



European Committee  
of the Regions



MUCH more than a  
MORE budget

# Multiannual Financial Framework post 2027

The debate on the next long-term budget is not just about money, it is about the future we want for our Union.

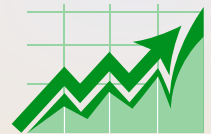
From  
**2028**  
to  
**2034**



The European Union's long-term budget sets the main spending priorities and the maximum amounts available for each broad area of action. The next one, currently under negotiation, will cover the seven-year period from 2028 to 2034.

**1.27%**

of EU Gross National  
Income



Regions and cities call for the MFF 2028-34 to be set up at 1,27% of the EU GNI (excluding 150 billion euro NextGenerationEU debt repayments), in line with the preliminary requests of the European Parliament. Compared to the European Commission's proposal, this position increases the funding available for EU programmes.

## New sources of EU revenue

Regions and cities support the European Commission's proposal to find new sources of EU revenue (own resources) and **urge the Council to swiftly reach an agreement** on the matter. This will strengthen the capacity to respond flexibly to unforeseen challenges while ensuring sufficient funding for long-term development.

## 'Do no harm to Cohesion Policy'

The CoR strongly calls for the 'Do no harm to cohesion' principle to be **applied to all funds and programmes**, including those intended to boost competitiveness. Territorial impact assessments should be carried out systematically on all proposals which could increase territorial disparities.

*What we are discussing is much more than a budget. It is about our future. It is about democracy and the Europe we want for our citizens. It is about our defence and innovation capacity. It is about creating a fair Union. That is why we are putting forward these proposals. If we want Europe to be competitive and secure, the work must start in our cities and regions."*

**Sari Rautio (FI/EPP)**

Rapporteur on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-34  
and the own resources package  
President of the EPP-CoR Group

# What the European Commission proposes

Merging cohesion, agriculture and other policy funding, into a **large fund** managed centrally by national authorities via National and Regional Partnership Plans.

Putting in competition resources supporting **cohesion, agriculture and other policies**, jeopardising the predictability of long-term investment.

Introducing '**regional checks**' to ensure that local realities are at the core of the national plans.

The **involvement of territorial authorities** in the design and management of Cohesion Policy is weakened.

Cohesion Policy's resources are guaranteed **only to less developed regions** and not to 'in transition' and more developed regions.

The possibility to adapt to new priorities via **more flexibility provisions** within each fund; and the creation of a crisis mechanism to respond to unforeseen events.

Creation of a **new European Competitiveness Fund** to invest in strategic technologies.

Respecting the **rule of law** remains essential. National and Regional Partnership Plans include additional safeguards to ensure that Member States respect the principles of the rule of law and the Charter of fundamental rights.



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**Keeping a dedicated stand-alone budget for Cohesion Policy.** The allocation for Cohesion Policy must be kept at least at the current level.

**Increasing the funding for National and Regional Partnership Plans** and preserving the **long-term and predictable nature of investments** supported by these plans.

**Legal guarantees** that 'regional checks' will ensure local and regional authorities' full involvement in preparing, implementing and evaluating national plans.

The principles of **partnership, subsidiarity and multi-level governance** must be legally binding to guarantee that the new EU long-term budget can effectively deliver.

Guarantees at EU level to ensure Cohesion Policy's support for **all regions** and not only for the less developed ones.

**Flexibility must not open the door to centralisation** or shift funding for long-term investment into short-term tools to tackle crises and new priorities. **Simplification should serve the beneficiaries first and foremost.**

**Cohesion and competitiveness are mutually beneficial.** Success in boosting European competitiveness depends heavily on effective coordination between national, regional and local actors.

**Respecting the rule of law** should be an essential condition to benefit from the EU budget. Smart measures must ensure that final beneficiaries – including regions and cities – are not penalised for failure by national authorities to comply with the rule of law.

What cities and regions call for





Full text of the CoR opinion  
on the future MFF

MFF-related opinions'  
roadmap



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