20 October 2025

Positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of milestones and targets related to the third payment request submitted by Austria on 11 August 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 11 August 2025, Austria submitted a request for payment for the fourth instalment of the non-repayable support. The payment request was accompanied by the required management declaration and summary of audits.

To support its payment request, Austria provided due justification of the satisfactory fulfilment of the 20 milestones and targets of the fourth instalment of the non-repayable support, as set out in Section 2.3 of the Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Austria[1].

For 5 targets covering a large number of recipients, in addition to the summary documents and official listings provided by Austria, the 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, Austria 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 Austria, the Commission has made a positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of all 20 milestones and targets.

The milestones and targets positively assessed as part of this payment request demonstrate significant steps in the implementation of Austria's Recovery and Resilience Plan. They notably highlight the continuation of the reform momentum in key policy areas.

This includes, among others, the Renewables Expansion Law, accelerating permitting for renewables, as well as the reform on the provision of long-term care. The milestones and targets also confirm progress towards the completion of investment projects related to reducing the overall reliance on fossil fuels with the installation of photovoltaics, thermal renovation projects, zero-emission vehicles, the repair bonus scheme as well as to social cohesion through improved access to education, national roll-out of early childhood interventions for disadvantaged families as well as community nursing.

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 10159/21 INIT, ST 10159/21 ADD 1 and ST 10159/21 COR 1, amended by ST 14472/23, ST 14472/23 ADD 1, ST 10502/25 INIT and ST 10502/25 ADD 1.

Contents

Number and name of the Target: 7 - Thermal renovation projects approved

Related Measure: C1.1A3 Combating energy poverty

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 480

Time: Q2 2024

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to contribute to a reduction in energy consumption in buildings, while supporting a just transition. The investment supports thermal renovation of buildings used by social non-profit-organisations (NPOs) that contain dwellings for vulnerable people prone to energy poverty and thus reduce energy consumption and costs in a sustainable manner. The investment covers a support scheme providing tailored support and funding for renovation of social NPOs buildings, such as thermal insulation of walls and roofs, replacement of windows and heaters as well as planning support.

Target 7 requires that the thermal renovation of at least 480 dwellings was approved by the Ministry of Climate Protection, the Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology *(Bundesministerium für Klimaschutz, Umwelt, Energie, Mobilität, Innovation und Technologie*, hereinafter referred to as 'BMK') under the support scheme.

Target 7 is the second target of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 6. It will be followed by target 8, related to the completion of thermal renovation projects for 1079 dwellings.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the target has been satisfactorily fulfilled
2	List of projects	List of approved renovation projects submitted
3	List of organisations to which donations are tax-deductible *(Liste begünstigter Einrichtungen)*	List of organisations and institutions to which donations are tax-deductible, as of 1 July 2025. Organisations can apply to be admitted on this list if they are non-profits pursuing charitable or other work in the public interest. The list is maintained by the Austrian ministry of finance, a current version can be found here: https://service.bmf.gv.at/service/allg/spenden/_start.asp; verified accessible by the Commission on 26 September 2025

4	Definition of dwellings	Definition of a dwelling for the purpose of the measure provided by the implementing agency KPC.
5	Grant agreements (*Förderungsverträge*) and letters from the Minister of Climate Protection	For each of the 24 submitted renovation projects, the grant agreement specifying the amount of funding available, is provided. The grant agreements are signed by the implementing agency KPC and the grant recipient. They are preceded by a letter from the Minister of Climate Protection stating that the grant application is approved.
6	Grant applications (Confirmation on the use of the building) (*Selbsterklärung zur Gebäudenutzung*)	Grant application under the scheme "*Sanierung und Kesseltausch: klimafitte Gebäude für Schutzbedürftige*". The application gives explanations on the use of the building, the proposed thermal renovation and the number of dwellings.
7	Building plans	For each renovation project, the building plan on which the number of individual dwellings is indicated is provided. The building plans are drafted by architects or construction companies for submission to the building authority and show the address of the building.
8	Energy certificates	For each renovation project, two energy performance certificates, issued by an authorised technician or architect, are provided. The first energy certificate shows energy use of the building prior to the renovation. The second certificate takes into account the planned thermal renovation measures and presents the expected energy use of the renovated building. Energy certificates in Austria are regulated by the Energieausweis-Vorlage-Gesetz 2012 (EAVG 2012) which implements the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.

3. Analysis:

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

Thermal renovation of at least 480 dwellings approved by BMK under the support scheme.

Austrian authorities have provided the grant agreements (evidence 5) for 24 thermal renovation projects that contain 495 dwellings. Each grant agreement is preceded by a letter from the Minister for climate protection confirming that the grant application was approved by the BMK. The grant agreements identify the support scheme as "Renovation and boiler exchange: climate-friendly buildings for vulnerable people" ("*Sanierung und Kesseltausch - Klimafitte Gebäude für Schutzbedürftige*"). 22 of the 24 grant recipients are social non-profit organisations which are carrying out charitable work such as providing housing for disabled people, refugees, women in need of protection or the homeless. The organisations are listed as entities to which donations are tax deductible by the Ministry of Finance, which confirms that they are non-profit organisations engaged in charitable work (evidence 3). In addition, a municipality applied for its homeless assistance programme for the renovation of two buildings used to shelter homeless men and women.

The projects cover thermal renovation such as insulation of walls and roofs, replacement of windows, efficient heating systems, and planning support, as evidenced by the grant applications which list the works to be undertaken (evidence 6). Energy certificates (evidence 8) provided for each renovation project document the expected energy savings from the thermal renovation or exchange of heating systems.

The 24 thermal renovation projects contain 495 dwellings (evidence 2, evidence 7). For each renovation project, the number of dwellings is indicated on the building plan. The building plans were prepared for the building authority by an architect or a construction company and show the address of the building. Dwellings are either rooms or apartments in buildings used to house vulnerable people as identified on the building plans (evidence 7). This exceeds the target of 480.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 14 - Last call completed

Related Measure: AT-C[C1]-I[1B3], Zero-emission buses

Qualitative Indicator: Last call for expression of interest by potential beneficiaries completed

Time: Q4 2024

1. **Context:**

The investment consists of providing funding for buses equipped with zero-carbon emitting technologies and for the development of the necessary infrastructure for operating the buses in public transportation, including recharging and refuelling points. The measure aims at supporting the transition from currently fossil fuel-powered to zero-emission buses, operated with renewable energy.

Milestone 14 requires the completion of the last call for expression of interest by potential beneficiaries. Eligible projects under the last call shall include zero-emission buses and the infrastructure required for their operation.

Milestone 14 is the second step in the implementation of the investment in zero-emission buses. It will be followed by target 15 related to the delivery of at least 579 buses with zero-emission technology to the final recipients, and finally milestone 16 related to the installation of the charging infrastructure by the final recipients.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Copy of the EBIN Funding guidelines - Zero-emission buses and infrastructure– 7th call (https://fdoc.ffg.at/s/vdb/public/node/content/eCXcE26KQvurZFvMYSE0qA/1.0?a=true)	Funding guidelines with technical specifications related to the 7th (last) call for expression published by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) on 2 October 2024
3	Copy of the 7th call for expression of interest published by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) (https://www.ffg.at/EBIN/7-Ausschreibung; https://www.ffg.at/content/ebin-ausschreibungsarchiv)	Website of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) showing key information related to the 7th (last) call for expression of interest, including terms of reference and deadline for application, and an overview of the outcome of seven calls published in total.
4	Copy of the EBIN Special Directive (GZ 2022-0.026.066) promoting the	Websites of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI), including (i) the link to the EBIN Special Directive, explaining the legal

	switch to zero-emission bus fleets in public transport (https://www.bmimi.gv.at/dam/jcr:6d5ac048-dd0b-4a06-b486-325332432862/Sonderrichtlinie_EBIN_Emissionsfreie_Busse_und_Infrastruktur.pdf ; https://www.bmimi.gv.at/themen/mobilitaet/alternative_verkehrskonzepte/elektromobilitaet/publikationen/ebin.html)	framework of the funding programme EBIN, and (ii) public information that the 7th call was the last call under the EBIN programme
5	Copy of the EBIN Project list	A list of project applications that were selected and received a funding offer, including the number of zero-emission buses

3. Analysis:

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

The last call for expression of interest by potential beneficiaries has been completed.

The 7th call for expression of interest under the funding programme Zero-emission buses and infrastructure ("*Emissionsfreie Busse und Infrastruktur"*, hereinafter referred to as "EBIN")" was launched by its publication (evidence 3) on 2 October 2024 on the website of the implementing Austrian Research Promotion Agency ("*Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft",* hereinafter referred to as "FFG"), whereas the deadline for submission of applications was set for 4 December 2024. The website states that the 7th call was the last call funded by RRF under the EBIN programme (evidence 4). It raised the number of funded zero-emission buses to 664 units (evidence 5).

The Commission services checked the relevant websites on 15 September 2025.

Eligible projects shall include zero-emission buses and the infrastructure required for their operation. Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the funding for equipping buses with zero carbon emitting technologies shall be accompanied by the development of the necessary infrastructure for operating the buses in public transportation, including recharging and refuelling points.**

Section 4.2 of the Funding Guidelines (evidence 2) define the content of the call including the terms of references, specifying that only zero-emission buses and the infrastructure needed to operate them are eligible for funding.

The legal framework for funding of the EBIN programme is provided by the EBIN Special Directive (no. GZ 2022-0.026.066) promoting the switch to zero-emission bus fleets in public transportation ("*Sonderrichtlinie zur Förderung der Umstellung auf emissionsfreie Busflotten im öffentlichen Personenverkehr"*; evidence 4). The EBIN Special Directive was published by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI) in 2022, with a validity until 31 December 2026.

Chapter 4, Section 4.1.1 of the EBIN Special Directive specifies as eligible investment: a) battery-electric buses, which are powered purely electrically without additional energy generation in the vehicle; b) trolleybuses, which draw their traction power from an overhead line stretched above the road using pantographs; c) buses with hydrogen fuel cell drive that are powered without additional energy generation in the vehicle.

Section 4.1.2, EBIN Special Directive specifies the eligible infrastructure needed to operate the zero-emission buses as a) the charging infrastructure, b) overhead lines and c) hydrogen refuelling infrastructure and d) associated third-party services, which all must be in direct spatial and/or technical connection with the purchased zero-emission buses.

The Commission services checked the relevant websites on 15 September 2025.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 18 - Last call completed

Related Measure: AT-C[C1]-I[1B4], Zero-emission utility vehicles

Qualitative Indicator: Last call for expression of interest by potential beneficiaries completed

Time: Q4 2024

1. **Context:**

The investment consists of providing funding to switch to commercial vehicles which shall be equipped with zero carbon emitting technologies and operated with renewable energy.

Milestone 18 requires the completion of the last call for expression of interest by potential beneficiaries. Eligible projects under the last call shall include zero-emission utility vehicles and the infrastructure required for their operation.

Milestone 18 is the second step in the implementation of the investment in zero-emission utility vehicles. It will be followed by target 19 related to the delivery of at least 2 767 utility vehicles with zero-emission technology to the final recipients, and finally milestone 20 related to the installation of the charging infrastructure or hydrogen refuelling points by the final recipients.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence.	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Copy of the ENIN Funding guidelines - Zero-emission utility vehicles and infrastructure – third call (https://fdoc.ffg.at/s/vdb/public/node/content/3geoXiFkTRq1f5TAYDW5eg/1.0?a=true)	Funding guidelines with technical specifications related to the third (last) call for expression published by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) on 9 August 2023
3	Copy of the 3rd call for expression of interest published by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) (https://www.ffg.at/ENIN/3-Ausschreibung)	Website of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) showing key information related to the third (last) call for expression of interest, including terms of reference and deadline for application.
4	Copy of the ENIN Special Directive promoting the switch to zero-emission utility vehicles (https://www.bmimi.gv.at/themen/mobilitaet/alternative_verkehrskonzepte/elektromobilitaet/publikationen/enin.html)	Website of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI), including (i) the link to the ENIN Special Directive explaining the legal framework of the funding programme ENIN, (ii) public information that the third call was the last call funded by RRF under the ENIN programme.
5	Copy of the ENIN Project list	A list of project applications that were selected and received a funding offer, including the number of utility vehicles

3. Analysis:

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

The last call for expression of interest by potential beneficiaries has been completed.

The third call for expression of interest under the funding programme Zero-emission utility vehicles ("*Emissionsfreie Nutzfahrzeuge (N1) und Infrastruktur"*, hereinafter referred to as "ENIN")" was launched by its publication (evidence 3) on 9 August 2023 on the website of the implementing Austrian Research Promotion Agency ("*Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft",* hereinafter referred to as "FFG"), whereas the deadline for submission of the applications was set for 11 October 2023. The third call was the last call funded by RRF under the ENIN programme (evidence 4). It raised the number of funded zero-emission utility vehicles to 2767 units (evidence 5).

The Commission services checked the websites on 17 September 2025.

Eligible projects include zero-emission utility vehicles and the infrastructure to operate these vehicles.

Sections 4.1 and 4.2 of the Funding Guidelines (evidence 2) define the content of the call including the terms of references, specifying that only zero-emission utility vehicles and the infrastructure needed to operate them are eligible for funding.

The legal framework for funding of the ENIN programme is provided by the ENIN Special Directive promoting zero-emission utility vehicles and infrastructure ("*Sonderrichtlinie zur Förderung emissionsfreier Nutzfahrzeuge und Infrastruktur"*; evidence 4). The ENIN Special Directive was published by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI) on 20 March 2023, with a validity until 31 December 2030, following the General Framework Guidelines for the Granting of Subsidies from Federal Funds (BGBl. I No. 26/2022) issued by the Federal Minister of Finance.

Chapter 4, Section 4.1.1 of the ENIN Special Directive specifies as eligible investment: a) battery-electric utility vehicles powered purely electrically without additional energy generation in the vehicle; b) utility vehicles powered by hydrogen or fuel cell powertrains; c) electric utility vehicles that draw their traction power from an overhead line stretched above the road using pantographs.

Section 4.1.3, ENIN Special directive specifies the eligible infrastructure needed to operate the zero-emission buses as a) the charging infrastructure, b) hydrogen refuelling infrastructure, and c) associated third-party services, which all must be in direct spatial and/or technical connection with the purchased utility vehicles.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **if operational procedures allow, the supported refueling and charging infrastructure shall also be usable by other types of vehicle and be accessible to the public. Provided that these minimum pre-defined criteria are met, projects shall be ranked according to environmental, economic and other quality assessment criteria within the new investment scheme.**

Section 4.2 of the Funding Guidelines (evidence 2) state that if the charging or refuelling infrastructure is located in publicly accessible areas, the subsidy may only be granted for constructing, installing, modernizing, or expanding publicly accessible charging or refuelling infrastructure that ensures non-discriminatory access for all users. This includes fair terms for pricing, authentication methods, payment options, and usage conditions, whereas the fees charged to non-subsidized users must reflect market prices. It further specifies that operators of such infrastructure must not discriminate between mobility service providers.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **provided that the minimum pre-defined criteria are met, projects shall be ranked according to environmental, economic and other quality assessment criteria within the new investment scheme.**

Section 6.2 of the Funding Guidelines (evidence 2) defines in total eight assessment criteria across four categories that are used to evaluate the quality, adequacy, cost-benefit performance and relevance of the applications, whereas each assessment criterion is assigned a set number of points. These eight assessment criteria used for the evaluation and ranking of the applications/projects include environmental, economic and other quality assessment considerations for the final selection of applications.

The Commission services checked the relevant websites on 17 September 2025.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 30 - Take-back systems

Related Measure: C1.1C3 Investments in reverse vending systems and measures to increase the reuse quota of beverage containers

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 5 000

Time: Q1 2024

1. Context:

The investment supports the purchase and upgrade of take-back systems for beverage containers in the retail sector as well as measures to increase the reuse quota of beverage containers. Target 30 requires the purchase of at least 5 000 new reverse vending machines or upgrade of existing ones in terms of efficient take-back and data connectivity.

Target 30 is the first step of the implementation of the investment. It will be followed by target 31, related to the increased collection rate of at least 80% of all plastic beverage packaging placed on the market.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone requirements (including all its constitutive elements) have been satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	A copy of the Funding Guidelines published by Kommunalkredit Public Consulting, (version of May 2024), also available at: https://www.umweltfoerderung.at/betriebe/leergutruecknahmesysteme and https://www.umweltfoerderung.at/fileadmin/user_upload/umweltfoerderung/betriebe/Leergut/UFI_Infoblatt_Leergut.pdf	Guidelines on the scheme for funding reverse vending machines, published by the implementing agency, Kommunalkredit Public Consulting, setting out the main information regarding the scheme and funding criteria.
3	A copy of the info sheet “Requirements for the approval of reverse vending machines for the Austrian one-way deposit system”	The info sheet issued by EWP Recycling Pfand Österreich GmbH, the central agency responsible for the organisation and operation of the single-use deposit system in Austria, which includes the list of certified reverse vending machines.

4	Collector's manual for reverse vending machines for single-use plastic or metal beverage packaging (available at: https://www.recycling-pfand.at/downloads.html?markup=Handbuch#kat-2)	Collector's manual by EWP Recycling Pfand Österreich GmbH, the central agency responsible for the organisation and operation of the single-use deposit system in Austria, setting out technical requirements for certified reverse vending machines.
5	A list of 5 686 purchased or upgraded reverse vending machines	A list of 5 686 purchased or upgraded reverse vending machines, including information on their location and the name of the applicant.
6	For 58 units out of 60 selected during sampling: a. A copy of the invoice regarding the purchase/upgrade of the reverse vending machine issued by the manufacturer to the applicant b. A copy of the report from *Wirtschafts-Compass* stating that the applicant is a company operating in the retail sector	For 58 units out of 60 selected during sampling: (a) an invoice to confirm the purchase/upgrade and (b) a report from Business Compass (*Wirtschafts-Compass*, a service from a private business information provider consolidating information from public registers such as the company register (*Firmenbuch*)) to confirm that a company operates in the retail sector were provided.
7	Two emails from manufacturers, TOMRA Leergutsysteme GmbH and Toperczer GmbH, of 26 and 29 September 2025, respectively	The emails confirm the model of the upgraded reverse vending machines in the sample.

3. Analysis:

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

Companies in the retail sector have purchased at least 5 000 new reverse vending machines or upgraded existing ones in terms of efficient take-back and data connectivity.

Austria launched a scheme to support the purchase of new reverse vending machines (RVMs) and the upgrade of existing reverse vending machines, with the aim to increase the reuse rate and the collection rate for single-use beverage containers. The launch of the scheme is demonstrated by the dedicated public website inviting applications (https://www.umweltfoerderung.at/betriebe/leergutruecknahmesysteme), as well the published Funding Guidelines, announcing the scheme and its funding criteria (evidence 2).

Austria submitted a list of 4 630 locations of applicants which purchased or upgraded in total 5 686 reverse vending machines under the scheme (evidence 5). The list included the name of the applicant, location/address of the reverse vending machine, the number of machines purchased/upgraded by the applicant at the relevant location (from 1 to 3), and the indication whether the machine was purchased or upgraded.

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 locations of reverse vending machines (hereinafter referred to as "units"), which were reported to account in total for 77 reverse vending machines, for each of the 58 units (which were reported to account in total for 75 reverse vending machines), Austria submitted (i) a copy of the invoice regarding the purchase or upgrade of the reverse vending machine; and (ii) a copy of the report from Business Compass (*Wirtschafts-Compass*) (a service consolidating information from public registers, notably the company register) stating that the applicant is a company operating in the retail sector (evidence 6). For two units (accounting for two reverse vending machines) no further evidence was submitted. These two units are therefore considered to have failed the sampling check.

The analysis of this evidence provided for 58 units confirmed its alignment with the requirements set out in the CID Annex.

In particular, the Commission services verified that for each of the 58 units there was a copy of the invoice confirming the purchase and/or the upgrade of one or more reverse vending machines (evidence 6a), with the number of machines matching the number indicated in the list in evidence 5. Furthermore, the Commission services checked that for each applicant there was a copy of the report from the Business Compass (*Wirtschafts-Compass*), confirming that the applicant was a legal person operating in the retail sector (evidence 6b).

In relation to the target's requirement that existing reverse vending machines should be upgraded in terms of efficient take-back and data connectivity, the Funding Guidelines state that for upgrades the eligible costs include "enhancement for more efficient take-back of reusable containers" and "creation of data connectivity" (evidence 2, page 2). The requirements regarding efficient take-back and data connectivity of reverse vending machines are defined by the central agency *EWP Recycling Pfand Österreich GmbH* ("EWP"), which is responsible for the organisation and operation of the single-use deposit system in Austria. All models of reverse vending machines under the Austrian single-use deposit system, which are eligible for support under the scheme, must be certified by EWP (evidence 4, page 5). The certified models are published in the EWP info sheet on reverse vending machines (evidence 4, pages 2-3). In order to get certification, reverse vending machines have to meet minimum requirements including for data connectivity and efficient take back (evidence 4, Part II "*Minimum requirements for take-back using reverse vending machines (RVM take-back systems*)"). The Commission services verified that the models of the upgraded reverse vending machines in the sample feature on the list of certified machines of EWP (evidence 6a and evidence 3).

Finally, a statistical analysis was carried out taking into account the overachievement of the target of 5 686 reverse vending machines for required 5 000. Based on this, there is statistical assurance that the target has been met, and all its constitutive elements have been satisfactorily fulfilled.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the investment shall promote take-back systems in the retail sector as well as measures to increase the reuse quota of beverage containers**.

The investment supports the installation of new reverse vending machines or upgrading existing ones by retail operators with an investment cost subsidy (evidence 2, page 2). By doing so, the investment promotes take-back systems in the retail sector as well as measures to increase the reuse quota of beverage containers.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **the investment consists of supporting the purchase and refurbishment of take-back systems in the retail sector**.

As mentioned above, the investment financially supports the purchase of new reverse vending machines or upgrading existing ones by companies operating in the retail sector.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **this shall facilitate the return of disposable beverage containers by consumers and lead to the automation of the take-back process**.

The financial support offered by Austria for the installation and upgrade of reverse vending machines increased the availability of modern automated return points (as demonstrated by 5 686 purchased or upgraded reverse vending machines in evidence 5), streamlining and automating the take-back process. The increase of the collection rate for single-use beverage containers is also explicitly mentioned among the objectives of the scheme in the Funding Guidelines (evidence 2, page 1).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 36 - Repaired or renewed electrical or electronic equipment

Related Measure: C1.1C5 Promotion of the repairing of electrical and electronic equipment (repair bonus)

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 200 000

Time: Q1 2024

1. Context:

The objective of the investment is to raise the number of refurbished and repaired electrical and electronic equipment which otherwise would be replaced with new articles, by creating a support programme to incentivise the repair of electrical and electronic equipment. Milestone 35 requires the launch of the repair bonus programme, to become open for applications. Milestone 35 is the first step in the implementation of the investment, followed by target 36 and target 37 related to at least 200 000 and cumulatively 400 000 repaired or renewed electrical devices supported by the scheme. The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2026.

Target 36 requires the repair or renewal of at least 200 000 electrical or electronic devices.

Target 36 is the first target of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 35. It will be followed by target 37, related to an additional 200 000 repaired or renewed electrical or electronic devices.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all its constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Funding guidelines	Guideline which serves as the legal basis for the funding programme
3	List of eligible devices (*Geräteliste*)	List of devices that are eligible to be covered by the repair bonus scheme (September 2024)
4	Global list of repairs based on repair vouchers	List containing 250 000 repairs. The list provides a: • Identifier of final recipient (unique number) • Identification number of voucher • Type of device

		• Type of service (repair or cost estimate and repair)
5	60 invoices of repairs	Invoice of the repair indicating the type of device repaired (or renewed) as well as the service provided
6	60 repair vouchers	Voucher generated by the final recipient (private individual) indicating the name of the recipient, the number of the voucher as well as the expiration date of the voucher.
7	summary of funding request	Summary of the funding request stating the number of the repair voucher, the date of the invoice, the type of service provided, type of device as well as the funding amount. (automatically generated through the system when the final recipient submits the invoice for refunding request)

3. Analysis:

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

At least 200 000 electrical or electronic devices have been repaired or renewed;

A list of 250 000 repaired or renewed electronic or electrical devices has been submitted by the Austrian authorities (evidence 4). Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, Austria submitted 60 invoices of repairs (evidence 5) indicating the type of device repaired (or renewed) as well as the service provided and the corresponding 60 repair vouchers (evidence 6) demonstrating the repair or renewal of 60 devices.

the relevant information from the beneficiaries has been collected and transmitted by the funding processing office.

In order to benefit from the repair bonus scheme, recipients have to generate a repair voucher (evidence 6) via the repair bonus online platform run by the "Kommunalkredit Public Consulting GmbH (KPC)", the funding processing office. The voucher needs to be generated before the repair takes place and can only be used with registered partner businesses. By generating the voucher, the repair process is automatically registered and transmitted to the funding processing office KPC. Beneficiaries pay for the full cost of the repair to the partnering business upfront and redeem the repair voucher with the partner business. The partner businesses have to report the redemption of the repair voucher to the processor. The processing office then notifies the beneficiary, who can then send the invoice for the repair or renewal and gets reimbursed by the implementing agency (evidence 2).

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, Austria submitted 60 invoices of the selected repairs (evidence 5) and 60 repair vouchers (evidence 6) as well as the final summary of the refunding request (evidence 7).

The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the requirements of the target have been met.

For two units [1971, 32831] the repair took place at the time of the pause of the repair bonus scheme in summer 2023 (2 July – 26 September 2023). The scheme was paused for a restructuring of the payment system due to cases of fraud. In both cases the invoices clearly indicate that the repair was initiated shortly before the official suspension of the scheme (initiation dates 22 June 2023 and 30 June 2023, with the invoice dating 11 July and 17 July respectively), hence they were officially launched under the old processing scheme. The final request for refunding was only submitted after the relaunch of the system (after September 2023), hence the effective payment took place post restructuring under the new rules. These two units are therefore considered valid.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 39 - Additional renewable electricity generation capacity

Related Measure: C1.1D1 Renewables Expansion Law

Quantitative Indicator: Number in MW

Baseline: 0

Target: 1 300

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to contribute to an increase in the share of renewable energy in electricity supply to 100% by 2030. The reform provides for an overhaul of the national support scheme relying on market premiums and investments for wind power, hydropower, solar energy, biomass, renewable gases, including hydrogen.

Target 39 requires that additional generation capacity from renewable sources of at least 1 300 MW has been installed.

Target 39 is the first target of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 38 on the entry into force of the Renewables Expansion Law. It will be followed by target 40, related to the expansion hydrogen production capacity.

The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Renewables Expansion Law (*Erneuerbaren Ausbau Gesetzespaket*) published in the Federal Law Gazette of the Republic of Austria of 27 July 2021, Bundesgesetzblatt I No. 150/2021	Federal law setting the framework conditions for the support of renewable energy and setting targets for increasing the national annual production of electricity from renewable sources by 27 TWh by 2030.
3	Renewables Expansion Law Monitoring Report 2024 (*EAG-Monitoringbericht 2024*)	The annual monitoring report from the independent regulatory agency *E-Control* published in accordance with Article 90 (2) of the Renewables Expansion Law on progress made towards achieving the targets of the Renewables Expansion Law. Available on the webpage of E-Control under the following link: https://www.e-control.at/documents/1785851/1811582/EAG_Monitoringberic

		ht_Barrierefrei_Final.pdf/6463e803-f3f0-1e28-efcd-7a2458214a99?t=1729002699766

3. Analysis:

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

Additional generation capacity from renewable sources of at least 1 300 MW has been installed.

The Renewables Expansion Law (*Erneuerbaren-Ausbau-Gesetz*, hereinafter referred to as EAG) sets targets for increasing the national annual production of electricity from renewable sources by 27 TWh by 2030. To this end, Article 4(4) of the law sets technology-specific goals of electricity production from renewable sources by 2030.

According to Article 90 (1) and (2) of the EAG, (evidence 2), the independent national regulatory authority (E-Control) is tasked with monitoring progress towards the achievement of the renewable energy targets set by publishing an annual monitoring report (hereinafter referred to as *EAG-Monitoringbericht)* by 30 September each year.

The *EAG-Monitoringbericht* for the year 2024 covers the period 2023 and is available online, as verified by the Commission services on 4 September 2025 (evidence 3).

Based on the figures contained in the *EAG-Monitoringreport 2024* the additional generation capacity from renewable sources for the period 2021-23 is calculated as the difference between installed capacity by 31 December 2021 and the installed capacity by 31 December 2023 (pp. 16-17 tables 5,6,7). The following renewable energy sources are included as per EAG, Article 14: hydropower, biomass (liquid, solid, gaseous), landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas, wind, solar photovoltaic and geothermal.

For 2022 and 2023, this results in a total increase of 4 296 MW additional capacity installed. (evidence 3). Therefore, the target of installed additional generation capacity from renewable sources of at least 1 300 MW has been achieved.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 42 - Roll-out of decarbonisation projects

Related Measure: 1.D.2 Transforming industry towards climate neutrality

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 20

Time: Q2 2024

1. Context:

The investment aims to accelerate the decarbonisation of industry, support actions to switch to renewable energies, energy efficiency actions as well as other actions leading to a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The investment consists of a call for tender that targets large-scale transformative projects in industries inter alia also falling under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

Target 42 requires that at least 20 projects to decarbonise industrial production have been approved for funding under the support scheme.

Target 42 is the second target of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 41, related to the amendment of the regulatory criteria and funding guidelines for environmental support. It will be followed by target 43, related to the completion of at least 20 project to decarbonise industrial production under the support scheme.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	List of projects – "AT_42_list of projects.xlsx"	The list provides an overview of all 20 projects for which funding under the support scheme has been approved.
3	20 Letters to funding recipients and decisions of approval for funding – "[Project identifier]_Vertrag.pdf"	Copies of the 20 letters to funding recipients and attached funding agreements, for each project including the name and location of the company receiving the grant; the unique identifier ('*Antragsnummer*'), title and location of the project; and signed by the competent authority Kommunalkredit Public Consulting. The decisions published on the website of the Climate Fund: https://www.klimafonds.gv.at/foerderungen/foerderentscheidungen/transformation-der-wirtschaft-gefoerderte-projekte/

4	Copy of the publication of the 1st call for proposals – "AT_42_KLIEN_Leitfaden_TDW1.pdf"	The 1st call for proposals specifies the objective of the funding programme as well as the selection and funding procedure of the 1st call for proposals under the programme.
5	Copy of the publication of the 2nd call for proposals – "AT_42_KLIEN_Leitfaden_TDW2.pdf"	The 2nd call for proposals specifies the objective of the funding programme as well as the selection and funding procedure of the 2nd call for proposals under the programme.
6	Copy of the publication of the 3rd call for proposals – "AT_42_KLIEN_Leitfaden_TDW3.pdf"	The 3rd call for proposals specifies the objective of the funding programme as well as the selection and funding procedure of the 3rd call for proposals under the programme.

3. Analysis:

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

At least 20 projects to decarbonise industrial production have been approved for funding under the support scheme.

In three calls for tenders under the programme Transformation of the Economy ("*Transformation der Wirtschaft"*) (evidence 4-6), applicants were invited to submit projects for greenhouse gas reduction of energy- or process-related emissions. All companies from the manufacturing sector (calls for tenders 1-3) and energy supply companies (calls for tenders 2 and 3) that generate energy- and/or process related greenhouse gas emissions and whose operating sites or facilities are located in Austria were eligible to apply for those calls. The emission reduction to be achieved through each project is stated in the respective funding agreement, and proof of greenhouse gas emission savings over 12 months must be submitted by the funding recipients.

20 projects have been approved for funding under the support scheme 'Transformation of the Economy' by the competent authority (Kommunalkredit Public Consulting, which represents the Climate and Energy Fund as the funding body) (evidence 3). The approval of each project is evidenced by a letter signed by representatives of Kommunalkredit Public Consulting and the funding agreement attached to the letter (evidence 3). 17 projects contribute to decarbonisation by switching from natural gas to renewable energy sources; two projects reduce the use of natural gas through improved efficiency; one project enables the capture of CO_2 that is produced by electricity and heat generation.

Each funding agreement specifies, among other things, the company receiving the funding, its address, the name and location of the decarbonisation project, the investment costs of the project, the provisional maximum total funding, the payment terms, and the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions that is to be achieved through the project. The approved projects are published on the website of the Climate and Energy Fund. The website was checked by the Commission services on 10 September 2025.

The Council Implementing Decision required the approval of at least 20 projects to decarbonise industrial production for funding under the support scheme. Austria approved 20 projects for funding under the support scheme. One approved project was submitted by MERSCHL Gartenbau GmbH, a garden company focused on tomato production, for which Austria did not present evidence specifically substantiating its links to industrial production. Whilst this constitutes a minimal numerical deviation of 5% from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, the overall objective of this target is considered met notwithstanding this minor deviation. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the target is satisfactorily fulfilled.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 73 - Finalisation of performance and financing agreements

Related Measure: 3.A.1 RTI Strategy 2030

Quantitative Indicator: Signature of the 54 performance and financing agreements with central research institutions, research funding agencies, and public universities.

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

The objective of this reform is to design the overarching framework for the research, innovation and technology policy in Austria in the coming ten years. The aims are for Austria become an international innovation leader and to strengthen Austria as an RTI location, to focus on effectiveness and excellence, and to focus on knowledge, talent and skills.

Target 73 requires the signature of 54 performance or financing agreements with central research institutions, research funding agencies, and public universities.

Target 73 is the first step in the implementation of this reform, and it will be followed by milestone 74, focused on the approval and publication of the third RTI Pact by the Federal Government.

The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	List of signed agreements	The list provides an overview of 55 agreements signed with central research institutions, research funding agencies, and public universities. For each agreement, the list included a number, type of agreement, date of signature, and a link, in case the agreement was published.
3	Signed agreements	Copies of all 55 signed performance or financing agreements with central research institutions, research funding agencies, and public universities in a single PDF file.

3. Analysis:

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

Signature of the 54 performance and financing agreements with central research institutions, research funding agencies, and public universities.

By providing the copies of 55 signed agreements, the Austrian authorities proved that at least 54 performance or financing agreements were signed (evidence 3). At the end of each agreement, there was a visible and dated signature of the relevant state representative and the final recipient.

In each case, the type of agreement was mentioned in the name of the agreement ("*Finanzierungsvereinbarung*" – financing agreement or "*Leistungsvereinbarung*" – performance agreement). All copies of provided agreements were of the afore-mentioned types, with four financing agreements and 51 performance agreements.

The agreements were signed with the following types of beneficiaries: research institution (6 cases), research funding agencies (4 cases), and public universities (45 cases). This is in line with the target description, which mentions these types of beneficiaries (evidence 2, 3).

Furthermore, in line with the measure description "The aims are […] strengthen Austria as an RTI location, to focus on effectiveness and excellence, and to focus on knowledge, talent and skills.", each agreement includes references to the goals of fostering effectiveness, excellence, knowledge, talent, and skills (evidence 3). These references were marked by the Austrian authorities (evidence 2).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 76 - Interim Report

Related Measure: 3.A.2 Quantum Austria — Promotion of Quantum Sciences

Qualitative Indicator: Production of the interim report

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

The objective of this investment is to facilitate future-oriented, transformative, and innovative basic and advanced research and to place Austria among EU member states that successfully use quantum sciences for innovative products and services.

Target 76 requires the publication of the interim report on the progress made in the calls and, if possible, projects from milestone 75. The report is to be drafted by the executing agencies based on project data.

Target 76 is the second step in the implementation of this investment, and it will be followed by target 77, focused on the closure of the project status allowing for transfer to normal operation of the research entities at the universities (part of the sixth instalment).

The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Interim report	The report drafted in December 2024 by the executing agencies, Austrian Research Support Agency ("Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft") and the Austrian Science Fund ("Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung"), based on project data. It represents the progress made so far of the calls and, where possible, of the projects. The report is available online at: https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/dam/jcr:90dce1c9-9827-4f4b-84ab-f1822c427f60/quantum_austria_zwischenbericht_2024.pdf. Lists of ongoing projects available online at: http://www.ffg.at/quantum-austria/projekte (Link to the Quantum Austria project website) and

		https://www.fwf.ac.at/entdecken/forschungsradar?&ifs_app_states_0=id:0;title:*;type:default;sSearchTerm:*;iSearchIndex:1%23%23c2VhcmNocHJvZmlsZS1zdGFuZGFyZA%3D%3D;acExtendSynonyms:false;acExtendTranslations:false;facets:%5B_facet.themenfoerderung.de%7C%5BQuantum%20Austria%5D%5D;connectorId:all;rlViewMode:full;sQueryId:1%23%23c2VhcmNocHJvZmlsZS1zdGFuZGFyZA%3D%3D

3. Analysis:

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

The executing agencies draft the interim report based on project data.

The interim report “Quantum Austria Funding Initiative – Interim Report 2024” (“Förderinitiative Quantum Austria – Zwischenbericht 2024”) was drafted in December 2024 by the executing agencies, Austrian Research Support Agency (“Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft”) and the Austrian Science Fund (“Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung”), and submitted to the Austrian Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research (BMFWF) in December 2024. It is publicly available at the link address specified in the evidence table. The website was checked by the Commission services on 25 September 2025. A copy of the report was provided by the Austrian authorities (evidence 2). The interim report is based on the project data available on the cut-off date, i.e. 31 July 2024 (evidence 2, page 12).

The interim report represents the progress made so far of the calls and, where possible, of the projects.

The “Ausschreibungen und Bewilligungen” (“Tenders and [Grant] Approvals”) section on pages 14 to 17 in the interim report shows the implementation of the funding calls until the cut-off date to 31 July 2024. Specific projects are presented in detail in the chapter “Laufende Projekte der Initiative im Kontext” (“Ongoing Projects of the Initiative in Context”) on pages 23 to 27 (evidence 2). The publicly available data of ongoing projects are available on the websites of the Austrian Research Support Agency and the Austrian Science Fund, as linked in the table of evidence. These websites were checked by the Commission services on 25 September 2025.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 90b - Entry into force of the legislation on the implementation of additional modules of the national standardised assessments

Related Measure: C3.3C1 Improved access to education

Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the legislation indicating the entry into force of the legislation

Time: Q2 2024

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to improve the basic skills of disadvantaged groups of pupils, including pupils with a migration background. The reform aims to complement the investments that are part of the same sub-component with a view to improving access to education. The reform consists of three legal acts aiming at improving national standardised assessments, and at establishing criteria for the specification of the socio-economic baseline of schools which will enable the allocation of human resources to schools.

Milestone 90b requires the entry into force of the legislation on the implementation of additional modules of the national standardised assessments to provide targeted support to pupils.

Milestone 90b is the second step of the implementation of the reform. It follows the completion of milestone 90a regarding the entry into force of an act amending the School Education Act establishing the legal framework for the creation of additional modules of the national standardised assessments "Individual Competence Assessment PLUS" (iKMPLUS) and it will be followed by milestone 91a related to the entry into force of a legal act establishing criteria for the specification of the socio-economic baseline of schools.

The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Regulation of the Federal Minister for Education, Science and Research amending the Regulation on Education Standards in Schools and the Education Documentation Regulation 2021 published in the Federal Law Gazette (Bundesgesetzblatt BGBl. II Nr. 262/2023)	The amendments to the Regulation on Education Standards in Schools to implement the additional modules of the national standardised assessments

3	Consolidated version of the Regulation of the Federal Minister for Education, Science and Research on educational standards in the schooling before its amendment published in the Federal Law Gazette BGBl. II No 548/2020	The consolidated version of the Regulations before its amendments in 2023
4	Consolidated version of the Regulation of the Federal Minister for Education, Science and Research on educational standards in the schooling after its amendment in 2023 (version of 9 September 2023)	The consolidated version of the Regulation contains the modifications carried out in 2023 to the Regulation implementing the amendments to the national competence assessment
5	Federal Act amending the School Education Act, the 2005 Higher Education Act, the 2020 Education Documentation Act, the Employment Requirements Act and the Audit Tax Act, published in the Federal Law Gazette BGBl. I No 227/2022 on 30 December 2022 and entered into force on 31 December 2022	The Amending Act establishes the legal framework for the creation of additional modules of the national standardised assessments.
6	Website of the national standardised assessments "Individual Competence Assessment PLUS" (iKMPLUS) https://www.bmb.gv.at/Themen/schule/bef/ikmplus/module/verpflmod.html	The website provides up-to-date information on the national standardised assessments "Individual Competence Assessment PLUS" (iKMPLUS), including the modules.

3. Analysis:

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

Entry into force of a legal act which shall implement the additional modules of the national standardised assessments (iKMPLUS). The additional modules shall enable targeted support for pupils.

The legal framework for the creation of additional modules of the national standardised assessments (iKMPLUS) is provided by Article 17(1a) of the School Education Act (BGBl. No 472/1986 as amended in 2022 by BGBl. I No 227/2022) (evidence 5 and 6) and analysed in the fiche related to milestone 90a in the preliminary assessment of the second payment request of Austria of 25 July 2025. It lays down that the Federal Minister should take into account an additional form of assessing pupils' competences, notably to allow teachers to conduct supplementary assessments (modules) to support their teaching activities. In order to implement the additional modules of the national standardised assessments, the Regulation of the Federal Minister for Education, Arts and Culture on educational standards in schools published in the Federal Law Gazette BGBl. II No 1/2009 (hereinafter referred to as "Regulation 1/2009") (evidence 3) was amended by the Regulation of the Federal Minister for Education, Science and Research on Education Standards in Schools and the Education Documentation

Regulation (hereinafter referred to as “Amending Regulation”). The amending Regulation was published in the Federal Law Gazette BGBl. II Nr. 262/2023 on 8 September 2023 (evidence 2) and entered into force on the day of its publication in accordance with Article 7(5) of the consolidated version of Regulation 1/2009 (evidence 4).

Article 1(4) of the Amending Regulation added in Article 1 (3) of the Regulation 1/2009 that it implements Article 17(1a) of the School Education Act.

Article 1(5) of the Amending Regulation introduced point 10 in Article 2 of the Regulation 1/2009 which lays down the definition of additional modules, notably that these are competence surveys which, for the purpose of promoting and developing teaching, can be conducted at the discretion of the teacher or by the order of the school head, and concerns the subjects of German, mathematics, English and science in the 3rd to 5th and 7th to 9th grades. The participation of students, including those with disabilities or special educational needs, in additional modules allows that students receive targeted support based on the assessment carried out in the additional modules.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 99 - At least 66 % of approved projects started

Related Measure: AT-C[C3]-I[3D1]: IPCEI Microelectronics and Connectivity

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 66

Time: Q2 2024

1. Context:

The investment aims to strengthen areas within the sector of microelectronics in which Europe is already performing well and also to target areas in which Europe is currently dependent on imports. A key objective is to strengthen Europe's open strategic autonomy. In addition, planned projects are expected to develop more energy-efficient solutions and thus contribute to the achievement of climate objectives.

Target 99 requires the start of at least 66% of the approved Austrian projects.

Target 99 is the third of the four steps of the implementation of the investment in the IPCEI Microelectronics and Connectivity. It follows milestone 97, related to the publication of documents related to the second phase of the call for expression of interest in funding projects under the IPCEI Microelectronics and Connectivity, and milestone 98, related to the completion of the selection of Austrian projects. It will be followed by target 100, related to the allocation of the available budget of EUR 125 000 000 to the approved projects and disbursement of at least 80% of the budget to the recipient companies.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 August 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the target requirements (including all its constitutive elements) have been satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Progress reports by the participating undertakings of the IPCEI to the European Commission: 1. AT & S Austria Technologie & Systemtechnik (reporting period 01/10/2021 – 31/12/2023) 2. Infineon Technologies Austria AG (reporting period 01/01/2022 – 31/12/2023)	The progress reports provide the overview of the main results and events of the projects during the reporting period.

	3. EEMCO GmbH (reporting period 01/08/2021 – 31/03/2024) 4. AVL List GmbH (reporting period 01/01/2022 – 31/12/2023) 5. NXP Semiconductors Austria GmbH & Co KG (reporting period 01/01/2022 – 31/12/2022 & 01/01/2023 – 31/12/2023)	
3	1. AT & S Austria Technologie & Systemtechnik – AWS Funding Offer (signed) 2. AT & S Austria Technologie & Systemtechnik – FFG Funding Contract (signed) 3. Infineon Technologies Austria AG - AWS Funding Offer (signed) 4. Infineon Technologies Austria AG – FFG Funding Contract (signed) 5. EEMCO GmbH - AWS Funding Offer (signed) 6. EEMCO GmbH - FFG Funding Contract (signed) 7. AVL List GmbH - AWS Funding Offer (signed) 8. AVL List GmbH - FFG Funding Contract (signed) 9. NXP Semiconductors Austria GmbH & Co KG - AWS Funding Offer (signed) 10. NXP Semiconductors Austria GmbH & Co KG - FFG Funding Contract (signed)	Funding contracts signed between the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Economics and Labour with the participating undertakings (Austria Technologie & Systemtechnik AG (AT&S AG), AVL List GmbH, Ebner European Mono Crystal Operations GesmbH (EEMCO), Infineon Technologies Austria AG, NXP Semiconductors Austria), specifying project scopes, budgets, and start obligations.

3. Analysis:

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

At least 66 % of the approved Austrian projects have started.

As analysed in the Corrigendum to the Communication to the Commission on the positive preliminary assessment of the first payment request of the Republic of Austria pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2021/241 [C(2023) 1727] of 22 March 2023, in relation to milestone 98, the Austrian authorities launched a call for expression of interest to fund national projects under Important Project of Common

European Interest (IPCEI) Microelectronics and Connectivity. As a result, six national projects were selected for further participation in the notification process at the EU level.

On 8 June 2023, the Commission approved under the EU State aid rules the IPCEI in the field of Microelectronics and Communication Technologies, which included five projects from Austria (Commission Decision C(2023) 3817 final of 8 June 2023, "IPCEI ME/CT State Aid Decision")[2]. The sixth project did not require a State aid approval from the Commission and, following discussions with the Commission's services it was withdrawn by Austria in the course of the notification procedure. The research organisation running it, Silicon Austria Labs, became an associated partner to the IPCEI (IPCEI ME/CT State Aid Decision, page 160).

Therefore, five Austrian projects of the following undertakings were approved under the IPCEI in the field of Microelectronics and Communication Technologies (IPCEI ME/CT State Aid Decision, page 93):

1. Austria Technologie & Systemtechnik AG (AT&S AG);
2. AVL List GmbH;
3. Ebner European Mono Crystal Operations GesmbH (EEMCO);
4. Infineon Technologies Austria AG;
5. NXP Semiconductors Austria.

All five approved Austrian projects (i.e. 100%) have started. This is evidenced by the detailed progress reports for the five projects submitted by the abovementioned participating undertakings to the Commission (evidence 2), which indicate substantive steps already undertaken under each project. Examples of these steps showing the start of each project are set out in the table below. In addition, the funding contracts signed for each of these projects provide a further indication that the projects have started (evidence 3).

Project	**Substantive steps demonstrating that the project has started** (evidence 2)
1. Austria Technologie & Systemtechnik AG	- Set up of project and fabrication facility (fab) organisational structure, concept design of the fab building, construction start of the fab, qualification of the fab started, etc.
2. AVL List GmbH	- Actions undertaken on development and testing
3. Ebner European Mono Crystal Operations GesmbH	- Simulation aided design of machine- and furnace technology - Design of insulation and heaters (furnace related) - Buildup the basics for a quality management system suitable for automotive standards - Development and implementation of IT environment - Implementation of resistive furnace technology
4. Infineon Technologies Austria AG	- Work started with technical milestones achieved in all three GreenPower subprojects - Equipment installations of first of a kind tools started

[2] Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/cases1/202417/SA_101202_4007068F-0200-C9AB-8043-61F44BDD37B4_307_1.pdf.

5. NXP Semiconductors Austria	- With the project launched on 1 January 2022, R&D&I phase activities undertaken in the areas of Highly secure post quantum processing & communication/ sensing systems and Safe and secure smart battery management systems

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 102 - At least 66 % of approved projects started

Related Measure: C3.3D2 IPCEI Hydrogen

Quantitative Indicator: percentage

Baseline: 0

Target: 66

Time: Q2 2024

1. Context:

The objective of this measure is to help build a national and European hydrogen ecosystem to help contributing to the achievement of Austria's and the EU's climate objectives. The investment aims to promote integrated projects along the hydrogen value chain, especially covering hydrogen production, storage, and applications.

Target 102 requires the start of at least 66% of approved Austrian projects.

Target 102 is the second step in the implementation of the investment. It follows the completion of milestone 101 concerning the selection of Austrian projects developing activities along the hydrogen value chain. It will be followed by target 103a related to commitment of EUR 125 million to the approved projects and subsequently by target 103b requiring that all approved projects enter the first-industrial-deployment-phase.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 August 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the target requirements (including all its constitutive elements) have been satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Progress/interim reports by the participating undertakings: 1. AVL List GmbH – Project SO-MSC Electrolyzer (reporting period 01/01/2022-31/12/2024) 2. Robert Bosch AG – Project "Hydrogen, Carbon-free and Carbon-neutral Fuel Enabled Large Engine Applications" (HCCELEA) (reporting period 01.01.2023 – 31.12.2023)	The progress/interim reports providing an overview of the main results and events of the projects during the reporting period.

	3. OPmobility SE (formerly Plastic Omnium New Energies Wels GmbH) – IPCEI project on new generation of hydrogen powertrain components (reporting period 01/01/2023 – 31/12/2023) 4. LAT Nitrogen Linz GmbH (formerly Borealis): Project GrAmLi (Reporting period: 01/01/2023 – 31/12/2024) 5. VERBUND AG: Project GrAmLi (Reporting Period: 01/05/2023 – 31/12/2023)	
3	Each project signed two funding contracts with two different implementing agencies (AWS and FFG): 1. AVL List GmbH – AWS Funding Offer (signed) 2. AVL List GmbH – FFG Funding Contract (signed) 3. Robert Bosch AG –AWS Funding Offer (signed) 4. Robert Bosch AG – FFG Funding Contract (signed) 5. OPmobility SE (formerly Plastic Omnium New Energies Wels GmbH) - AWS Funding Offer (signed) 6. OPmobility SE (formerly Plastic Omnium New Energies Wels GmbH) - FFG Funding Contract (signed) 7. LAT Nitrogen Linz GmbH (formerly Borealis) - AWS Funding Offer (signed) 8. LAT Nitrogen Linz GmbH (formerly Borealis) -FFG Funding Contract (signed) 9. VERBUND AG - AWS Funding Offer (signed) 10. VERBUND AG - FFG Funding Contract (signed)	Funding contracts signed between the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Economics and Labour with the participating undertakings (AVL List GmbH, Robert Bosch AG, OPmobility SE, LAT Nitrogen Linz GmbH, VERBUND AG), specifying project scopes, budgets, and start obligations.

4	1. Commission Decision C(2022) 5158 final of 15 June 2022 2. Commission Decision C(2022) 6847 final of 21 September 2022	European Commission state aid decisions approving the IPCEI Hy2Tech and the IPCEI Hy2Use.

3. Analysis:

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

At least 66 % of the approved Austrian projects have started.

As analysed in the Corrigendum to the Communication to the Commission on the positive preliminary assessment of the first payment request of the Republic of Austria pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2021/241 [C(2023) 1727] of 22 March 2023 in relation to milestone 101, the Austrian authorities launched a call for expression of interest to fund national projects under IPCEI Hydrogen. As a result, eight national projects were selected for further participation in the notification process at the EU level. Out of these eight selected and pre-notified projects, two projects decided to withdraw from the IPCEI Hydrogen Industry. The Commission subsequently approved under the EU State aid rules all six remaining projects (Commission Decision C(2022) 5158 final of 15 June 2022 and Commission Decision C(2022) 6847 final of 21 September 2022). Austria informed the Commission that one of these six projects (the project by Christof Industries Austria GmbH) was later withdrawn prior to signing the national funding agreement. Therefore, only five projects signed funding contracts. These five projects are listed in the summary document (evidence 1):

1. AVL List GmbH – Project SO-MSC Electrolyzer
2. Robert Bosch AG – Project “Hydrogen, Carbon-free and Carbon-neutral Fuel Enabled Large Engine Applications” (HCCELEA)
3. OPmobility SE (formerly Plastic Omnium New Energies Wels GmbH) – IPCEI project on new generation of hydrogen powertrain components
4. LAT Nitrogen Linz GmbH (formerly Borealis) – Project Green Ammonia Linz (GrAmLi)
5. VERBUND AG – Project Green Ammonia Linz (GrAmLi)

All five projects have started. This is evidenced by the progress reports submitted by the abovementioned participating companies to the Commission (evidence 2), which show that substantive steps have already been taken for each project. Examples of these relevant steps are listed for each project in the table below. The signed funding contracts provide a further indication that the projects have started (evidence 3).

Project	**Substantive steps demonstrating that project has started** (evidence 2)
1. AVL List GmbH – Project SO-MSC Electrolyzer	- R&D phase: substantial progress was achieved in the development of AVL’s system - Partner for first industrial deployment confirmed
2. Robert Bosch AG – Project “Hydrogen, Carbon-free and Carbon-	- R&D phase: technical progress in the five defined technologies achieved

neutral Fuel Enabled Large Engine Applications” (HCCELEA)	
3. OPmobility SE (formerly Plastic Omnium New Energies Wels GmbH) – IPCEI project on new generation of hydrogen powertrain components	- R&D phase: progress on several product components, scientific publications - 24,47 full-time equivalent jobs were created
4. LAT Nitrogen Linz GmbH (formerly Borealis) – Project Green Ammonia Linz (GrAmLi)	- R&D phase: two feasibility studies completed, front-end engineering ongoing and already well advanced - Preparation of business case and design optimisation
5. VERBUND AG – Project Green Ammonia Linz (GrAmLi)	- Grant agreement signed (Innovation Fund Large Scale Call 2022) R&D phase: front end engineering design (FEED) phase I started

Under the IPCEI Hydrogen scheme, for a project to be considered approved and expected to be implemented, it has to have first been nominated at national level and subsequently to be approved under State aid rules by the Commission. Since the project by Christof Industries Austria GmbH was withdrawn after it had been approved by the Commission, its implementation did not start and only the remaining five out of the six approved Austrian projects have started.

Therefore, 83% of the approved Austrian projects have started. This exceeds the target of 66% and for this reason, Target 102 has been fulfilled.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 116 - National roll-out of early childhood interventions (Frühe Hilfen)

Related Measure: C4.4A4 National roll-out of early childhood interventions (*Frühe Hilfen*) for socially disadvantaged pregnant women, their young children and families

Quantitative Indicator: percentage of envisaged national rollout

Baseline: 0

Target: 1

Time: Q3 2024

1. Context:

The objective of the measure is to support families in vulnerable situations during the period of pregnancy and early childhood thereby promoting health equality and social fairness. The investment consists in an expansion of family counselling and in setting up regional early childhood intervention networks of cooperation among all relevant institutions and services in the field of early childhood. The early aid services will be expanded to make this service available to families in all districts of Austria.

Target 116 requires that the national rollout of early childhood interventions for socially disadvantaged pregnant women, their young children and families is finalised and is fully operational.

Target 116 is the third and last target of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 114 and target 115, related to the selection of implementing partners and the first phase of the rollout.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 September 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Audit report 4.A.4 of the National roll-out of early childhood interventions for socially disadvantaged pregnant women, small children and their families '*Substanzprüfung 4.A.4 Nationaler Roll-out der "Frühen Hilfen" für sozial benachteiligte Schwangere, ihre Kleinkinder und Familien*' federal accounting agency of the Republic of Austria '*Buchaltungsagentur des Bundes*'	Report by the Federal Accounting Agency (Buchhaltungsagentur des Bundes, hereinafter referred to as "BHAG"), a public service company that acts independently and is the central service provider for the federal level. BHAG verified specifically the attainment of this target. The report is dated 26 April 2024 and e-signed by the three auditors.

3	Annual report on early childhood interventions 2023 *'Frühe Hilfen – Zahlen, Daten und Fakten 2023'*	Annual report (Frühe Hilfen. Zahlen, Daten und Fakten 2023) on the state of implementation as well as characteristics of families supported of 'early aid' in Austria. The report was written by Carina Marbler, Sophie Sagerschnig, Fiona Scolik and Petra Winkler and published on the website: https://nzfh.at/publikationen/jahresberichte
4	Website listing all early childhood interventions networks and the districts they cover	A website that gives contact information for each Frühe Hilfen network and clarifies who is responsible for which district: https://fruehehilfen.at/netzwerke Last checked by Commission services on 3 October 2025.
5	Final report "Early Childhood intervention: Supporting the implementation of the measures of the Austrian Recovery and Resilience plan.", December 2024. "Frühe Hilfen: Unterstützung der Umsetzung der Maßnahmen des Österreichischen Aufbau- und Resilienzplans"	Final report on the implementation of the RRF measures supporting the full nationwide rollout of the programme "early childhood interventions" published on the website of the Austrian health agency (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH): https://goeg.at/fruehe-hilfen-oesterreich The report was written by Sabine Haas, Sandra Dürnitzhofer and Petra Winkler.
6	Website of Early Childhood Interventions	Website of the Early Childhood Interventions with information material for parents translated in nine languages: Arabic, Croatian, Dari/Farsi, English, Romanian, Russian, Ukrainian, Hungarian, Turkish: https://fruehehilfen.at/sprache/information-farsidari Last checked by Commission services on 3 October 2025

3. Analysis:

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

The national rollout of early childhood interventions for socially disadvantaged pregnant women, their young children and families is finalised and is fully operational.

Austria has finalised the nationwide rollout of the early childhood interventions programme as provided by the official audit report of the federal accounting agency on the national rollout of the early childhood interventions programme (evidence 2), by the annual report on early childhood interventions of the year 2023 (evidence 3) and by the final report on the implementation of the RRF measures "early childhood interventions" published by the Austrian health agency (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH) (evidence 5). The early childhood interventions programme offers family counselling to families with babies and young children and fosters cooperation between different service providers in the realm of early childhood at a regional level (evidence 3, p. 1). Families in need can reach out to the early childhood intervention network responsible for the district in which they live (evidence 4) and institutions such as hospitals can refer families in need to the networks (evidence 5, p. 5).

The focus of the programme is on socially disadvantaged families (evidence 5). While the programme can be accessed by any family with a young child, the extent of counselling that a family receives is need based. From mid-2022 to end of September 2024, 2903 families received longer-term support and 896 families received short term support funded by the RRF (evidence 5, p. 3). About 70 % of the families who were supported are at risk of poverty, almost a quarter were single parent families and 46% had a migrant background (evidence 5, p. 6). As part of the project, culturally sensitive information material for parents was developed and prepared in easy to read German and translated into nine languages (Arabic, Croatian, Dari/Farsi, English, Romanian, Russian, Ukrainian, Hungarian, Turkish) (evidence 5, p. 10). This includes explanatory videos about the Austrian health system with subtitles in these nine languages. This material is available online on the website Early Childhood Interventions for the benefit of socially disadvantaged migrants and refugees (evidence 6). This website was checked by the Commission services on 3 October 2025.

The programme is fully operational. This is confirmed by the audit report on page 7 (evidence 2) which states that the roll-out is finalised and fully operational. The website of early childhood interventions (evidence 4) presents the teams working for the respective early childhood interventions network, gives contact information and explains which districts are covered by the respective network. This website was checked by the Commission services on 3 October 2025.

All districts shall be covered.

The audit report concludes on page 6 that the national rollout to all districts has been achieved by September 2023 (evidence 2). Full rollout covering all districts means that in Austria every child in need has access to the service of early childhood interventions, irrespective of their place of residence (evidence 3, evidence 4, evidence 5, p. V). The website of the early childhood intervention networks (evidence 4) confirms that for all Austrian districts, there is an early childhood interventions network responsible. This website was checked by the Commission services on 3 October 2025. The Annual Report on early childhood interventions (evidence 3) which was published by the National Center for Early Childhood Interventions (*Nationales Zentrum Frühe Hilfen)* explains the timeline of the rollout of early childhood interventions on page three. In 2022, eight additional districts were covered and in 2023 the 44 remaining districts were covered, thus ensuring all districts are covered (evidence 3, p. 3). As part of the full rollout of the programme, the number of family counsellors working for early childhood intervention increased from 101 in 2021 to 250 at the end of 2023 (evidence 5, p.3).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 121 - Start implementing the core elements of the reform of long-term care provision

Related Measure: C4.4B2 Reform to further develop care provision

Qualitative Indicator: The Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act for the period starting in 2024 is published in Austria's legal information system

Time: Q1 2024

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to address challenges and further develop the long-term care sector. The measure consists of several preparatory steps for a long-term care reform starting in 2024, within the next period of the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act

The milestone 121 requires the implementation of the core elements of the reform of long-term care provision as part of the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act (Finanzausgleichsgesetz (FAG)), which has entered into force.

Milestone 121 is the third and last milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 119 and milestone 120, related to pilot projects of community nursing and the establishment of long-term care principles for target-based governance.

The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Pact on Fiscal Equalisation, signed on 23/11/2023	The official document signed by all partners of the Fiscal Equivalisation, depicting the cornerstones, framework and referring to the laws of the Fiscal Equivalisation. It demonstrates which laws have been passed or amended as part of the Fiscal Equivalisation. On p. 4 and p. 10 the laws related to the long-term care reform are presented.
3	The Federal Law Gazette of 30/12/2023 relating to federal law 168	Publication of the Federal Act enacting a Fiscal Relations Act 2024 (FAG 2024) and amending the Fiscal Relations Act 2017 in the Federal law Gazette
4	The Federal Law Gazette of 30/12/2023 relating to federal law 170	Publication in the Federal law Gazette of the Federal Act amending the Long-Term Care Fund Act, the Act on Special Purpose Grants for Education Subsidies and the Federal Long-Term Care Allowance Act, enacting the Federal Act on a

		Special-Purpose Subsidy due to the abolition of access to assets when persons are placed in stationary care facilities for the years 2025 to 2028 and repealing the Act on Special-Purpose Subsidy for Pay Increases (Long-Term Care Fund Act - *PFG*)
5	Long-Term Care Fund Act, entry into force 01/01/2024	This document provides the full text of the Long-Term Care Fund Act
6	First presentation to the Council of Ministers on 12/05/2022	The presentation to the Council of Ministers ("Largest care reform package in recent decades") outlines the main elements of the LTC reform in the first reform package
7	Second presentation to the Council of Ministers on 24/05/2023	The presentation to the Council of Ministers ("Further steps in the care reform") outlines the main elements of the LTC reform in the second reform package
8	Agreement pursuant to Art. 15a B-VG on the joint promotion of 24-hour care on 13/12/2023	Agreement pursuant to Art. 15a B-VG between the federal government and the Länder, which amends the Agreement pursuant to Art. 15a B-VG between the federal government and the Länder on the joint promotion of 24-hour care
9	Guiding principles for Long-term care	The Homepage of the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection shows the 10 guiding principles of the LTC Governance Board. Screenshots of the homepage were submitted, which is also available at: https://www.sozialministerium.gv.at/Themen/Pflege/Pflegereform/Pflege-Entwicklungs-Kommission.html
10	Report of the Task Force Care, January 2021	The report of the Task Force Care, comprised of experts from all levels of government and external stakeholders, has defined the objectives for the development of the existing care system
11	Report on Results of the Working Groups of the LTC Governance Board, June 2023	The federal government, the Länder, as well as the associations of cities and municipalities (i.e. the fiscal equalisation partners), agreed on the creation of four working groups and nominated their representatives. The objective of these working groups was to coordinate the positions of the fiscal equalisation partners and to formulate joint recommendations

3. Analysis:

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

The main elements of the long-term care reform shall be reflected in the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act (Finanzausgleichsgesetz) which shall have entered into force.

The long-term care reform consists of two reform packages (evidence 6 and evidence 7). The main elements of the reform, as defined by their financial scope, are the pay increases for long-term care staff and the subsidy for nursing education. The first presentation to the Council of Ministers on 12/05/2022 (evidence 6, p. 3) outlines that the pay increase of long-term care staff amounts to EUR 260 million annually, and that the subsidy for nursing education (evidence 3, p.4) amounts to EUR 75 million annually. Both measures are reflected in the Long-Term Care Fund Act:

- The pay increase (Erhöhung des Entgelts von Pflege- und Betreuungspersonal, im Sinne des § 3 Entgelterhöhungs-Zweckzuschussgesetz) was extended and integrated in the Long-Term Care Fund Act (evidence 4, § 1 para. 3 no. 2, § 3 para. 2 no. 3).
- A subsidy for nursing education of € 600/month (monatlichen Ausbildungsbeitrag im Sinne des § 3 Abs. 1 Pflegeausbildungs-Zweckzuschussgesetz) was extended and integrated in the Long-Term Care Fund Act. In addition, the subsidy will now increase annually (evidence 4, Long-Term Care Fund Act § 1 para. 3 no. 1, § 3 para. 2 nos. 2 and 2a, § 5).

The Pact on Fiscal Equalisation (evidence 2, p. 10), signed by the partners of the Fiscal Equivalisation, lists the legal acts implementing the long term-care reform within the fiscal relations package 2024, including the Long-Term Care Fund Act (evidence 4). The main elements are based on agreements (evidence 2) reached during the fiscal framework negotiations between federal government, Länder, cities and municipalities. Moreover, these measures were financially secured until 2028 through the Fiscal Equivalisation Pact (evidence 2) as their legal anchoring in the Long-Term Care Fund Act includes a substantial increase in the long-term care budget (evidence 4, § 2.)

The Long-Term Care Fund Act (evidence 4) was published in Austria’s legal information system. It was published in the Official Journal, the Federal Law Gazette BGBI. I Nr. 170/2023 and entered into force on 1 January 2024, as per its article 1 §11 no. 5.

The Council Implementing Decision required that the main elements of the long-term care reform shall be reflected in the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act (Finanzausgleichsgesetz), which shall have entered into force. Instead, the main elements of the long-term care reform have been reflected in the Long-Term Care Fund Act, and the law has entered into force on 1 January 2024, as evident from its publication in the Official Journal, the Federal Law Gazette. The Long-Term Care Fund Act establishes the increase in remuneration for care and support staff (Entgelterhöhungs-Zweckzuschussgesetz) and the training allowances for nursing education (Pflegeausbildungs-Zweckzuschussgesetz).
Whilst this constitutes a minimal formal deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, the legislation that is relevant from the perspective of the corresponding CID requirement has entered into force and it provides for the implementation of the main elements of the long-term care reform. As part of the internal procedure of Austria’s fiscal equalisation system, a Pact on Fiscal Equalisation ultimately comprises a comprehensive package of legal regulations. In the most recently negotiated Pact on Fiscal Equalisation (evidence 2), starting from 2024, this included not only the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act, but also a range of other legislative matters, in particular the Long-Term Care Fund Act. The Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act (evidence 3) and the Long-Term Care Fund Act (evidence 5) are both ordinary federal laws (*einfache Bundesgesetze*), have the same legal value and follow the same legislative procedure. Due to its subject-specific focus, the Long-Term Care Fund Act (evidence 4) is the primary legislative vehicle through which the long-term care reform is implemented into law, and is complemented by the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act 2024

(evidence 3). As of this, this minimal deviation does not affect 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.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, **(…) In coordination with the Laender, the focus is to be placed on people in need of care and their relatives and caregivers.**

The principles (evidence 9) of long-term care were adopted by the Long-Term Care (LTC) Governance Board, which comprises of representatives of the federal level, Länder, cities and municipalities. The federal level, Länder, cities and municipalities also constitute the partners of the fiscal framework negotiations (evidence 2). The principles of long-term care were published on the homepage of the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, as verified as part of the assessment of M120. The principles (evidence 9) focus on the people in need of care, their relatives and caregivers. Principle 1 states that all people in need of care have the right to adequate care and support in old age. Principle 4 further underlines the focus placed in people in need of care by specifying that "adequate care" goes far beyond basic provision and requires high-quality nursing care as well as sufficient time for human attention and compassion. Principle 6 asks to respect the wish of people in need of care for independent living. Principle 5 places the focus on relatives and states that it is the responsibility of the federal level, Länder and municipalities to support caring relatives. Principle 3 emphasises the aim of gender equality among caring relatives. The focus on caregivers is reflected in principle 8 that states that the increasing need for personnel in all areas of care and support must be addressed through intensive measures at all levels: training, recruitment, and incentives.

In line with the description of the measure, **based on this report [of the Task Force Care], talks between the federal government, states, cities and municipalities shall lead to common approaches and reform projects, in the framework of the long-term care target-based governance ('*Zielsteuerung Pflege*'), as part of the preparation for a reform of the provision of long-term care in the context of the negotiations of the fiscal framework.**

The report on Results of the Working Groups of the LTC Governance Board (evidence 11) sets out how common approaches and reform projects were reached between the federal government, Länder, cites and municipalities. In 2023, based on the report of the Task Force Care (evidence 10), four sub-working groups of the LTC Governance Board were tasked to deal with the topics "Digitisation and Data", "Personnel", "Financing" and "Intersections". The LTC Governance Board (evidence 11, p. 3) was formerly named "Zielsteuerung Pflege" and "Pflege-Entwicklungs-Kommission". This board (evidence 11, p. 3) comprises representatives of the partners of fiscal equivalisation, namely the federal level, Länder, cities and municipalities. The aim of the working groups was to coordinate the positions of the federal government, the Länder, and the association of cities and municipalities, as well as to define joint recommendations (evidence 11, p. 3). The Report on Results of the Working Groups of the LTC Governance Board (evidence 11) includes the recommendations of each working group how the long-term care system could be further reformed both through legislative measures and reform projects. Furthermore, the LTC Governance Board was anchored in the Long-Term Care Fund Act (evidence 4) as per Article 1, §8a as part of the long-term care reform.

In line with the description of the measure, **the division of responsibilities among the federal level, the Laender and municipalities shall be reflected in the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act for the next period (starting in 2024)**.The division of responsibilities among the federal level, the Laender and municipalities is also reflected in the Long-Term Care Fund Act (evidence 5) as per its Article 1, § 1 on the establishment and aims of the Long-Term Care Fund and as per its Article 1, § 2 on the financial allocation of tax revenues.

Specifically, federal taxes are allocated to Länder, who in turn reimburse municipalities. Article 1, §2, no. 1 of the Long-Term Care Fund Act (evidence 5) states that the funds of the Care Fund are raised through a prior deduction before the distribution of the joint federal taxes in accordance with the Fiscal Relations Act 2024 (evidence 3), and Article 1, §2, no 2 furthermore specifies that the funds have to be used by the Länder to cover the costs related to long-term care measures. The permissible long-term care measures are listed in Article 1 § 3 of the Long-Term Care Fund Act (evidence 5). Article 1, §2, no. 3 (evidence 5) specifies that the Länder are obliged to allocate funds to the municipalities in proportion to their actual and verified net expenditures for care services in long-term care for each calendar year.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 133 - 150 community nurses active at national level

Related Measure: C4.4B4 Investment in the implementation of Community Nursing

Quantitative Indicator: Number of new community nurses active at national level.

Baseline: 50

Target: 150

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

The objective of community nursing is to make a significant contribution to needs-based care; in that context, community nurses are central contact persons who coordinate health and social services locally and thus support prevention. The investment consists in the establishment of a network of qualified community nurses close to their patients throughout Austria.

Target 133 provides for at least 150 community nurses to have been recruited nation-wide, and for a final evaluation to have been submitted.

Target 133 is the third and last target of the investment, and it follows the completion of target 131 with an initial 50 community nurses and milestone 132, related to an interim report on this pilot project.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	List of community nurses active in Austria. (U1-AT_133_1_CN-Liste.xlsx)	List of community nurses active in Austria. This includes a unique identifier and data on qualification, professional experience and location.
3	AT_133_2_Fördercall_CN.pdf	Guidelines accompanying the funding call setting out how community nurses with relevant qualification were preferably employed
4	AT_133_3_Sonderrichtlinie_CN.pdf	special directive specifically established for the project, including the provision that employment within the RRF pilot project is for a limited period of time
5	AT_133_4_AK_DG_Kündigung.pdf	explanatory note by the Austrian Chamber of Labour explaining that

		Austria right of termination of employment relationships
6	AT_133_5_CN_Evaluierung_Endbericht.pdf	evaluation report by the University of Applied Sciences Carinthia (*Fachhochschule Kärnten*) and it's Institute for Applied Research on Ageing (IARA), submitted on 18 December 2024
7	AT_133_6_CN_Evaluierung_Management Summary.pdf	Executive summary of the above evaluation report
8	AT_133_7_Protokoll_CN_Endbericht.pdf	record of the final event where the evaluation report was presented.
9	AT-C[C4]-I[4B4]-T[133] set of documents in Fenix	478 documents in total providing, for each community nurse: i. employment contracts (*Arbeitsverträge*) as community nurses, ii. confirmations of employment as qualified nurses from the previous employers (*Dienstzeugnisse*) and iii. an extract from the health professional register number (*Gesundheitsberuferegister*)

3. Analysis:

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

At least 150 community nurses are active at national level. Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure ***"community nurses are qualified nurses with at least two years of professional experience".***

Austrian authorities provided a total of 478 documents (evidence 9) with the aim of proving, for each community nurse: i) employment contracts (*Arbeitsverträge*) as community nurses, ii) confirmations of employment as qualified nurses from the previous employers (*Dienstzeugnisse*) and iii) an extract from the health professional register number (*Gesundheitsberuferegister*) to provide evidence of registration as a qualified nurse. The individual employment contracts *(Arbeitsverträge)* included in evidence 9 provide proof of employment as community nurses. These are concluded between the individuals listed in evidence 2 and a variety of health service providers throughout Austria and show active employment of these during the period of the RRF-funded pilot project which ended on 31 December 2024. Concurrently to the analysis in the fiche related to target 131 in the first preliminary assessment of Austria of 10 March 2023, the special directive (evidence 4) on page 7 states that funding shall be awarded for a limited period of time and that the projects are to be designed for a period of three years, beginning no earlier than January 2022 and ending no later than December 2024.

On the basis of a previous version of evidence 9, the Commission services drew a sample of 60 contracts on 27 August 2025. During the subsequent check, the initial sampling failed, as one contract was found to specify a job title not compliant with the requirement of employment as community nurse. One additional contract did not specify the job title, so clarification was requested. As a result, the Commission services notified Austria of the sampling failure and the need to check the contracts for all 150 individuals. On 16 September 2025, the Austrian authorities provided an amended list of 150 individuals (evidence 2) and the corresponding documents (evidence 9). The Commission services checked the contracts for all 150 individuals on 17 September 2025 and found all employment contracts compliant with requirement (i).

The confirmations of employment as qualified nurses from the previous employers (ii.) and extracts from the health professional register (iii.) included in evidence 9 provide proof of both registration as qualified nurses as well as employment experience of at least two years. The extracts from the health professional register are in one standard format, this portal is publicly available at https://gbr-public.ehealth.gv.at/ and has been checked by the Commission services on 28 August 2025. The confirmations of employment were issued by a variety of institutions employing nurses.

The Commission services also checked the confirmations of employment (ii.) and extracts from the health professional register (iii.) for all 150 individuals on 17 September 2025. One confirmation of employment was found to specify a family name divergent from the individual. The Austrian authorities provided this individual's maiden name, but no further evidence was provided. All remaining documents were found compliant.

The Council Implementing Decision required that at least 150 community nurses with at least two years of professional experience are active. As set out, in one case the documentation was not sufficient to prove the required professional experience of one of the community nurses due to the discrepancy in the names provided. Whilst this constitutes a minimal numerical deviation of 0.67% from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, the overall objective of this target is considered met notwithstanding this minor deviation. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the target is satisfactorily fulfilled.

Final evaluation covers the performance of all 150 CN

The final evaluation report on community nursing in Austria was submitted on 18 December 2024 (evidence 6). As set out on page 8, the report evaluates the performance of the project and issues recommendations set out in the remainder of evidence 6 based on completed questionnaires received from community nurses. As the report covers the project as a whole, it therefore covers the performance of the 150 community nurses that were part of it.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 141 - Cultural and art objects digitalisation programme

Related Measure: C4.4C4 Digitalisation wave cultural heritage

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 400 000

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

The investment aims to launch the digitalisation in cultural institutions. The archives of the different art and culture divisions should be increasingly translated into a digital format and hence become accessible to a wider public.

Target 141 requires at least 400 000 digitalised cultural and art objects including 300 analogue films and 15 000 3D objects.

Target 141 is the second target of the investment, and it follows the completion of milestone 140. It will be followed by target 142, related to another 200 000 digitalised cultural and art objects.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 30 June 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all its constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Global list of digitalised cultural and art objects	Excel spreadsheet containing 467 891 art and cultural objects in total, including 58 221 3D objects and 1781 films. The list provides: • Item number (unique identifier) • The name of the cultural institute • Object number • Object title • Indication or whether it is an analogue film, 3D-object or other type of object • Link to the Website of the digitalised object

3	Digitalisation Methodology	Compilation document with the explanations of the digitalisation methodology of each institution
4	Funding Guidelines	Guidelines set out by the Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture and Sports (now the Federal Ministry of Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport) on the funding of the digitalisation of cultural heritage
5	Certificates of completion	Compilation document of the certificates of completion for the digitalisation of cultural heritage per institution (for all 21 institutions selected under sampling). Each certificate contains: • The name of the cultural institute • the number of analogue films, 3D-objects and other objects digitalised by each institution (the numbers are identical with the global list of digitalised objects) • Number of objects digitalised in total for each institution (the totals are identical with the global list of digitalised objects) • Reference number for the granted projects

3. Analysis:

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

At least 400 000 cultural and art objects have been digitalised (including 300 analogue films and 15 000 3D objects)

A list of 467 891 digitalised cultural and art objects has been submitted by the Austrian authorities (evidence 2). The list contains, 1781 films and 58221 3D objects. Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, drawn randomly as a pro-rata sample to include two films and seven 3D objects, the Commission services verified the successful digitalisation of the 60 units selected based on the links in the global list of digitalised cultural and arts objects (evidence 2) submitted by Austria with the payment request.

The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the requirements of the target have been met. For most objects the link worked and the documentation on the websites (checked between 10 -12 September 2025) confirmed the successful digitalisation of the object as listed in the global list.

1. There were 3 units where no direct link with the object title in the list and the one under the link provided can be made. If the object and link listed had no self-evidentiary direct link, the Commission services confirmed additionally the link by using the website "kulturpool.at",

which forms part of the measure and serves as a centralised pool for all the digitalised libraries of the cultural institutions (as per the measure description) the document can be found and matches with the one linked in the table. This concerns units 141511, 142494 and 150505 (numbering as per global list).

2. For another set of units [192305, 358645, 386840, 389143, 390932, 396683, 400050, 404466] the object title from the global list clearly matched with the item online, however the object number could not be found on the website. Since the object could still be clearly identified as the one described in the global list these units are considered to be valid.

3. For one unit [125190] for which no link between the object title or number could be made, Austrian authorities explained that the corresponding object number 5063 is mentioned in the link which connects directly to the picture, which was confirmed by the Commission services on 17 September 2025.

4. For units 42065, 50396, 67366, 78118, 89658, 92271, 95952, 107148, 16596 and 119995 the description in the table, except for some of the number combinations, cannot clearly be matched with the objects available under the link. Based on the additional explanations provided by Austrian authorities on the use of the number combinations as clear identifiers, these units can be considered valid.

5. For three units the link provided with the global list did not work, the Commission services requested Austria to provide working links. This applies for units 417950, 423370, 437777. Although for these units the object was not available under the initial link provided with the global list, it could be found on "kulturpool.at"[1]. The link provided with the supplementary evidence did work and confirmed the result obtained with the search on the kulturpool platform.

6. For unit 176818 the link provided did not work either, Austrian authorities explained that this was due to a necessary take-down of the website and disconnection from all databases due to several cyber-attacks on the website. A check of the website of the Theatermuseum on 17 September 2025 confirmed the unavailability of the entire online library. Despite the link provided to the picture itself with the supplementary evidence working, this unit needs to be considered to have failed the sampling check as the purpose of the digitalisation is to make the cultural and art objects available to the public, which is currently not the case.

7. Finally, the sample contained one unit which cannot be considered a cultural or art object. It is a digital photo used for illustrative purposes on the website to advertise birthday parties at the institution. This unit is therefore considered to have failed the sampling check.

A statistical analysis was carried out taking into account the overachievement of the target of 467 891 for a required 400 000. Based on this, there is statistical assurance that the target has been met – despite the failure of two units, all the constitutive elements have been satisfactorily fulfilled.

Austria in addition submitted 21 certificates of completion (evidence 5), following the selection of the sample. With these certificates each institution confirms the successful completion of their individual digitalisation projects including the number of analogue films and 3D objects they digitalised.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 148 - Spending Review 'Implementation of the EU taxonomy at national level'

Related Measure: C4.4D1 Spending review focusing on green and digital transformation

Qualitative Indicator: Dissemination of the report

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

The objective of the reform is to carry out spending reviews for public spending related to the green and digital transitions. Spending reviews complement the regular budget planning process and may make an important contribution to improving the impact orientation of the federal budget.

The reform consists in conducting targeted spending reviews to enhance alignment with EU climate and digital goals, including the EU Taxonomy for sustainable activities. Milestone 148 provides for the identification of challenges of redirecting financial flows into climate-friendly and sustainable investments and identify public sector levers in the areas of fiscal, regulatory and tax policy.

Milestone 148 is the third step in the implementation of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestones 146 and 147 related to analysis of the climate and energy policy support and incentive landscape and to the identification of synergies in the funding landscape of the Länder, including the climate responsibility mechanisms between the federal level and the Länder as part of the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act 2017, and by milestone 151 related to the spending review focusing on the digital transition. It will be followed by milestone 149 and milestone 150, all related to the spending review focusing on the green transition.

The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	The report, titled Module 3: "Implementation of the EU Taxonomy at the national level" (Modul 3: "Umsetzung der EU-Taxonomie auf nationaler Ebene") is accessible as of 16 September 2025 on the website of the Ministry of Finance, on the following link: https://www.bmf.gv.at/dam/jcr:2287b680-7fdf-4a28-a044-3cc6cc145ee5/Spending%20Review%20Modul%203%20Bericht.pdf	The third spending review report of the spending review cycle focuses on the identification of challenges of redirecting financial flows into climate-friendly and sustainable investments and identify public sector levers in the areas of fiscal, regulatory and tax policy.

3. Analysis:

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

The report shall be internally disseminated.

The finalised spending review report (evidence 2 and hereinafter referred to as "Report") on the identification of challenges of redirecting financial flows into climate-friendly and sustainable investments and identify public sector levers in the areas of fiscal, regulatory and tax policy is disseminated through the homepage of the Austrian Ministry of Finance. The website where the Report can be accessed was checked by the Commission services on 11 September 2025.

This report shall focus on the identification of challenges of redirecting financial flows into climate-friendly and sustainable investments …

The report (evidence 2) is structured into seven chapters.

In particular, ***chapter 2*** analyses the EU-taxonomy and other climate-relevant classification systems, criteria and methodologies, such as the OECD DAC Rio Markers and the EC Green- and Brown List and the Austrian Green Budgeting methodology. Chapter 2 also identifies several challenges of redirecting financial flows into climate-friendly and sustainable investments, such as a financing gap, complex regulatory environment and reporting burdens, sectoral disparities and administrative and transaction costs.

Chapter 3 of the report addresses relevant instruments and policies, such as the Austrian Green Budgeting Methodology, funding instruments as part of fiscal transfers, the Austrian Green Finance Agenda, export promotion and grants, Austrian Green Bonds, tax allowances and other tax advantages with a climate and environmental relevance, in the area of budget, financial services and taxes that are important for redirecting financial flows towards sustainable investments. Chapter 3 also identifies the challenge of integrating EU Taxonomy into Austria's public finance system.

Furthermore, ***chapter 4*** analyses how to identify instruments and investments as climate friendly and sustainable and describes the developed analytical framework, including the challenge of data gaps and usability issues.

… and identify public sector levers in the areas of fiscal, regulatory and tax policy.

Chapter 5 applies the analytical framework to selected instruments and policies, including existing levers in the areas of fiscal, regulatory and tax policy. The analysis shows the status quo of identifying climate-relevant and sustainable investments or instruments, laws, guidelines and regulatory policies that would support the effective use of public finances. It also points out current data gaps and room for improvement to better address and direct climate-friendly financial flows in the future.

Chapter 6 suggests 16 different recommendations to the political level on how these levers should be strengthened focusing on fiscal, regulatory and tax policies.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 173 - 9th EIA Report presented to Parliament

Related Measure: C5.A.1 Acceleration of permitting procedures for renewables

Qualitative Indicator: Transmission of the 9th EIA Report to Parliament

Time: Q3 2024

1. Context:

The objective of the measure is to streamline the permitting procedures for renewable energy projects by amending the national Environmental Impact Assessment Act (“EIA Act”). The amendment aims at introducing several procedural simplifications. The impact of the reform will be evaluated in a report to the Austrian Parliament, presenting recommendations on how to further speed up the permitting procedures for renewables.

Milestone 173 requires that the 9th EIA Report including figures on the duration of the EIA procedures as well as recommendations on the necessary actions to further speed up permitting of renewables in Austria be transmitted to Parliament

Milestone 173 is the second and last milestone of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestone 172 related to entry into force of the amended EIA Act.

The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 30 September 2024.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	9th EIA-Report to the Austrian Parliament by the Federal Minister for Climate Action (*9. UVP-Bericht an den Nationalrat; Bericht der Bundesministerin für Klimaschutz, Umwelt, Energie, Mobilität, Innovation und Technologie an den Nationalrat gemäß § 44 UVP-G 2000 über die Vollziehung der Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfung in Österreich*) as transmitted to the Austrian Parliament on 19 April 2024 and available on their website: https://www.parlament.gv.at/gegenstand/XXVII/III/1152	A report by the competent Minister to the Austrian Parliament that presents information on the implementation of the EIA Directive available on the website of the Austrian Parliament

3. Analysis:

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

The 9th EIA Report shall be transmitted to Parliament.

The 9th EIA Report was transmitted to the National Parliament of Austria by the Federal Minister of Climate Action by the Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology. This is evidenced by a copy of the Report provided as well as a link to the site of the Austrian National Parliament, which shows that the Report has been transmitted to the Austrian Parliament by the responsible Minister and received by Parliament on 19 April 2024. This website was checked by the Commission services on 27 August 2025. (evidence 2).

It shall include figures on the duration of EIA procedures…

The report in chapter 3.5. contains figures and statistics on the number, kind and duration of EIA procedures in Austria, tracking the development over the period 2013-2024. As regards EIA screening decisions information is contained on pp. 37-39; figures for EIA permitting procedures are presented on pp. 41-44. (evidence 2)

(...) as well as recommendations on the necessary actions to further speed up permitting of renewables in Austria.

On page 50 the report contains recommendations to further accelerate the EIA process, in particular as regards renewables and covering the following elements:

- solid staffing of the EIA authorities and expert bodies
- strategic planning and timely and targeted information for the public
- transposition of the Renewable Energy Directive (Directive (EU) 2023/2413 - RED III) for projects related to the energy transition through adoption of the Renewable Expansion Acceleration Act (EABG). (evidence 2).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure **the impact of the reform shall be evaluated in a report to the Austria Parliament.**

Chapters 3.6 and 3.7 of the 9th EIA Report on pp. 46 to 49 present the results of evaluation of the impact of the revised EIA Act. The evaluation was established through a survey carried out at the beginning of 2024 among the competent EIA authorities. The questionnaire covered the experiences of authorities with the changes introduced by the revision, particularly with regard to procedural efficiency, and acceleration of energy transition projects.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Milestone: 175 - Publication of the evaluation report

Related Measure: C5.A.2 Hydrogen as key technology to climate neutrality

Qualitative Indicator: Online publication of the evaluation report on the implementation of the Hydrogen Strategy

Time: Q1 2024

1. Context:

The objective of this reform is to establish a national Hydrogen Strategy in Austria. The strategy focuses on three main goals: increasing renewable hydrogen production, setting the framework for developing hydrogen-ready infrastructure for imports and transport, and installing 1 GW of electrolyser capacity by 2030 to reduce fossil fuel dependence in hard-to-decarbonise sectors like industry and transport.

Milestone 175 requires the publication of the first evaluation report on the implementation of the Hydrogen Strategy.

Milestone 175 is the second milestone of the reform. It follows the completion of milestone 174 related to the publication of the Hydrogen Strategy and the establishment of the national hydrogen platform. It will be followed by the final milestone 176 related to the implementation of key measures of the Hydrogen Strategy.

The reform has a final expected date for implementation on 31 March 2026.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary document	Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled
2	Evaluation Report of the Austrian Hydrogen Strategy (Umsetzungsbericht zur Wasserstoffstrategie für Österreich) Link to the webpage of the Ministry where the Hydrogen Strategy has been published and can be accessed: https://www.bmwet.gv.at/Services/Publikationen/publikationen-energie/umsetzung-wasserstoffstrategie.html	Evaluation report on the Austrian Hydrogen Strategy, as published by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Protection (BMK) and the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economic Affairs (BMAW). The strategy outlines ambitious targets for the ramp-up of the hydrogen

		market in Austria, as well as policies for implementation, structured along eight policy fields. The strategy requires that evaluation reports are published every two years.

3. Analysis:

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

The first evaluation report on the implementation of the Hydrogen Strategy shall be published.

The first report assessing the implementation of the Hydrogen Strategy was published by the Federal Ministry for Climate Protection (BMK) and the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economic Affairs (BMAW) in July 2024. It is available on the website of the BMWET (evidence 2). This was checked by the Commission services on 12 September 2025. With the formation of the new Federal Government in March 2025, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economic Affairs (BMAW) was renamed Federal Ministry for Economy, Energy and Tourism (BMWET).

It shall include the state of play…

The report contains in chapter three an overview of the development of the hydrogen economy on an international and European level (pp. 10-18), and in chapter four an in-depth analysis of the hydrogen economy in Austria, describing the status quo in five areas: current deployment and production of hydrogen, emerging hydrogen (import) infrastructure, research and development, legal and regulatory framework for the hydrogen ramp-up and funding landscape for hydrogen in Austria (pp. 18-28) (evidence 2).

…and an assessment of the progress made on the objectives included in the Hydrogen Strategy.

The report assesses the progress made on the objectives included in the Hydrogen Strategy in chapter five "Implementation Status of the measures". It covers the eight policy areas, in the form of a summary overview on pp. 29 - 30 which is the following:

1. Enabling a timely market ramp-up through flagship projects: implemented
2. Support and incentives for the production of renewable hydrogen: under implementation
3. Incentivising marked-based business models and the targeted application of climate neutral hydrogen in industry: under implementation
4. Establishing an infrastructure for hydrogen and creating import opportunities: under implementation
5. Targeted advancement of hydrogen technologies in the area of mobility: implemented
6. Intensifying research and development activities: under implementation

7. Creation of the national hydrogen-platform H2Austria for stakeholder dialogue: implemented
8. Austria’s priorities on European and international level: under implementation

This summary overview is followed by a detailed evaluation of the progress made for each objective and related policy measures on pp. 31 – 58 in chapter five “Implementation status of the measures” (evidence 2).

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number and name of the Target: 178 - Installation of photovoltaic systems

Related Measure: C5.B.1 Photovoltaic systems

Quantitative Indicator: Number

Baseline: 0

Target: 17500

Time: Q4 2024

1. Context:

Investment C5.B.1 aims to accelerate the expansion of renewable energy by supporting the take-up of photovoltaic systems with or without electricity storage. The subsidy scheme provides funding for photovoltaic systems with a capacity of up to 20 kWp. It may also support electricity storage of up to 50 kwh when installed together with the renewable energy generation system.

Target 178 requires the installation of 17500 photovoltaic systems with or without electricity storage within the capacity limits specified in the funding call.

Target 178 is the first intermediary target of the investment. Under the previous Milestone 177, the guidelines of the funding call were published and assessed. The final target is Target 179, which requires the installation of another 17500 photovoltaic system to achieve the total objective of 35000 units installed.

The investment has a final expected date for implementation on 31 December 2025.

2. Evidence provided:

	Name of the evidence	Short description
1	Summary Document	Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.
2	Full list of projects	List of all projects that received funding including the unique identifier of each final recipient, the peak capacity of the photovoltaic system, the project name and if applicable the capacity of the electricity storage system.
3	Registration form or ID of applicant	Documentary evidence certifying the full name of the recipient as well as the legal status (e.g. registration form ‘Meldezettel’). Submitted for each sampled project.
4	Payment letter	Copies of the payment letters issued by the competent authority (Kommunalkredit Public Consulting, KPC). Submitted for each sampled project.

5	Technical specifications	Technical specifications, including the capacity of the photovoltaic system in kilowatt peak output (kWp) and, if applicable, the capacity of the storage system in kilowatt hour (kWh). It also includes the internal verification of the implementing agency KPC, certifying the project as eligible. Submitted for each sampled project.
6	Certificate of works completion	Certificate of works completion signed or stamped and issued by a third-party professional. Submitted for each sampled project.

3. Analysis:

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

17 500 projects consisting in photovoltaic systems up to 20 kWp, with or without electricity storage systems up to 50 kWh, shall be installed.

A list of 17 500 projects of photovoltaic systems with or without electricity storage has been submitted by the Austrian authorities (evidence 2). 4 683 units out of 17 500 include electricity storage (26.76%). Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units on 28 August 2025, Austria submitted evidence for all sampled units. In the random sample of 60 units, 18 include electricity storage (30%).

For each sample, Austria submitted a registration form or ID of the applicant (evidence 3), a payment letter issued by the implementing agency (evidence 4), the internal verification checklist with technical specifications for the project (evidence 5) and a signed certificate of works completed by a third-party professional (evidence 6). This certificate is issued by an independent professional. These documents confirm recipient eligibility, funding disbursement, technical compliance, and third-party verified installation.

On 16 September 2025, the Commission services checked the sample which confirmed for all 60 units that the photovoltaic systems have a capacity of up to 20 kWp and have been installed as evidenced by the payment letter and the certificate of works completed (evidence 4 and 6). The technical specifications also demonstrate that for the 18 units that included electricity storage, the storage system’s capacity did not exceed 50 kWh. Therefore, all projects were found to be compliant.

4. Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled