
Informele RAZ 18 mei 2021 - Cohesiebeleid & RRP's

Spreekpunten [ACTIEF]

Intro

- Thank you, Presidency, for the interesting discussion paper. It describes how the RRF and Cohesion Policy could jointly offer a unique opportunity to address many of the current, interconnected, challenges.
- However, there is a risk of overlap between the two, so we welcome the Presidency's initiative to have discussion here today. Good to have the opportunity to share ideas how we can distinguish between RRF and Cohesion investments to make sure that we achieve complementarity and synergies instead.

RRF

- NL aims to submit an ambitious RRP, with reforms and investments that address the 2019 and 2020 Country Specific Recommendations. A decision on the Dutch RRP will be made by our **next government**, to be formed in the coming months, so the substance of our RRP is still in a preparation phase.
- For NL it is important that the RRP's are used to take on **ambitious structural reforms** in line with the Country Specific Recommendations. We also support the fixed minimal level of dedication of RRP's to the twin transition.

- Besides, the RRF should secure the level playing field within and the openness of the European economy while also contributing to an increased level of strategic autonomy.

Cohesion Policy

- **Buiten de reikwijdte**
[Redacted text]

Synergies

- We shouldn't merely be doubling our efforts but try and look at programme level if certain interventions are better served by cohesion policy or the RRF. The suggestions in the presidency paper to look at scale, eligibility and timing already helps. Especially the later; RRF, as part of Next Generation EU can be focused on recovery and resilience. Cohesion Policy only on resilience; that is not a crisis instrument but meant for a structural adjustments in the economy.
- NL believes that both the NRRPs and the partnership agreement should therefore describe where Member States think the one or the other is more suitable.
- All in all, we believe that both instruments will have their role to play in promoting our European regions and their economies. There is still a lot to be done. We look forward to working with you on these challenges. **Thank you.**