

Background information on the post-2027 MFF

February 2026

This digest provides a collection of documents prepared by academia, think tanks, other EU institutions and bodies, as well as stakeholders that could be useful for Members of the European Parliament's Committee on Budgets to stay informed about the debate concerning the next Multiannual Financial Framework, starting in 2028. The document is produced monthly by the Budgetary Support Unit in the Directorate-General for Budgetary Affairs (DG BUDG) and the Members' Research Service in the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS).

Academia and Think tanks

[What's next for Global Europe in the 2026 MFF negotiations?](#)

By Alexei Jones. ECDPM. 14 January 2026

Abstract

'Negotiations on the EU's next multiannual financial framework (MFF) have entered a more political phase following the December Council discussions. In this commentary, Alexei Jones explores how emerging horizontal budget choices are reshaping the context for the Global Europe instrument, and why connecting the dots between internal priorities and external action will be decisive as negotiations move into 2026.'

[The Commission's EU budget proposals and strategic autonomy](#)

By Iain Begg. Audit Committee Institute. 15 January 2026

Abstract

'In July 2025, the European Commission¹ released its proposals for the next (2028 – 34) multi-annual financial framework (MFF). The document claims the proposals go well beyond financial planning and are 'a strategic statement of the Union's collective political ambition to deliver on its priorities and to act with strength and unity on the global stage over the next decade'. Can this claim be validated?'



The value of health: Investing in Europe's future

By Elizabeth Kuiper, Samuel Goodger. EPC, 20 January 2026

Abstract

'As negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) begin, European budgets face a turning point. Geopolitical and geoeconomic challenge are pushing the EU to prioritise security spending and competitiveness. While this is often framed as a necessary trade-off, improving the effectiveness and fiscal sustainability of EU healthcare systems can deliver much-needed economic growth and boost workforce productivity – including in the defence sector. Moreover, investing in healthier populations can generate significant savings by reducing treatment complexity, shortening hospital stays and lowering staffing needs.'

The EU fiscal framework undermines innovation and security

By Paolo Surico. CEPR. 5 January 2026

Abstract

'European member states may now exceed deficit limits if the borrowing finances defence. This column argues that this fiscal exemption is economically incoherent: it subsidises the least productive spending while constraining the most productive, especially R&D. Drawing lessons from the post-1945 US innovation model, it proposes exempting innovation-related expenditure, rather than procurement, to raise long-run growth while maintaining fiscal responsibility and strategic autonomy. This framework would be operationalised with R&D bonds, the European Investment Fund, and stronger venture capital markets.'

The rural 10% target cannot be monitored

By Alan Matthews. CAP Reform. 21 January 2026

Abstract

'In plain language, the idea [of the Commission] is that the proposed 10% target for expenditure dedicated to rural areas would build on the proposed system of tracking expenditure in the performance regulation that already includes a category for rural areas. This is similar to the way the target for social expenditure in the new Fund would also be tracked.'

The purpose of this post is to highlight that fulfilling this commitment will be easier said than done. Previous experience with tracking rural expenditure in cohesion policy does not bode well for the operationalisation of this commitment. There will be a need for much greater clarity in any text emerging from the trilogue negotiations as to how this measurement will take place.'

Potential increase in CAP funding in next MFF

By Alan Matthews. CAP Reform. 7 January 2026

Abstract

'Commission President von der Leyen sent a letter to the Cypriot Presidency of the Council and to the President of the European Parliament at 6 January 2026, in which she proposed to make additional resources available as of 2028 to address the needs of farmers and rural communities.'

This letter was sent on the same day as the Cyprus Presidency invited all Agriculture Ministers to a meeting also attended by the Commissioners for agriculture, trade and health to provide reassurances to Italy and other Member States to sign up to the contentious EU-Mercosur free trade agreement on Friday. The proposal in the letter would be a form of side-payment to bring the wavering countries on board. I provide some context in this section.'

EU budget proposals: Caught between ambition and governance failure

By Adriaan Schout. Clingendael. 11 December 2025

Abstract

'Will the Commission's proposals for the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) solve the deficiencies that have plagued EU spending for a long time? The proposals are ambitious. Yet, the MFF will continue to underperform without profound reform of the current governance structures.'

How to Fund European Ambitions? Opportunities and Challenges for the Next MFF

By Luca Barana, Matteo Bursi and Luca Cinciripini. Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI). December 2025

Abstract

'This discussion paper explores the policy principles – and related trade-offs – shaping the Commission's proposal (flexibility, simplification, conditionality and diversification) and analyses how bridging the external and internal dimension of EU funding may contribute to relaunching strategic investments in European competitiveness, while highlighting the challenges ahead.'

What future for EU Cohesion Policy? Reform ambitions and realities

By Mendez Carlos, Kah Stefan. EPRC Delft. 12 January 2026

Abstract

'This paper assesses how the Commission's MFF proposals for the 2028–34 EU budget would fundamentally reshape Cohesion Policy by merging instruments into a single Fund delivered through national plans and performance-based payments. The analysis concludes by identifying reform improvements including transparent and predictable allocation mechanisms, safeguards for all categories of regions, effective multi-level governance arrangements, and audit and control systems aligned with a performance-based delivery approach.'

EU bodies

Opinion 04/2026 concerning the proposal for a Decision on the system of own resources of the European Union

European Court of Auditors (ECA), 28 January 2026

Opinion 03/2026 Concerning The Proposal For A Regulation Of The Council Laying Down The Multiannual Financial Framework For The Years 2028 To 2034

European Court of Auditors (ECA), 28 January 2026

Opinion 02/2026 concerning the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Horizon Europe, the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, for the period 2028–2034, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination

European Court of Auditors (ECA), 12 January 2026

Opinion 01/2026 concerning the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing the European Competitiveness Fund ("the ECF"), including the specific programme for defence research and innovation activities

European Court of Auditors (ECA), 12 January 2026

Establishing the European Social Fund as part of the National and Regional Partnership Plan

EESC Opinion. SOC/845-EESC-2025. Adopted on 21 January 2026

The EU's ambitions cannot be delivered on the cheap

EESC Press Release. 29 January 2026

[Future EU budget: EU must put regions and cities at the heart of competitiveness and single market policies](#)

COR Press Release. 23 January 2026

Stakeholders

[European Commission's proposal for the 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework \(MFF\)](#)

Business Europe. 13 January 2026

[Financing Europe's future by mobilising more strategic investment](#)

EPC. Conference summary. 16 January 2026

[ICLEI Europe on the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2028– 2034](#)

ICLEI Europe MFF position paper. December 2025

[Position on the European Commission Proposal for the Next Multi-annual Financial Framework \(2028–2032\)](#)

Hope and Homes for Children. 23 December 2025

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