

Meeting with BASF

07/01/2021

08:00 Virtual

Participants

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Michael Hager, Head of Cabinet

Topics: The Recovery and Resilience Plan of Germany

presented its views about the importance of forward-looking investments and reforms in Germany under the umbrella of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and inquired about the process that the Commission follows for assessing Member State's recovery and resilience plans (RRPs) and to follow-up on implementation. was also interested in understanding the balance between investments in the public sector and in cooperation with private companies. Members of Parliament commented on the state of progress with the implementation of the RRF and asked questions on relevant aspects of the RRF Regulation, such as the green and digital targets and methodologies, and the assessment criteria for reforms in line with the Semester recommendations.

Mr. Hager welcomed the interest of BASF and, private companies more generally, on the RRF and the potential for the Facility to help Member States recover from the COVID-19 pandemic by embracing the opportunities from the green and digital transitions. He explained the assessment process provided by the RRF Regulation and the performance-based nature of the Facility. As for the role of private companies as beneficiaries of investments under the plan, Mr. Hager explained that Member States are free to choose the investments that best reply to the pillars set out in the RRF Regulation and in the relevant country-specific recommendations. For instance, SMEs may perhaps benefit directly from grants to improve their digitalisation, and consortia of small and large companies may perhaps benefit from projects geared at improving research and innovation. In any case, the choice is up to the Member States and State Aid rules apply where relevant.