases.

• reducing the time taken to deal with proceedings before the Administrative Litigation Section and

The combination of newly adopted measures as part of the following laws will result in reduced time taken to deal with proceedings before the Administrative Litigation Sections:

1) Royal Decree of 19 November 2024 on determining the summary proceedings procedure and amending various decrees relating to the procedure before the Administrative Litigation Section of the Council of State (evidence no. 2). This Decree i) reduced the time taken to deal with appeal procedures relating to decisions on energy investments and renewable energy projects (cases of extreme urgency), in so far the Council of State is the competent body (through measures in Article 4), and ii) granted the priority to the treatment of energy transition files (Chapter II).
2) Royal Decree of 21 July 2023 on determining the case of overriding public interest (evidence no. 3). The Decree identifies matters relating to the energy transition or the use and deployment of renewable energy sources as matters of overriding public interest and sets out the organisational measures that the Council of State may take with a view to effectively handle the cases in an efficient manner (Articles 1 to 4) .
3) Law of 11 July 2023 amending the laws on the Council of State coordinated on 12 January 1973 (evidence no. 5). This Law modifies the rules of procedures of the Council of State that are applicable in case of renewable energy installations and energy investments (Articles 5, 7 and 23).

4) Royal Decree of 21 July 2023 amending various decrees relating to the procedure before the Administrative Litigation Section of the Council of State (evidence no. 4). This Decree amends those provisions of the various decrees relating to the procedure before the Administrative Litigation Section of the Council of State, which should be amended following the substantive reform introduced by the Law of 11 July 2023. The amendments mostly relate to shortening the procedures, such as determining the consequences in case parties have not submitted the procedural documents within the deadline or have not paid the administrative fees on time, document-sharing between the auditors and defendants, or limitations of the last pleading (Articles 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12 and 13).

• reducing the time taken to deal with an ordinary action for annulment, except if a procedural incident occurs.

Article 7 of the Law of 11 July 2023 amending the laws on the Council of State coordinated on 12 January 1973 (evidence no. 5) amended Article 24 of the laws on the Council of State in order to provide the following in case of actions for annulment:

- the auditor appointed to examine the case now has a period of six months to write his report on the case;

- the auditor's report may now be limited to examining the plea of inadmissibility or the plea on the merits that allows the resolution of the dispute, which is likely to speed up the processing of the file by the auditor;

- when the conclusions of the report do not resolve the dispute, the auditor now has a period of three months to file an additional report;

- in urgent cases, the President of the Chamber hearing the case may shorten the six-month and three-month time limits mentioned above.

Additionally, Article 10 of the Law of 11 July 2023 amended Article 30 of the laws on the Council State to authorise the appointed auditor not to draw up a report in the event of the withdrawal of proceedings by the applicant or the withdrawal of the contested act by the opposing party.

All these changes together result in reducing the time to deal with an ordinary action for annulment.

(2) Entry into force of the Royal Decree which

• gives priority treatment to appeals concerning renewable energy deployment and energy transition files,

Article 23 of the Law of 11 July 2023 amending the laws on the Council of State coordinated on 12 January 1973 (evidence no. 5) introduced a provision allowing the King to determine, by a decree, cases of overriding public interest which require special priority treatment.

Article 2 of the Royal Decree of 21 July 2023 on determining the case of overriding public interest (evidence no. 3) defines that matters of overriding public interest are the following:

- permits and authorisations for installations using renewable energy sources:

a) onshore or offshore wind farms with an energy production capacity of 8 megawatts or more; b) areas or structures with photovoltaic solar panels with an energy production capacity of 4 megawatts or more;

c) units for energy recovery from biomass with an energy production capacity of 4 megawatts or more;

d) geothermal energy recovery units with an energy production capacity of 4 megawatts or more; e) hydropower plants with an energy production capacity of 4 mega-watts or more;

- permits and authorisations for natural gas transmission and storage facilities, the hydrogen transmission network and hydrogen transmission facilities and large hydrogen storage facilities;
- permits or authorisations for transmission and distribution system infrastructure projects and large energy storage facilities, including their connections;

Furthermore, pursuant to Article 3, the College of Heads of the Council of State may adopt the organisational measure to give a priority treatment of the cases of matters of overriding public interest.

• establishes tools to prioritise case handling, internal organization and reinforcement of chambers or sections to ensure faster treatment of procedures for dealing with energy transition cases,

Article 3 paragraph 1 of the Royal Decree of 21 July 2023 on determining the case of overriding public interest (evidence no. 3) introduced new tools for the College of Heads of the Council of State to prioritise the case handling to ensure faster treatment of procedures for dealing with cases of matters of overriding public interest:

- priority treatment of these cases (i.e. priority choices for case handling);
- redistribution of those cases within the Chambers or within the departments of the Auditorates (i.e. internal organization);
- strengthening chambers of the Administrative Jurisdiction Division or Administrative Jurisdiction Departments of the Auditorate (i.e. reinforcement of chambers);
- the creation of additional chambers to deal with these cases (i.e. reinforcement of sections).

• reduces the time taken to deal with appeals in these cases to 15 months (except in the case of procedural incidents).

Article 3 paragraph 2 of the Royal Decree of 21 July 2023 on determining the case of overriding public interest (evidence no. 3) introduced a requirement for the College of Heads of the Council of State to take into account a new time limit of maximum 15 months for processing an appeal of decisions related to the matters of overriding public matters in an ordinary action, without procedural incident, when determining the organisational measures in cases of matters of overriding public interest as referred to in paragraph 1

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Number and name of the Milestone: 229 **-** Entry into force of legislation

Related Measure: R-7.03 - 'PV-obligation for large consumers' of the Flemish Region

Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the legal act indicating the entry into force of provisions introducing the obligation to install solar panels for certain buildings

Time: Q2 2023

1. Context:

This reform introduces an obligation to install solar photovoltaic panels for private buildings located in Flanders that are connected to electricity offtake points where, from calendar year 2021, there is an offtake of more than 1 GWh per year and the buildings of public organizations located in Flanders that are connected to electricity offtake points where, from calendar year 2021, there is an offtake of more than 250 MWh per year.

This milestone consists of the entry into force of the decree introducing an obligation to install photovoltaic solar panels for: (1) buildings located in Flanders that are connected to electricity offtake points where, from calendar year 2021, there is an offtake of more than 1 GWh per year and (2) the buildings of public organizations located in Flanders that are connected to electricity offtake points where, from calendar year 2021, there is an offtake of more than 250 MWh per year.

Milestone 229 is the only milestone of this reform.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled.
	Decree of the Flemish Government of 25 November 2022, amending the Energy Decree *(Energiedecreet)* of 8 May 2009, concerning the mandatory installation of photovoltaic solar panels on roof surfaces. Entry into force on 19 December 2022.	Copy of the Decree of 25 November 2022, amending the Energy Decree (*Energiedecreet*) of 8 May 2009, concerning the mandatory installation of photovoltaic solar panels on roof surfaces, published in the Belgian Official Gazette on 9 December 2022. Pages 109 to 111.
	Decree of the Flemish Government laying down the general provisions on energy policy (Energy Decree) of 8 May 2009. Entry into force on 1 January 2011.	Copy of the Energy Decree of 8 May 2009, containing general provisions on energy policy.
	Decree of the Flemish Government containing general provisions on energy policy	Copy of the Energy Decision of 19 November 2010.

		(Energy Decision) of 19 November 2010. Entry into force on 1 January 2011.	
		Decision of the Flemish Government of 17 February 2023 to amend the Energy Decision (*Energiebesluit*) of 19 November 2010, concerning the mandatory installation of photovoltaic solar panels on roof surfaces. Entry into force on 24 June 2023.	Copy of the Decision of the Flemish Government of 17 February 2023 to amend the Energy Decision (*Energiebesluit*) of 19 November 2010, concerning the mandatory installation of photovoltaic solar panels on roof surfaces, published in the Belgian Official Gazette on 14 June 2023. Pages 14 to 28.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Entry into force **of the decree introducing an obligation to install photovoltaic solar panels for:**

The Decree of the Flemish Government of 25 November 2022 (hereafter "the Decree"), amending the Energy Decree (*Energiedecreet*) of 8 May 2009, concerning the mandatory installation of photovoltaic solar panels on roof surfaces, entered into force on 19 December 2022 (evidence no. 2 and 3). The Energy Decision *(Energiebesluit*) of 19 November 2010 concerning the mandatory installation of solar panels on roof surfaces (evidence no. 4) was amended by the Decision of the Flemish Government of 17 February 2023 (hereafter "the Decision") and entered into force on 24 June 2023 (evidence no. 5). The Energy Decision outlines the implementing provisions to the Energy Decree of May 2009.

(1) **buildings located in Flanders that are connected to electricity offtake points where, from calendar year 2021, there is an offtake of more than 1 GWh per year and**

The Decree establishes a legal obligation to install photovoltaic solar panels for natural or legal persons who are the owner, leaseholder or superficiary of buildings whose annual electricity offtake is greater than 1 GWh (Art. 4 of the Decree, adding Art. 7.7.3, §1, second paragraph to the Energy Decree of 8 May 2009) (evidence no. 2 and 3).

The Decision further specifies that photovoltaic solar panels should be put in service by June 2025 at the latest for buildings that are connected to electricity offtake points, where from calendar year 2021, there is an offtake of more than 1 GWh per year (Art. 3 of the Decision, adding Art. 6.7.3, §1, first paragraph to the Energy Decision of 19 November 2010) (evidence no. 4 and 5).

The Decree of the Flemish Government regulates a regional matter (Art. 1 of the Decree). Therefore, the obligations in the Decree necessarily apply to buildings located in the territory of the Flemish region (evidence no. 2).

(2) **the buildings of public organizations located in Flanders that are connected to electricity offtake points where, from calendar year 2021, there is an offtake of more than 250 MWh per year.**

The Decree establishes a legal obligation to install photovoltaic solar panels for the buildings of public organizations whose annual electricity offtake is equal to or greater than 500 MWh (evidence no. 2). By Decision of 17 February 2023, the annual gross electricity consumption threshold was lowered to 250MWh, from calendar year 2021. From 1 January 2026, a threshold of 100 MWh will apply *(*Art. 3 of the Decision, adding Art. 6.7.7, first paragraph to the Energy Decision of 19 November 2010) (evidence no. 4 and 5).

Furthermore, the Decision specifies that the photovoltaic solar panels should be operational by 30 June 2025 at the latest for the buildings of public organizations that are connected to electricity offtake points where, from calendar year 2021, there is an offtake equal to or greater than 250MWh per year *(*Art. 3 of the Decision, adding Art. 6.7.8, §1, first paragraph to the Energy Decision of 19 November 2010) (evidence no. 4 and 5).

The Decree of the Flemish Government regulates a regional matter (Art. 1 of the Decree). Therefore, the obligations in the Decree necessarily apply to buildings located in the territory of the Flemish region (evidence no. 2).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.

Loan support

Number and name of the Milestone: 240 - Environmental permits for energy island obtained

Related Measure: I-7.20 - Off-shore energy island of the Federal State

Qualitative Indicator: Environmental permits for energy island obtained

Time: Q3 2023

1. Context:

This measure aims to develop an offshore energy hub ('energy island') in the Belgian part of the North Sea, which has two main objectives. First, it shall allow the connection of at least 3.15 GW of future offshore wind energy to the onshore electricity grid. Second, it shall facilitate the integration and import of more renewable energy in and around the North Sea by connecting to other countries or regions.

Milestone 240 consists of the obtention of environmental permits for the energy island.

Milestone 240 is the second step of the implementation of the investment. It follows the completion of milestone 239 related to the finalisation of FEED (Front-end engineering design) and environmental studies. It will be followed by milestone 241, related to the completion of works, which completes the investment.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled.
	Ministerial Decree of 26 September 2023 granting an environmental permit to the Transmission System Operator Elia Asset NV.	Authorisation for the construction, operating permit and a Natura 2000-permit for the Modular Offshore Grid 2 (Princess Elisabeth) energy island in the maritime areas under the jurisdiction of Belgium.
	Domain concession application for the Modular Offshore Grid 2 (MOG2) by Transmission System Operator Elia Asset NV, 28 July 2023.	Permit application written by the Transmission System Operator Elia Asset NV, dated 28 July 2023, clarifying the total area of useful surface available for the construction of the energy island.

3. Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Belgian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Environmental permits obtained by the Transmission System Operator for an energy island in the North Sea, comprising five hectares of useful surface and environmental permits for the deployment of offshore connection cables between the shore and the energy island.

Environmental permits have been obtained by the Transmission System Operator Elia Asset NV by virtue of Article 2 of the Ministerial decree of 26 September 2023 (hereinafter "the Ministerial Decree"), granting Elia Asset NV an authorisation for the construction, an operating permit and a Natura 2000-permit for the Modular Offshore Grid 2 (MOG2) energy island in the maritime areas under the jurisdiction of Belgium, which includes the North Sea (evidence no. 2).

The Ministerial Decree states that the Minister of the North Sea has granted the Transmission System Operator with the following permits: (i) permit for the deployment of MOG 2, with 3 AC and 1 HVDC substations at the West 1 site, including 6 220kV AC cables and 1 HVDC cable system to connect the offshore substations of the energy island to the land; (ii) permit for exploitation of MOG 2 within the zone intended for the granting of domain concessions for the construction and operation of installations for the transmission of electricity; (iii) environmental permit (Natura 2000), taking into account the appropriate assessment which has shown that the natural features of the site will not be affected (evidence no. 2).

The permit application of the Transmission System Operator Elia Asset NV specifies that the energy island comprises six hectares of useful surface, which is the area available for placement of the transmission infrastructure and facilities. The total area of the island above the mean high-water mark, including a ring road, drainage zone for transfer water, framework and seawall, is approximately 11 ha (evidence no. 3).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment:

Satisfactorily fulfilled.