

Public consultation on the next MFF: EU funding for the single market, and cooperation between national authorities

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The current multiannual financial framework – the EU’s long-term budget – runs until the end of 2027. In 2025, the Commission will submit comprehensive proposals for the post-2027 multiannual financial framework and for the next generation of financial programmes that will receive funding. These programmes /funds provide financial support to hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries such as public authorities, non-governmental organisations, businesses, farmers, students, scientists and many others.

Following President von der Leyen's [Political Guidelines for the 2024-2029 European Commission](#), the Commission will work together for a simpler, more focused and responsive long-term budget that reflects the EU’s strategic priorities with the ambition to be an ‘investment Commission’. This approach aims to align budget/funding with the strategic goals, priorities and policies. The multiannual financial framework for the period after 2027 must reflect this.

The Commission’s proposals will be designed to make it possible for the EU to deliver on the policies that matter most, in areas where it can achieve more than Member States acting alone. This requires a careful assessment both of what has worked well in the past and what could be improved in the future. The next EU budget will draw lessons from the current budget – notably in terms of simplicity and flexibility, speed and strategic focus.

As an integral part of the process, the Commission is launching a series of public consultations to gather views from all interested parties on how to make the very most of every euro of the EU budget.

To deliver on the abovementioned objectives, this consultation covers several policy areas, including the single market (networks, digital tools and interoperability,

skills, market surveillance, small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) and competitiveness, standards, consumer protection, effective enforcement of EU competition policy, food safety), European statistics, customs (protection of the single market, supervision of the EU's international trade, customs controls, collection of customs duties), taxation (indirect taxes, direct taxation) as well as anti-fraud (fight against fraud, corruption and other illegal activities). The decision to cluster issues serves to support the preparatory work and does not pre-empt the architecture of future programmes.

Many challenges require a coordinated response and supporting services at EU level to improve the functioning of the single market, including by strengthening cooperation between national authorities. These policy areas aim to improve competitiveness across the EU to ensure sustainable prosperity.

The questionnaire consists of three parts. Part 1 collects some information about the respondent, while Part 2 contains questions related to EU funds addressing the single market and cooperation between national authorities. Part 3 contains two closing questions.

It should take about 9 minutes to complete the survey. You can save your replies as a draft and finish them later. Please limit your additional comments on the questions in the free text box. You can upload a document stating your views at the end of the survey.

Part 1

About you

* Language of my contribution

- ☐ Bulgarian
- ☐ Croatian
- ☐ Czech
- ☐ Danish
- ☐ Dutch
- ☒ English
- ☐ Estonian
- ☐ Finnish
- ☐ French
- ☐ German

- ☐ Greek
- ☐ Hungarian
- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Italian
- ☐ Latvian
- ☐ Lithuanian
- ☐ Maltese
- ☐ Polish
- ☐ Portuguese
- ☐ Romanian
- ☐ Slovak
- ☐ Slovenian
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Swedish

* I am giving my contribution as

- ☐ Academic/research institution
- ☐ Business association
- ☐ Company/business
- ☐ Consumer organisation
- ☐ EU citizen
- ☐ Environmental organisation
- ☐ Non-EU citizen
- ☒ Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- ☐ Public authority
- ☐ Trade union
- ☐ Other

* First name

Delphine

* Surname

GRANDSART

* Email (this won't be published)

* Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

European Passengers' Federation

* Organisation size

- ☒ Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- ☐ Small (10 to 49 employees)
- ☐ Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- ☐ Large (250 or more)

Transparency register number

Check if your organisation is on the transparency register. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

532739823521-44

* Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

This list does not represent the official position of the European institutions with regard to the legal status or policy of the entities mentioned. It is a harmonisation of often divergent lists and practices.

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|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ Afghanistan | ☐ Djibouti | ☐ Libya | ☐ Saint Martin |
| ☐ Åland Islands | ☐ Dominica | ☐ Liechtenstein | ☐ Saint Pierre and Miquelon |
| ☐ Albania | ☐ Dominican Republic | ☐ Lithuania | ☐ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
| ☐ Algeria | ☐ Ecuador | ☐ Luxembourg | ☐ Samoa |
| ☐ American Samoa | ☐ Egypt | ☐ Macau | ☐ San Marino |
| ☐ Andorra | ☐ El Salvador | ☐ Madagascar | ☐ São Tomé and Príncipe |
| ☐ Angola | ☐ Equatorial Guinea | ☐ Malawi | ☐ Saudi Arabia |
| ☐ Anguilla | ☐ Eritrea | ☐ Malaysia | ☐ Senegal |
| ☐ Antarctica | ☐ Estonia | ☐ Maldives | ☐ Serbia |

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| ○ Antigua and Barbuda | ○ Eswatini | ○ Mali | ○ Seychelles |
| ○ Argentina | ○ Ethiopia | ○ Malta | ○ Sierra Leone |
| ○ Armenia | ○ Falkland Islands | ○ Marshall Islands | ○ Singapore |
| ○ Aruba | ○ Faroe Islands | ○ Martinique | ○ Sint Maarten |
| ○ Australia | ○ Fiji | ○ Mauritania | ○ Slovakia |
| ○ Austria | ○ Finland | ○ Mauritius | ○ Slovenia |
| ○ Azerbaijan | ○ France | ○ Mayotte | ○ Solomon Islands |
| ○ Bahamas | ○ French Guiana | ○ Mexico | ○ Somalia |
| ○ Bahrain | ○ French Polynesia | ○ Micronesia | ○ South Africa |
| ○ Bangladesh | ○ French Southern and Antarctic Lands | ○ Moldova | ○ South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands |
| ○ Barbados | ○ Gabon | ○ Monaco | ○ South Korea |
| ○ Belarus | ○ Georgia | ○ Mongolia | ○ South Sudan |
| ● Belgium | ○ Germany | ○ Montenegro | ○ Spain |
| ○ Belize | ○ Ghana | ○ Montserrat | ○ Sri Lanka |
| ○ Benin | ○ Gibraltar | ○ Morocco | ○ Sudan |
| ○ Bermuda | ○ Greece | ○ Mozambique | ○ Suriname |
| ○ Bhutan | ○ Greenland | ○ Myanmar/Burma | ○ Svalbard and Jan Mayen |
| ○ Bolivia | ○ Grenada | ○ Namibia | ○ Sweden |
| ○ Bonaire Saint Eustatius and Saba | ○ Guadeloupe | ○ Nauru | ○ Switzerland |
| ○ Bosnia and Herzegovina | ○ Guam | ○ Nepal | ○ Syria |
| ○ Botswana | ○ Guatemala | ○ Netherlands | ○ Taiwan |
| ○ Bouvet Island | ○ Guernsey | ○ New Caledonia | ○ Tajikistan |
| ○ Brazil | ○ Guinea | ○ New Zealand | ○ Tanzania |
| ○ British Indian Ocean Territory | ○ Guinea-Bissau | ○ Nicaragua | ○ Thailand |
| ○ British Virgin Islands | ○ Guyana | ○ Niger | ○ The Gambia |

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| ☐ Brunei | ☐ Haiti | ☐ Nigeria | ☐ Timor-Leste |
| ☐ Bulgaria | ☐ Heard Island and McDonald Islands | ☐ Niue | ☐ Togo |
| ☐ Burkina Faso | ☐ Honduras | ☐ Norfolk Island | ☐ Tokelau |
| ☐ Burundi | ☐ Hong Kong | ☐ Northern Mariana Islands | ☐ Tonga |
| ☐ Cambodia | ☐ Hungary | ☐ North Korea | ☐ Trinidad and Tobago |
| ☐ Cameroon | ☐ Iceland | ☐ North Macedonia | ☐ Tunisia |
| ☐ Canada | ☐ India | ☐ Norway | ☐ Türkiye |
| ☐ Cape Verde | ☐ Indonesia | ☐ Oman | ☐ Turkmenistan |
| ☐ Cayman Islands | ☐ Iran | ☐ Pakistan | ☐ Turks and Caicos Islands |
| ☐ Central African Republic | ☐ Iraq | ☐ Palau | ☐ Tuvalu |
| ☐ Chad | ☐ Ireland | ☐ Palestine | ☐ Uganda |
| ☐ Chile | ☐ Isle of Man | ☐ Panama | ☐ Ukraine |
| ☐ China | ☐ Israel | ☐ Papua New Guinea | ☐ United Arab Emirates |
| ☐ Christmas Island | ☐ Italy | ☐ Paraguay | ☐ United Kingdom |
| ☐ Clipperton | ☐ Jamaica | ☐ Peru | ☐ United States |
| ☐ Cocos (Keeling) Islands | ☐ Japan | ☐ Philippines | ☐ United States Minor Outlying Islands |
| ☐ Colombia | ☐ Jersey | ☐ Pitcairn Islands | ☐ Uruguay |
| ☐ Comoros | ☐ Jordan | ☐ Poland | ☐ US Virgin Islands |
| ☐ Congo | ☐ Kazakhstan | ☐ Portugal | ☐ Uzbekistan |
| ☐ Cook Islands | ☐ Kenya | ☐ Puerto Rico | ☐ Vanuatu |
| ☐ Costa Rica | ☐ Kiribati | ☐ Qatar | ☐ Vatican City |
| ☐ Côte d'Ivoire | ☐ Kosovo | ☐ Réunion | ☐ Venezuela |
| ☐ Croatia | ☐ Kuwait | ☐ Romania | ☐ Vietnam |
| ☐ Cuba | ☐ Kyrgyzstan | ☐ Russia | ☐ Wallis and Futuna |
| ☐ Curaçao | ☐ Laos | ☐ Rwanda | ☐ Western Sahara |
| ☐ Cyprus | ☐ Latvia | ☐ Saint Barthélemy | ☐ Yemen |

- ☐ Czechia
- ☐ Lebanon
- ☐ Saint Helena
Ascension and
Tristan da Cunha
- ☐ Zambia
- ☐ Democratic
Republic of the
Congo
- ☐ Lesotho
- ☐ Saint Kitts and
Nevis
- ☐ Zimbabwe
- ☐ Denmark
- ☐ Liberia
- ☐ Saint Lucia

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. **For the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association', 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published.** Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

* Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

☐ Anonymous

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

☒ Public

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

☒ I agree with the [personal data protection provisions](#)

Part 2 - Questions related to EU funds addressing the single market and cooperation between national authorities

The Commission has identified relevant challenges linked to a well-functioning single market and cooperation between national authorities. How important are these challenges?

	Very important	Important	Moderately important	Not at all important	Don't know/not applicable
Empowering national authorities, citizens, consumers and businesses by addressing knowledge and data gaps and overcoming barriers	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Improving cooperation and collaborative efforts and integration among Member States and between Member States and the Commission	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Harmonising Member States' approach in addressing gaps in financing, especially for SMEs, to stimulate growth and scaling up	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Ensuring that rulemaking, standard-setting and enforcement at EU level remains evidence-based, effective and tailored to evolving needs	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Addressing a fragmented and complex digital environment	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Addressing regulatory fragmentation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Addressing differences in the interpretation of EU law	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Optimising technical and administrative capacities for Member States, including civil society, to ensure a level playing field	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Addressing disparities in the digitalisation of public administration	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Challenges related to the effective protection of EU funds against fraud, corruption and other illegal activity	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

Other (please specify below)



To what extent do the current policies address these challenges?

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know/not applicable
Empowering national authorities, citizens, consumers and businesses by addressing knowledge and data gaps and overcoming barriers	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Improving cooperation and collaborative efforts and integration among Member States and between Member States and the Commission	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Harmonising Member States' approach in addressing gaps in financing, especially for SMEs, to stimulate growth and scaling up	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Ensuring that rulemaking, standard-setting and enforcement at EU level remains evidence-based, effective and tailored to evolving needs	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Addressing a fragmented and complex digital environment in the EU	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Addressing regulatory fragmentation	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Optimising technical and administrative capacities among the Member States, including civil society, to ensure a level playing field	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Addressing differences in the interpretation of EU law	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Strengthening the digitalisation of public administration and addressing differences	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

To what extent do you see the following as obstacles to the EU budget achieving its objectives?

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know/not applicable
Too many programmes with overlapping policy goals	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Lack of coordination or synergies between programmes	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Different and often complex fund-specific rules on access to funding and compliance	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐

Administrative capacity at national, regional and regional level	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Administrative burden for beneficiaries, regional and national authorities	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Lack of flexibility to adapt to new and unforeseen developments	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Insufficient alignment with national policies	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Focus is on reimbursing costs rather than on achieving results	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
National regulatory environment makes EU funding less effective	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Fraud, corruption and other illegal activities affecting the EU's financial interests	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other (please specify below)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know/not applicable
Applying common rules, timelines and eligibility criteria to all relevant EU funds	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Fewer, clearer and simpler rules	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reducing the number of EU funding programmes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Introduce more flexibility into resource allocation to react to crises and emerging needs	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Use funds to promote both reforms and investments	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Simplifying access to and information about funding for beneficiaries	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Place greater focus on achieving results, including via performance-based funding (such as financing not linked to costs)	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify below)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

The current EU budget supports the single market and EU customs union, tax cooperation and anti-fraud measures, including transnational and cross-border benefits and economies of scale for businesses, consumers, citizens and national

authorities. The Commission has identified the following intervention areas. How important are these to you?

	Very important	Important	Moderately important	Not at all important	Don't know/not applicable
Supporting businesses to strengthen competitiveness in a fast-changing business environment	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Supporting fair competition	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Supporting EU economic security through a customs union acting as one	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Supporting fair taxation and reducing the tax gap	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Supporting the protection and empowerment of EU consumers	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Supporting capacity building, supervision and joint enforcement of EU rules	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Deploying common and/or interoperable digital solutions, including portals and tools	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Supporting standardisation efforts (i.e. development of common standards)	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ensuring a high level of health and safety for people, animals and plants in the areas of plants, animals, food and feed	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Supporting the development, production and dissemination of timely and comparable European statistics and data	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Upgrading EU customs with common governance and powerful central digital solutions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Supporting the prevention and combating of fraud, corruption and other illegal activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other (please specify below)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

To what extent do you believe that actions at EU level would bring added value compared to actions at national level?

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know /not applicable
Remove discriminatory, unjustified or disproportionate obstacles to the free movement of goods, services and capital within the single market	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Prevent unsafe or non-compliant products and services available in the single market	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of EU businesses	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Improve access to funding for SMEs and other beneficiaries	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Promote entrepreneurs and strengthen skills	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Ensure a level playing field and empower businesses by enforcing and modernising competition rules	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ensure a high level of product standardisation	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Ensure high-quality financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Ensure a high level of consumer protection	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ensure a high level of health and safety related to people, plants and animals, food and feed	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Provide timely and comparable European statistics and close data gaps	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Modernise and streamline the functioning of the EU customs union by strengthening its governance mechanisms and digital solutions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Prevent and combat fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities (including money laundering, tax fraud and illicit trade) affecting safety and security of citizens	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Prevent and combat fraud and any other illegal activities affecting the EU budget	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Ensure optimal revenue collection and reduce tax gaps in the EU between the tax revenue collected and what should have been collected	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐

Facilitate trade with non-EU countries	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Strengthen the digital transition to smarter data-driven approaches in public administration (including the judiciary)	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Increase EU-level coordination to streamline capacity building efforts across the EU	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Support cross-border/multi-country projects and cross-border cooperation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Address transnational challenges	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐

Which other strategic areas could be covered as part of a well-functioning single market, EU customs union, tax cooperation and anti-fraud measures, and cooperation between national administrations?

500 character(s) maximum

In your opinion, which of the following aspects is the most important in providing support to improve the administrative and institutional capacity of national authorities in Member States? Please rank the three preferred options:

Use drag&drop or the up/down buttons to change the order or accept the initial order.

Focus on key EU priorities where they bring more EU added value

Sustainability of actions over time

Flexibility to address a wide variety of needs from Member States

Possibility to support a wide variety of beneficiaries in public administrations at different levels

Predictability of the programming associated with investments financed by the EU

Assist Member States in identifying the areas where technical support would be more impactful, taking into account national and EU priorities

Part 3 - Closing questions

If you would like to add further information – within the scope of this questionnaire – feel free to do so here.

2000 character(s) maximum

In view of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), the European Passengers' Federation (EPF) calls upon the European Commission to prioritise investments in public transport, ensuring that passengers – EU citizens – have access to a public transport system that is affordable, dependable, accessible and coordinated, with sufficient capacity to get people comfortably to where they want to go at the times they wish to travel. In parallel, the MFF should make financial provision to allow for stronger end-user/ passenger

representation in EU policy-making and R&I projects, to make sure that public investments are in line with end-users' needs and that their rights are adequately protected, monitored and enforced (see attachment: EPF's Complementary Contribution to the Public Consultations on the Next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) post-2027).

Attach any relevant documents to support your replies.

Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

3062d0cf-7a64-4ef3-bf2e-28254d8db44c/05_05_MFF_EPF_final.pdf

Contact

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