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Dear Minister,

I am pleased to invite you to the meeting of the General Affairs Council (Cohesion) which will take place in Brussels on Monday, 23 November 2026, from 10:00 to 13:00. The meeting will provide Ministers with an opportunity to exchange views on the future design of Cohesion Policy and contribute to preparations for the post-2027 legislative framework, with a particular focus on simplification for beneficiaries.

The ministerial discussion will be centred on the theme:

"Simplification for Beneficiaries: Shaping a More Accessible and Effective Cohesion Policy for the 2028-2034 Programming Period."

Drawing on lessons from the current programming period, Ministers will be invited to reflect on how Cohesion Policy can continue to deliver effective, place-based investments while reducing unnecessary administrative burden and improving accessibility for beneficiaries. Particular attention will be given to the experiences of local authorities, smaller organisations and first-time applicants, and to identifying practical measures that can strengthen the effectiveness, efficiency and visibility of Cohesion Policy in the future.

The discussion will be guided by a Presidency background paper and will focus on two key questions:

- Which simplification measures introduced under the 2021-2027 programmes have proven most effective in making EU funds easier to access and use for beneficiaries, and should be carried forward into the 2028-2034 framework?
- What concrete simplification measure would have the greatest impact on making Cohesion Policy more accessible, particularly for smaller organisations, local authorities and first-time applicants?

The final agenda and documentation will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

I look forward to welcoming you to Brussels and to a productive exchange of views.

Yours sincerely,



Jack Chambers T.D.

Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure,

Public Service Reform and Digitalisation