

Professor Danuta Hübner
EPP AFCO Coordinator, European Parliament

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For obvious reasons we have been focused for the last months on decisions on MFF for 2021-27 and the Recovery and Resilience Facility, to defend their size and secure the role of the European Parliament in the process.

We all know that massive investment will be needed to take us out of the health and economic crisis and get us through recovery. And it is clear that no matter how big the size of public funding can be, it will not be enough. It must be complemented with market based financing. There is a visible mobilization of financial market participants, some financial institutions will play an important role channeling budgetary funds to final beneficiaries. There will be intermediaries in the financial sector, there will be new financing institutions of hopefully quickly developing Capital Market Union. There will be cases of very complex financial engineering. We will need special platforms where matching financing and project proposals will take place. This will be of particular importance due to most likely big number of local, small projects. There will be funds borrowed on behalf of the EU on the financial markets which will be used to finance multiannual programs and projects. This is a new challenge for the European institutions, in particular the Commission, working closely with member states and final beneficiaries.

We have not reflected yet during our meetings on the implementation of the unprecedentedly high level funding of the recovery. Implementation will be a very complex issue bringing a major risk to our ambitious program.

Most of us know how challenging is the availability of well prepared projects. This time around this will

be even more difficult to get projects on time. Lack of timely prepared projects meeting the specific criteria has been always a major weakness of structural policies supported by European funding.

In March, the decisions to fully use flexibility of European funding existing already in the regulatory framework have allowed us to accelerate the use of the current MFF funding. And probably exhaust the existing stock of ready to implement projects. Now timing and speed will matter even more.

It would make sense to invite the European Commission right after summer to share with us an assessment of preparedness of Europe to this new recovery challenge and absorption of the new funding.