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MEDITERRANEAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

WG1 – April 15, 2025

Consultation on the next EU long-term budget

Launched by the EC on 12/2/2025

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The consultations

EC is preparing the next **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF),** the EU's long-term budget starting in 2028 on the basis of Political Guidelines for the European Commission 2024-2029: a simpler, more focused and impactful budget, reflecting Europe's strategic priorities.

2 february 2025 EC launched 7 public consultations on how to make the most of the EU budget.

The consultations cover a range of policy areas, including cohesion policy, agriculture and home affairs, with the aim of designing a more effective and efficient budget that delivers on key objectives.

The consultations

Consultation period
12 February 2025 - 06 May 2025 (midnight Brussels time)

- Implementing EU Funds with Member States and regions
- EU funding for competitiveness
- EU funding for external action
- EU funding for cross-border education, training and solidarity, youth, media, culture, and creative sectors, values, and civil society
- EU funding for civil protection, preparedness and response to crises
- EU funding for the single market, and cooperation between national authorities
- Performance of the EU budget

Available at the following link:

https://commission.europa.eu/news/you-can-now-take-part-shaping-next-eu-long-term-budget-2025-02-12_en

The consultations

It is possible to participate in the public consultation by replying to the online questionnaire.

Questionnaires are available in some or all official EU languages.

Contributions can be submitted in any official EU language.

The next EU long-term budget for EC

On the 11 february 2025, the EC published a Communication on ‘The Road to the next Multiannual Financial Framework’. **COM(2025)46**

key policy and budgetary challenges that will shape the design of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

Groundwork for reflections on how to adapt the EU's long-term budget to evolving needs and priorities

With this Communication, the Commission also launches in parallel a **Europe-wide campaign with a range of stakeholders**, including Member States governments, regional entities, and citizens.

The next EU long-term budget for EC

The new approach of the Commission for a modern EU budget should include:

- a plan for each country with key reforms and investments, designed in partnership with national, regional, and local authorities
- a European Competitiveness Fund that will establish an investment capacity to support strategic sectors and critical technologies
- financing for external action that is more impactful, targeted and aligned with strategic interests
- additional safeguards protecting the rule of law

The Commission will present its formal proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework in July 2025, with a view to securing a timely agreement before its implementation in January 2028.

Commission work programme 2025

7 key deliverables underlining key expected initiatives in the next weeks/months:

1) A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness
2) **A new era for European Defence and Security**
3) **Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model**
4) Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature (Vision for Agriculture and Food)
5) Protecting our democracy, upholding our values
6) A global Europe: Leveraging our power and partnerships

7) Delivering together and preparing our Union for the future:

"New Multiannual Financial Framework focused on simplifying access to EU funding and enhancing financial impact to support national, private, and institutional financing"

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Public consultation
Implementing EU funding with Member States and regions

This consultation covers EU funding implemented with Members States and regions in the following policy areas: cohesion policy, common agricultural policy, fisheries and maritime policies, home affairs and Trans-European Networks.

Example: How important are the following policy challenges to you?

Increasing impacts of climate change and environmental degradation (e.g. natural disasters, loss of biodiversity)
Decarbonising the economy
Securing an affordable, sustainable and secure energy supply
Maximising the potential of the circular economy
Securing a stable supply of high-quality food at all times at reasonable prices
Economic disparities and crises faced by the agricultural and fishery sectors

Public consultation
Implementing EU funding with Member States and regions

Example: To what extent do you consider the following factors as obstacles to the EU budget achieving its objectives?

Too many funds with overlapping objectives
Different and often complex fund-specific rules on access to funding and compliance
Administrative capacity at national, regional and local level
Administrative burden for beneficiaries, regional and national authorities
Overly complicated governance and distribution of funds
Lack of flexibility to adapt to new and unforeseen developments
National regulatory environment makes EU funding less effective
Fraud, corruption and other illegal activities targeting EU funds
Other (please specify below)

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Public consultation
Implementing EU funding with Member States and regions

Example: To what extent do you agree that the below objectives are supported by EU policies for Fisheries and maritime policies?

Contribute to achieving EU objectives, including fostering sustainable fisheries, and restoring and conserving aquatic biological resources
Support EU public goods (e.g. cross-border cooperation)
Address cross-border challenges (e.g. climate change)

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Public consultation
Implementing EU funding with Member States and regions

To what extent do you agree that the following options could help the EU budget become more effective and efficient?

Applying common rules, timelines and eligibility criteria to all relevant EU funds
Fewer, clearer and simpler rules
Reduce the number of EU funding programmes
Simplify the management of EU funding programmes at national and regional level
Prioritise projects with high EU added value, such as multi-country projects and projects that contribute to the EU's strategic priorities
Introduce more flexibility into resource allocation to react to crises and emerging needs
Use funds to promote both reforms and investments
Simplify access to funding for beneficiaries
Use more EU funds to stimulate private and national investment, including through financial instruments (e.g. loans, guarantees, equity)
Place greater focus on achieving results, including via performance-based funding (such as financing not linked to costs)
Prevent and combat fraud and corruption better, as well as other illegal activities targeting EU funds

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Public Consultation – EU funding for competitiveness

The Commission has identified a number of possible measures for EU funding to better support EU competitiveness. To what extent do you think such measures could have a positive impact?

Applying common rules, timelines and eligibility criteria to all relevant EU funds
Increased focus of funding on key current and future strategic priorities
Reducing the number of EU funding programmes
Continuity in EU funding from research to manufacturing
Introduce more flexibility into resource allocation to react to crises and emerging needs

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Beyond Consultation….

- **Multi-AC letter on the future of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)**

- Ask to the EC to increase funding in the post-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) - **separated and independent** - to face the challenges ahead
- …

I ask your opinion!

Thank you!