

European Parliament Press Kit

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European Parliament

This press kit includes an overview of the European Parliament's composition and powers, political priorities, ongoing work, background material, graphics, public opinion data, as well as useful contacts.

It is designed to help journalists covering Parliament's activities to quickly find relevant, up-to-date information and easily navigate Parliament's websites.

The content of this press kit is updated regularly.



The European Parliament during a plenary voting session

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Parliament's priorities

The European Parliament's tenth legislative term began on 16 July 2024, when MEPs gathered for the first plenary session of the new term in Strasbourg. From then until the European elections in the spring in 2029, the EP will play a central role in determining the EU's political priorities, in an increasingly complex geopolitical environment.

In 2025, MEPs started work on [the Union's future budgetary framework](#), the next cycle of which will start in 2028. Parliament's work in the 10th term will also focus on enhancing European competitiveness, seeking a fairer deal for European farming communities, implementing a more effective migration and returns policy, strengthening Europe's industrial potential and addressing the challenges of digital services and AI. European support for Ukraine in the face of Russia's war of aggression, and a reassessment of the EU's security and defence needs, remain high on Parliament's list of priorities.

Unfinished business from the ninth term

In October 2024, the Parliament's Conference of Presidents confirmed a list of unresolved legislative files from the previous term on which work should resume (Rule 250 of the EP's [Rules of Procedure](#)). This [decision was announced at the plenary](#) in November 2024.

Read a [detailed overview of Parliament's achievements in the 9th term](#) by policy areas.

Tracking past and upcoming legislation

Parliament's [Legislative Observatory](#) is the central database and monitoring tool for information on all past and ongoing parliamentary work, be it legislative or non-legislative. It offers a very responsive [research tool](#) to facilitate the search of relevant content.

MEPs scrutiny and legislative priorities in the current term

MEPs offered a first glimpse of the areas in which they want to focus in Parliament's tenth term during a [plenary debate in July 2024 with Ursula von der Leyen](#), before re-electing her as President of the European Commission. They further elaborated on these priorities during the confirmation hearings with the candidates for the College of Commissioners that took place in November 2024.

Click on the different policy areas to read about commitments made during the respective Commissioners' hearings and about parliamentary work in the first year of the mandate.

In a joint declaration, Parliament, Council and Commission set out [common legislative priorities for 2026](#). Progress on legislative proposals can be tracked on the new [EU LAW TRACKER](#) website.



Competitive and sustainable prosperity

From the beginning of this term, MEPs have repeatedly called for the Commission to focus on [boosting the competitiveness of European companies](#) and to simplify and facilitate the implementation of EU law, ease the administrative burden and unlock funding, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). To this end [several so-called “omnibus” simplification packages](#) were tabled by the Commission from February 2025 covering EU provisions across policy areas to boost growth, defence readiness, agriculture, investments, the completion of the single market and the digital transition.

Parliament [simplified and postponed the application of the deforestation regulation for one year](#) and [updated the rules governing sustainable reporting and due diligence](#), which will as a consequence apply to fewer companies. MEPs also agreed to offer Europe’s car industry more [flexibility to reach the goal of lowering CO2 emissions](#) of new cars and vans. They simplified the import rules for products covered by the EU’s [carbon border adjustment mechanism](#) (CBAM) and exempted small and medium-sized importers from these rules.

MEPs endorsed easing [access to InvestEU funds](#) and an [overhaul of CAP funding rules](#) to reduce paperwork and speed up specific payments for farmers.

An affordable and secure energy supply remains high on Parliament’s list of priorities. MEPs have adopted a [phase out of Russian gas imports](#). They are now working on improving the robustness of the EU’s electricity grids and making them better able to absorb the increasing input from renewable energy sources.

MEPs stressed the need to combine climate action with industrial competitiveness in a resolution on the [Clean Industrial Deal](#) and urged the Commission to streamline permitting procedures and simplify funding to support companies’ transition and innovation efforts and boost take-up of clean technologies.

Competitiveness is also at the centre of Parliament’s [annual reports](#) on banking union and competition policy and in resolutions calling for the ambitious [streamlining of single market rules](#), fairer [taxation](#) practices and [new rules supporting innovative companies and SMEs](#). MEPs reached a deal with Council on a revised [toolkit to address bank failures and protect taxpayers](#). Following deals with the Council, Parliament will later in 2026 adopt the first “Savings and Investment Union” file - concerning [new rules to help retail clients invest in quality financial products](#) as well as more open and competitive EU payment services sector, with strong defences against fraud and data breaches.



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- [Lastest news on industry, energy and research policies](#)
- [Latest news on economic and monetary affairs](#)

Confirmation Hearings of Commissioner-designates (2024)

[Hearing of Teresa Ribera](#), Executive Vice-President for Clean, Just and Competitive Transition, with the committees on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, on Industry, Research and Energy, and on Economic and Monetary Affairs, on 12 November 2024

[Hearing of Stéphane Séjourné](#), Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy, with the committees on Industry, Research and Energy, Internal Market and Consumers, Economic and Monetary Affairs and Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, on 12 November 2024.

[Hearing of Roxana Minzatu](#), Executive Vice-President for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness, with the committees on Employment and Social Affairs and Culture and Education, on 12 November 2024.

[Hearing of Valdis Dombrovskis](#), Commissioner for the Economy and Productivity, Implementation and Simplification with the committees on Economic and Monetary Affairs and on Legal Affairs, on 7 November 2024.

[Hearing of Ekaterina Zaharieva](#), Commissioner for Start-ups, Research and Innovation, with the committee on Industry, Research and Energy, on 5 November 2024.

[Hearing of Maria Luís Albuquerque](#), Commissioner for Financial Services and the Savings and Investments Union, with the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, on 6 November 2024.

External affairs, trade and neighbourhood

[Condemnation of Russia's brutal war of aggression on Ukraine](#) and Parliament's unwavering support for Ukraine dominated foreign affairs debates and [resolutions](#) in Parliament's plenary since the beginning of the term, and as the war enters its fifth year. In February 2026, Parliament approved a [€90 billion support loan package for the country](#).

The election of Donald Trump as US President and the subsequent abrupt turn in US foreign and trade policies brought attention to transatlantic relations. Parliament has since called for [increased and coordinated spending on defence and urged the EU to](#)



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remain united in the face of [US threats to Greenland's sovereignty](#). In February 2026, [political groups agreed to halt work](#) on the legislative files implementing the EU-US tariff and trade framework agreement.

In a resolution adopted in January 2026 Parliament [denounced Iran's brutal repression](#) against peaceful protesters. It has repeatedly urged the EU to designate the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, including the Basij militia and the Quds Force, as terrorist organisations. MEPs continued conveying support to [pro-democratic forces in Russia](#), as well as in [Belarus](#) and [Georgia](#). The repression and political instability in [Venezuela](#), and the [Nicolas Maduro](#) were also the subject of plenary debates and resolutions.

The role of the EU in the Middle East peace process and the humanitarian situation in Gaza continued to be an issue of interest for MEPs, who in September 2025 stated in a [resolution](#) that the creation of a Palestinian state is key to peace, Israel's security, and regional normalisation.

Regarding trade liberalisation with Mercosur countries, Parliament secured [additional safeguards for Europe's agriculture sector](#). MEPs also decided in January 2026 to [seek a European Court of Justice assessment](#) on the compatibility of the agreement with the EU treaties before giving its formal approval. MEPs are also preparing to assess the EU-India trade agreement - concluded at the beginning of 2026 - and the updated trade pillar of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement - whose signature is pending - both of which will need Parliament's endorsement.

MEPs continued their assessment of reforms and progress made by accession countries on their EU membership applications. Plenary adopted resolutions in the first half of 2025 on [Moldova](#), [Georgia](#), [Montenegro](#), [Albania](#), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), [North Macedonia](#), [Kosovo and Serbia](#) and [Türkiye](#).

Parliament is ready to confirm agreed rules to prevent security risks from [foreign investment](#) in the EU and the revision of the [generalised scheme of tariff preferences](#).

- [Latest news on foreign affairs](#)
- [Latest news on trade](#)

Confirmation Hearings of Commissioner-designates (2024)

[Hearing with Kaja Kallas](#), High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Vice-President, with the Committee on Foreign Affairs, on 12 November 2024.

[Hearing with Marta Kos](#), Commissioner for Enlargement, with the Committee on Foreign Affairs, on 7 November 2024.

[Hearing with Maroš Šefčovič](#), Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security,



Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency, with the committees on International Trade and Constitutional Affairs, on 4 November 2024.

[Hearing with Jozef Šikela](#), Commissioner for International Partnerships, with the Committee on Development, on 6 November 2024.

[Hearing with Dubravka Šuica](#), Commissioner for the Mediterranean, with the Committee on Foreign Affairs, on 5 November 2024.

Defence, security, internal affairs and crisis management

Defence ranks high on Parliament's agenda. In November 2025, MEPs endorsed a more ambitious [European defence industry programme](#) to improve the supply of weapons, ammunition and other crisis-relevant products, boost manufacturing capacities, reduce lead times for production and delivery, and increase stockpiling.

To ensure the supply of critical products that are protected by patent rights, Parliament backed new [compulsory licensing rules](#) to apply in emergency situations. In February 2026, [MEPs also stressed the EU's security and defence partnerships](#) were key to responding effectively to emerging threats and to enhancing the EU's strategic autonomy.

MEPs decided in 2025 to refer to the European Court of Justice the decision by Council and Commission to exclude the €150 billion [SAFE](#) programme from parliamentary oversight by invoking exceptional circumstances.

Parliament approved the [gradual roll-out of the entry-exit system](#) on the EU's external borders. It also approved the creation of a European Centre Against Migrant Smuggling within [Europol to combat and investigate migrant smuggling](#) and human trafficking by coordinating the actions of EU national authorities.

Furthermore, MEPs endorsed a revamped mechanism to [suspend visa-free travel](#) agreements with third countries if they backslide on important principles of their visa waiver agreement, including human rights violations.

While continuing work on the Commission's 2025 proposals to streamline procedures for swift [returns](#), MEPs gave their final go-ahead to the [first EU list of safe countries of origin and for the application of the safe third country concept](#) to asylum-seekers.

Measures to ensure cross-border [cross-border enforcement](#) of the General Data Protection Regulation have also been approved.



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To [combat child sexual abuse](#), MEPs adopted their position to start negotiations with the Council on provisions to address new digital risks and ensure better protection of victims.

- [Latest newson security and defence](#)
- [Latest news on civil liberties, justice and home affairs](#)

Confirmation Hearings of Commissioner-designates (2024)

[Hearing with Andrius Kubilius](#), Commissioner for Defence and space, with the committees on Foreign Affairs and on Industry, Research and Energy, on 6 November 2024.

[Hearing with Hadja Lahbib](#), Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management, with the committees on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, on Women's Rights and Gender Equality and on Development, on 6 November 2024.

[Hearing with Magnus Brunner](#), Commissioner for Internal affairs and Migration, with the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, on 5 November 2024.

Structural and social policies

MEPs set up a temporary special [committee to investigate the housing crisis](#) in the EU and propose measures to improve access to affordable and sustainable housing. In its final recommendations, due to be adopted in plenary in March 2026, MEPs outline targeted policies to improve housing standards, strengthen European industrial sovereignty in the construction and renovation sector, and unlock investment and fiscal aid.

They also want the EU to [address unfair dismissals](#) of workers when companies restructure production to adapt to the green and digital transition. In addition, in February 2026, MEPs reached an agreement with Council on a [revision of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund](#) for Displaced Workers, so more workers facing unemployment can also benefit from support.

In a fast-tracked procedure, MEPs provided more flexibility for EU countries to channel European regional development funds (ERDF), cohesion and rural development funds to [reconstruction and recovery from natural disasters](#) and for compensation of farmers' losses. The proposed changes are expected to mobilise €3 billion in funding by front-loading payments for the 2025-2027 period.



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To mobilise funding to address new challenges amid geopolitical instability, MEPs [adopted a reform of the current cycle of cohesion funding](#) allowing member states and regions to channel funds into new objectives, namely defence industrial capabilities and military mobility, water resilience, affordable and sustainable housing, decarbonisation, energy infrastructure, and civil preparedness. Parliament also adopted changes to the current European Social Fund+, allowing the use of social funding to make sure [workers have the right skills and training for jobs in the defence and decarbonising industries](#).

In the area of transport, the [reform of Single European Sky rules](#) was finally approved by Parliament and Council to improve EU airspace management, to enable more direct flight routes and to lower fuel consumption.

To improve road safety, Parliament gave its [final greenlight in October 2025](#) to new driving licence rules and to provisions to trigger the EU-wide suspension or withdrawal of a driving licence for serious offences such as excessive speeding, fatal accidents or driving while under the influence.

To protect maritime stocks and environment, Parliament approved new measures to crack down on the [unsustainable fishing practices of non-EU countries](#). Fisheries MEPs [strongly opposed the proposal by the Commission](#) for the sector in the EU's next long-term budget, which would reduce support by a third compared to the current period.

- [Latest news on transport](#)
- [Latest news on employment and social policies](#)
- [Latest news on the work of the Special Committee on the Housing Crisis](#)
- [Latest news on culture and education](#)
- [Latest news on agriculture](#)
- [Latest news on fisheries](#)
- [Latest news on regional development](#)

Confirmation Hearings of Commissioner-designates (2024)

[Hearing with Raffaele Fitto](#), Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and reforms, with the Committee on Regional Development, on 12. November 2024.

[Hearing with Christophe Hansen](#), Commissioner for Agriculture and food, with the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, on 4 November 2024.

[Hearing with Costas Kadis](#), Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans, with the Committee on Fisheries, on 6 November 2024.

[Hearing with Apostolos Tzitzikostas](#), Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism, with the Committee on Transport and Tourism, on 4 November 2024.



Hearing with [Glenn Micallef](#), Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport, with the Committee on Culture and Education, on 4 November 2024.

Hearing with [Dan Jørgensen](#), Commissioner for Energy and housing, with the committees on Industry, Research and Energy and on Employment and Social Affairs, on 5 November 2024.

Health, climate and environment

Parliament endorsed the revision of the [EU Climate Law in February 2026 to include a 2040 emissions reduction target of 90% compared to 1990](#). In May 2025 MEPs had already set out [recommendations for more efficient water management](#) to adapt to climate change, reduce pollution and improve crisis response mechanisms for droughts and floods.

Furthermore, Parliament has adopted updated rules for simpler and more transparent way to [assess chemicals](#) and to reduce the harmful impacts of [detergents and surfactants](#) on health and ecosystems. New provisions to avoid [plastic pellet losses](#), reduce [textile and food waste](#) and improve [soil health](#) were also approved in Autumn 2025.

New EU circularity rules to cover the entire vehicle lifecycle, from design to final end-of-life treatment, were [agreed by Parliament and EU governments in December 2025](#), and are currently awaiting their final adoption by both institutions.

In December 2025, Parliament finalised an agreement with Council [on a comprehensive reform of EU pharmaceutical legislation](#) to boost competitiveness, innovation and security of supply. Both institutions still need to endorse the deal for it to formally enter into force.

MEPs are also currently negotiating with the Council on [new rules for so-called “critical medicines”](#), e.g. antibiotics, insulin, vaccines, medicines for chronic diseases, aiming to boost investment in EU manufacturing capacity to increase autonomy and tackle shortages.

Parliament gave more flexibility to EU countries to [manage wolf populations](#) by lowering their protection status and agreed stricter rules with Council on [dog and cat protection and traceability](#), to be negotiated with Council.

- [Latest news on environment and climate policies](#)
- [Latest news on public health](#)



Confirmation Hearings of Commissioner-designates (2024)

[Hearing with Wopke Hoekstra](#), Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth, with the committees on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, on Industry, Research and Energy, and on Economic and Monetary Affairs, on 7 November 2024.

[Hearing with Jessika Roswall](#), Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy, with the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, on 5 November 2024.

[Hearing with Olivér Várhelyi](#), Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare, with the committees on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and on Agriculture and Rural Development, on 6 November 2024.

Democracy, tech sovereignty and consumer protection

New rules for [European political parties and foundations](#) and their funding were agreed with member states in June 2025 and need to be endorsed by the full House to come into force.

Cases of foreign interference have created a need for clearer rules and greater transparency regarding [interest representation activities on behalf of third countries](#). These new rules are under preparation in the Internal Market Committee. At the same time, the [Special Committee on the European Democracy Shield](#) is looking into ways to strengthen EU resilience in the face of foreign information manipulation, and foreign and homegrown hybrid threats and attacks, and to propose tangible solutions.

In the area of consumer protection, MEPs rang the alarm bell over the increased influx of substandard goods from non-EU web shops, in a [report on e-commerce](#). They favour fast adoption of the revamped [EU Customs Code](#), to make customs rules better suited to tackling contemporary challenges. Parliament also wants to improve [passenger rights](#) and ensure better protection for holidaymakers using [travel packages](#) in upcoming talks with Council.

Improved [safety requirements for toys](#) have been already agreed with Council to protect children's health. Members are now looking into ways to strengthen [online protection for minors](#), who continue to be exposed to harmful content, manipulative algorithms, dark patterns and addictive design.

- [Latest news on internal market and consumer protection](#)
- [Latest news on the Special Committee on the European Democracy Shield](#)



- [Latest news on constitutional affairs](#)

Confirmation Hearings of Commissioner-designates (2024)

[Hearing with Henna Virkkunen](#), Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy, with the committees on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection and on Industry, Research and Energy, on 12 November 2024.

[Hearing with Michael McGrath](#), Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection, with the committees on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, on Internal Market and Consumer Protection and on Legal Affairs, on 5 November 2024.

Budget and public administration

In parallel to preparatory works and reactions to the draft of the next [EU long-term budget](#), MEPs are setting out Parliament's priorities for the final annual EU budget under current MFF rules, which they will then negotiate with the Council.

In an own-initiative draft report expected to be adopted by plenary in March 2026, MEPs voice their [concern about plans to expand the use of performance-based funding](#) - where payments are not linked to actual costs incurred - in the next long-term EU budget, arguing that this approach increases the risk of errors, double funding and fraud.

The [annual discharge exercise for 2024](#) is ongoing.

A [motion of censure](#) against the Commission, [introduced](#) in July 2025 by 75 individual MEPs, was [rejected by the House](#). Two other motions of censure were [voted down in October 2025](#), and a fourth one was [rejected in January 2026](#).

- Latest news on [budgetary affairs](#) and [budgetary control](#).
- [Latest news on constitutional affairs](#)

Confirmation Hearings of Commissioner-designate (2024)

[Hearing with Piotr Serafin](#), Commissioner for Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration, with the committees on Budgets and on Budgetary Control, on 7 November 2024.



All you need to know about the EU's long-term budget

This section of the press kit aims to help you better understand the EU's long-term budget, over which negotiations among EU countries and EU institutions kicked off in 2025.

What is the EU's long-term budget?

The multiannual financial framework (MFF) defines the European Union's budget for a period of at least five years, according to the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#). It aims to ensure predictability of revenue and spending, and funding alignment with the EU's strategic priorities and common challenges, such as fighting climate change, security and defence, managing migration, and job creation. The main aims of the EU budget are to drive economic growth and reinforce solidarity across the EU.

The long-term budget sets limits on the amount of money the EU can spend annually across various policy areas, typically spanning a period of seven years. It sets the maximum level of resources ("ceiling") for each major policy category ("heading") of EU spending for this period. The MFF cannot run a deficit, which makes it fundamentally different from national budgets. The current 2021-2027 EU budget totals €1.21 trillion in commitments (what the EU can commit to spending over that period, at 2018 prices).

Why we need an EU budget?

The EU budget complements national budgets and supports initiatives that are more effectively undertaken at EU level, achieving economies of scale and avoiding duplication. It works as a resource pool to tackle shared challenges and deliver EU-wide added value. The EU budget itself is primarily focused on investment: around 93% of the funds benefit citizens, regions, cities, farmers, universities, and businesses. The EU's administrative expenses account for less than 7% of the total EU budget. To properly assess contributions by member states versus benefits, the advantages of the single market and the Schengen zone, and the opportunities created by cohesion policy, must also be considered. [Data from](#) 2019 show EU member state benefits from the single market were six times greater than their contributions.

First mid-term revision and recovery fund

The current EU budget covers the period 2021-2027. Since it was adopted in 2020, the EU has faced unprecedented and unexpected challenges, ranging from the



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consequences of Russia's war on Ukraine to high inflation and a rise in interest rates. In response, EU legislators adopted proposals to reinforce the EU budget in several priority areas, in a process called the 'mid-term revision' of the 2021-2027 EU budget.

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, EU leaders and legislators agreed a unique stimulus package called the [Next Generation EU](#), a temporary instrument designed to boost the EU's recovery. Through its centrepiece, the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the EU is investing €806.9 billion (€750 billion in 2018 prices) in its member states through joint borrowing. By exercising parliamentary oversight, MEPs make sure the money is spent wisely.

The EU Commission [unveiled its proposal](#) for the 2028-2034 long-term EU budget on 16 July 2025. Parliament's co-rapporteurs responsible for the budget [warned](#) that the spending ceiling proposed by the Commission at 1.26% of the EU-27's gross national income will force cuts to flagship programmes while debt repayments on the post-pandemic recovery instrument loom. Parliament is working on finalising its negotiating position, with an [interim report](#) on this planned to be voted in plenary in the first half of 2026. Legislative work is also ongoing on sectorial files, such as agriculture and competitiveness policy, in relevant committees.

Further reading:

[Parliament's EU long-term budget website](#)

[Fact Sheets on the European Union - Multiannual financial framework](#)

[EP Think Tank: EU budget 2028-2034: Overview of the Commission's proposal](#)

[First-ever revision of the EU's long-term budget](#)

[EU budget 2028-2034 proposal \(Commission\)](#)

[Parliamentary oversight in RRF](#)

[RRF documents and links](#)

Key MEPs working on the budget

Committee chairs

[Johan Van Overtveldt \(ECR, BE\), Chair of the Committee on Budgets](#)



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Niclas Herbst (EPP, DE), Chair of the Committee on Budgetary Control

MFF rapporteurs

Siegfried Mureşan (EPP, RO), co-rapporteur on the MFF

Carla Tavares (S&D, PT), co-rapporteur on the MFF

Own resources rapporteurs

Sandra Gomez Lopez (S&D, ES), co-rapporteur for own resources

Danuše Nerudová (EPP, CZ), co-rapporteur for own resources

Further information:

Recording of the press point by Siegfried Mureşan and Carla Tavares, co-rapporteurs on the MFF and Danuše Nerudová and Sandra Gomez Lopez, co-rapporteurs on own resources, following the BUDG Committee meeting on the multiannual financial framework beyond 2027 and own resources (16.7.2025.)

Recording of the press conference with Siegfried Mureşan and Carla Tavares, co-rapporteurs, on Parliament's priorities for the MFF ahead of the Commission proposal (15.7.2025.)

Recording of the press briefing on the next EU long-term budget with EP President Roberta Metsola and co-rapporteurs Mureşan and Tavares (7.5.2025)

Recording of the press briefing on the next EU long-term budget with MEPs Mureşan and Tavares (18.12.2024)

Recording of the Budget Committee meeting with Commissioner Serafin (16.7.2025)

How is the EU's long-term budget adopted?

The Commission drafts a first proposal for the long-term EU budget, outlining priorities and rules, and setting out how much the EU can spend in different areas (e.g. agriculture, research, cohesion policy), and the duration (usually seven years). The Commission's package typically includes a proposal for "own resources" decisions, the method by which the EU collects revenues on its own behalf.

Ahead of the Commission's proposal, [unveiled in July 2025](#), the Parliament set out its priorities in a resolution. In the text, [adopted in plenary on 7 May 2025](#) by 317 votes in



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favour, 206 against and 123 abstentions, MEPs call for a significantly more ambitious multiannual financial framework (MFF) that can deliver on the increasing expectations of EU citizens amid global instability. Parliament is working on in response to the Commission's proposal which will be the basis for its negotiating position.

The legal text of the MFF is adopted by unanimity by the EU Council, where EU governments are represented. Negotiations among EU governments are difficult and therefore discussions are often elevated to the level of the heads of state or government, who discuss it in the European Council, and negotiate a final political agreement among EU countries. Parliament must then give its consent. As Parliament's consent is needed (and the bar for adoption – an absolute majority – is higher than for most consent procedures), negotiations are ongoing throughout this process. In the end, MEPs may approve or reject the Council's position, but they may not make amendments to it. Parliament's decision is taken by a majority of its [component members](#). If the Parliament rejects the Council's proposal, member states must revise it. According to the EU treaty, if the new MFF regulation is not adopted in time (by the end of 2027) the ceilings and other relevant provisions of the existing MFF's major spending areas will continue to apply until a new agreement is reached.

The separate own resources decision also requires a unanimous agreement in the Council, and an opinion of the Parliament, while ratification by every member state is required before it enters into force.

The MFF package also includes the legislation for the various policy programmes, and negotiations on these files take place in parallel. Once the overall MFF agreement is adopted, the EU institutions then adopt legislation on these specific sectoral programmes (e.g. Horizon Europe for research projects, or Erasmus+ for education) that will allocate funds in line with the MFF's priorities. Parliamentary committees have started legislative work on the various policy files that will govern EU spending.

Annual budgets are proposed by the Commission, and negotiated and agreed between Parliament and the Council, each year within the framework of the long-term EU budget. The Commission then ensures implementation, while Parliament and Council scrutinise spending and may approve changes to the budget in the course of its implementation.

Further reading:

[Parliament resolution on a revamped long-term budget for the Union in a changing world \(7.05.2025\)](#)

[Article 312 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#)

[EP after the Lisbon Treaty: Bigger role in shaping Europe](#)



[The European Council and the Multiannual Financial Framework](#)

[The History of the EU Budget](#)

Expected timeline

First discussion among EU leaders on the EU's long-term budget -- March 2025

Parliament's first report on the next EU long-term budget -- adopted in May 2025

EU leaders' further discussion on the long-term EU budget -- June 2025

Commission proposal for the 2028-2034 budget -- presented on 16 July 2025

MFF co-rapporteurs presented the setting out Parliament's negotiating position – 11 December 2025

EU leaders [discuss state of play](#) of budget negotiations - December 2025

Parliament adopts interim report - 28 April 2026

Negotiations need to conclude by end of 2027

How big is the current EU budget?

The EU's budget for 2021 to 2027 of €1.211 trillion (€1.074 trillion in 2018 prices) was topped up with €806.9 billion (€750 billion in 2018 prices) of additional funding from NextGenerationEU, the EU's temporary recovery instrument, making the package worth a total of €2.018 trillion in [current](#) prices (€1.8 trillion in 2018 prices).

The [2024 budget revision added](#) €64.6 billion in funding to the long-term budget to support Ukraine, establish the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform, improve migration management, address external challenges, and cover additional costs for funding NextGenerationEU.

Given the need to manage multiannual projects, the EU budget distinguishes between commitment appropriations (the cost of all legal obligations contracted during an individual financial year) and payment appropriations (money actually paid out during the year, often to implement commitments entered into in previous years). For this reason,



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the level of payments is usually higher in the final years of every MFF cycle as projects come to a close and funds are disbursed on the basis of past commitments.

Further reading:

[Parliament's consent to the revision of the 2021-2027 MFF](#)

[First-ever revision of the EU's long-term budget](#)

[Press release - Parliament approves key budgetary support for Ukraine and the EU](#)

[EU financing for 2021-2027](#)

[Fact Sheets on the European Union - Multiannual Financial Framework](#)

[EU spending and revenue 2021-2027 \(Commission\)](#)

How does the EU spending compare to national spending?

The EU budget is relatively small compared to EU member state national budgets, but it plays a crucial role in supporting collective European goals. Annually, the EU budget accounts for approximately 1% of the EU's gross national income (GNI), translating to around €160-180 billion each year for the 2021-2027 period. In contrast, national public spending by EU countries averages nearly 50% of their respective GNIs. The €160-180 billion figure is [comparable](#) to the total national budget of Denmark, a country of 5.6 million people, and is approximately 30% smaller than Poland's national budget intended for a country of 38 million. The EU serves 27 countries with a total population of 450 million. This underscores the limited scale of the EU budget in relation to national expenditure.

The EU budget is designed to complement national budgets by funding areas where collective action at the EU level provides added value, including through investment in research, infrastructure, and agriculture. By pooling resources, the EU budget works to achieve objectives that may be unrealisable through individual national efforts. The allocation of these EU funds is managed through the MFF.

Further reading:

[Fact check on the EU budget \(Commission\)](#)

[What does Europe do for me? - Discover how the EU supports your region and your life](#)



Where does the money come from?

The EU budget is financed through “own resources”. Approximately two-thirds of the revenue is derived from national contributions, which are based on each country's gross national income (GNI). This system ensures that wealthier nations contribute more, reflecting their economic capacity. The remaining one-third of the budget comes from customs duties on imports from non-EU countries, a small amount from a tax linked to non-recycled plastic waste, and a small percentage of the value added tax (VAT) collected by each member state. There have been calls and proposals for new types of own resources to make sure the EU can finance its common goals and its borrowing without putting more strain on national budgets and on citizens.

Further reading:

[EU budget revenue \(Commission\)](#)

[Fact Sheets on the European Union - The Union's revenue](#)

[Parliament's position on the possible new own resources](#)

What about new own resources?

In 2020, as part of the EU budget negotiations for the current MFF, the EU institutions, including member state governments, [agreed on a legally binding roadmap](#) introducing new sources of EU revenue. The levy on plastics, introduced in 2021, was the first new source of EU revenue since 1988. A Commission [proposal](#) in 2023 (updated from 2021) pushed for three new sources of revenue for the EU budget, linked to greenhouse gas emissions, company profits, and resources generated by the EU's carbon border adjustment mechanism. However, the adoption of these ‘new own resources’ has stalled due to the reluctance of EU governments to approve them.

The idea of new own resources is becoming even more important given the Next Generation EU recovery plan allows the EU to borrow up to €800 billion from capital markets, which will have to be repaid by 2058. The total costs for capital and interest repayments under the plan are projected to be around €20-30 billion a year from 2028.



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The Commission's earlier proposal included revenue from emissions trading (ETS), the future resources generated by the EU carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM), and a temporary statistical own resource based on corporate profits. Parliament has backed this proposal and [approved its opinion](#) under the consultation procedure. To come into being, the proposals need unanimous support from EU governments, and countries will then have to ratify the decision.

In July 2025, the Commission presented five [possibilities](#) for new own resources, with three new ideas on new revenues sources, including a tobacco excise duty, an annual lump-sum contribution from companies other than small and medium-sized companies, and duties on e-waste and e-commerce.

Further reading:

[Commission's factsheet on newly proposed own resources for the 2028-2034 EU budget](#)

[Press release: "Own Resources": Parliament's position on new EU revenue](#)

[System of own resources of the European Union](#)

[Fact Sheets on the European Union - The Union's revenue](#)

[EP Think Tank: System of own resources of the European Union: Amended legislative proposal](#)

[Commission: Own resources](#)

How is the money spent?

The funds allocated in the MFF are disbursed through annual budgets. The EU annual budget has to be approved jointly by the Council (representing EU countries) and Parliament – the two arms of the EU budgetary authority, which have equal footing in the [annual budgetary procedure](#).

Annual EU budgets must respect the budgetary ceilings agreed under the multiannual financial framework (MFF) for the different programmes and policies, such as cohesion policy, agriculture and external relations. The budget also includes [special instruments](#) that are designed to provide additional budgetary flexibility, to ensure the EU can respond to unforeseen needs, such as the migration and financial crises in the past, or in the event of a natural disaster.

The Commission is responsible for overseeing the funding, though more than half is



managed jointly with national governments. In practical terms, national administrations are in charge of the day-to-day management of a big share of the EU funds and the Commission ensures these are spent correctly. Over the 2021-27 period, 56% of budget funds are managed jointly by national authorities and the Commission ('shared management'), while 37% is managed by the Commission, its agencies and offices outside the EU ('direct management'), and 7% is managed by other international organisations, national agencies and non-EU countries ('indirect management').

Further reading:

[EU budget spending \(Commission\)](#)

[How the EU budget is spent](#)

[The Union's expenditure](#)

[Infographic: Budgetary powers \(budgetary procedure\)](#)

How does the EU budget benefit EU countries?

EU countries and their citizens [benefit significantly](#) from the EU and its budget. It funds essential infrastructure, from the construction of a vital bridge over the Danube linking Bulgaria to Romania, to making ports in the Netherlands, France, Germany and Portugal more climate-friendly. EU funding helps society in a range of ways, from supporting dairy farmers through income assistance, and special provisions for small farms and young farmers, to providing thousands of students and apprentices with opportunities for educational exchanges through the Erasmus+ programme, and promoting the European film industry and cultural heritage. The EU also fosters cooperation in key areas such as climate, defence and migration.

Looking at the EU budget merely in terms of how much a country contributes and receives in euros, known as the 'net-payer debate', is highly misleading, as this does not take into account all of the economic and non-monetary benefits that member states gain from their EU membership. For any EU country, the benefits of the single market alone vastly outweigh their national contribution, even based on the most conservative estimates.

In many policy areas with cross-border characteristics, collective common action at EU level will lead to better results than fragmented national initiatives. EU gross domestic product GDP would be 8.7% lower without single market integration, thanks to which the average EU citizen is €840 better off each year.



Further reading

[Europe's two trillion euro dividend: Mapping the Cost of Non-Europe, 2019-24](#)

[What Europe does for me - Discover how the EU supports your region and your life](#)

The next EU long-term budget - what is the Parliament's position?

Parliament adopted its negotiating mandate for the 2028-2034 EU budget during the April 2026 plenary. MEPs support a budget of 1.27% of EU gross national income (GNI), keeping the repayment costs for the NextGenerationEU (NGEU) recovery fund outside the budget ceilings. This roughly represents a 10% increase compared to the Commission's [July 2025 proposal](#), with a focus on funding EU priorities properly, ensuring democratic oversight, and upholding the rule of law.

The Commission proposed a €1.76 trillion budget (1.26% of GNI), including €149.3 billion for NGEU debt repayment within the ceilings, alongside structural changes and reduced funding for traditional policies like agriculture and cohesion. (All figures are in 2025 constant prices).

The Parliament is proposing a budget of €1.78 trillion (1.27% GNI, excluding NGEU repayment) to be spent on key EU programmes in the seven-year period. In its interim report, adopted on 28 April 2026 by 370 votes to 201, with 84 abstentions, Parliament called for:

- NGEU repayment costs to be treated separately from spending on EU programmes (and to be paid by new own resources);
- a larger overall budget of (+€175 billion);
- balanced increases across key spending areas (except for administration and EU agencies).

MEPs say this is the minimum amount of money the EU needs to meet its commitments, respond to citizens' expectations, and address major challenges, including large-scale warfare in Europe, economic and social challenges, a competitiveness gap and the worsening climate and biodiversity crises. They stress that the next long-term EU budget must remain an **investment budget** supporting EU policies, citizens, regions, businesses and small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs), while securing EU added value compared with national spending.

Parliament is also calling for **stronger and clearly defined funding across major policy areas**, including:



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- ringfenced budgets for agriculture (€385 billion) and cohesion (€274 billion);
- dedicated funding for the European Social Fund (€110.73 billion);
- reinforced investment in competitiveness, research, health, climate, and the digital transition;
- clearer allocations for external action, humanitarian aid, and enlargement support; and
- a €4 billion annual reserve for natural disasters.

MEPs raise concerns that the proposed budget structure could reduce **transparency** and accountability, particularly through new national plans that limit Parliament's role and with the Commission moving key policy choices to work programmes without Parliament's involvement. MEPs insist on:

- strong parliamentary scrutiny and involvement in decision-making;
- more detailed budget structures for better public oversight;
- a governance model that includes regional and local authorities;
- simplification without undermining transparency, accountability or democratic oversight;
- the danger of widespread financing not being linked to costs, undermining proper auditing.

Parliament defends the strict application of **rule of law conditionality** across all EU funds.

Parliament also reaffirms its strong commitment to introducing **new “own resources”** to repay NextGenerationEU debt and finance the EU budget. MEPs support the Commission's proposed “basket approach” for new revenue sources, and stress they must be adopted together with the next MFF and generate around €60 billion annually. MEPs urge member states to move quickly to reach an agreement on these new revenue sources, and stress that if some proposals are dropped from the list, others must be introduced instead. Possible alternatives include a digital services levy, an online gambling levy, an extension of the carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM), or a levy on crypto-asset capital gains.

Parliament is now ready to negotiate, prepared with clear and exhaustive political positions, figures, and programme provisions. All Parliament's positions as co-legislator on the sectoral programmes are expected to be ready by November 2026. Negotiations can begin when the Council of national EU ministers has an equally complete mandate (on figures and on text).

Parliament was first to identify its priorities

Parliament set out its priorities [in a resolution in May 2025](#). Among them, MEPs called for



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a significantly more ambitious budget able to deliver on EU citizens' rising expectations amid global instability. They argued that the current spending ceiling of 1% of the EU-27's GNI was not enough to address the growing number of crises and challenges facing the Union. With the US retreating from its global role, spending would have to address Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine, against a highly challenging economic and social backdrop, a competitiveness gap, and the worsening climate and biodiversity crisis.

After the July 2025 publication of the Commission's MFF proposal, the co-rapporteurs for the EU's long-term budget warned in a [joint statement](#) that the proposal risked forcing cuts to flagship EU programmes. The MEPs highlighted a fundamental flaw in the Commission's plan: with a budget at just 1.26% of EU-27 GNI, including 0.11% of GNI for NextGenerationEU debt repayments, and taking into account inflation, the EU would be standing still.

In November 2025, four political groups, the European People's Party, the Socialists & Democrats, Renew Europe and the Greens/EFA, sent a strongly worded letter to Commission president Ursula von der Leyen asking for changes to the budget proposal, their concerns including the merging of cohesion and agriculture funds. European Parliament President Roberta Metsola, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, representing the presidency of the Council of the EU, held a meeting under [Article 324](#) of the EU treaty to review ongoing negotiations. Later, von der Leyen presented tweaks to the Commission's original plans in a November 2025 [plenary debate](#) in Strasbourg.

Parliament's co-rapporteurs on the MFF explained the changes secured in a press conference, which can be [viewed here](#).

Further information:

[Plenary debate on Parliament's position on the MFF \(28.4.2026\)](#)

[Press conference with EP President Metsola and the MFF co-rapporteurs \(28.4.2026\)](#)

[Recording of the presentation of the draft interim report in the Budgets Committee \(11.12.2025.\)](#)

[Press release by the lead MEPs on budget following the Commission's announcement of the next long-term budget proposal \(16.7.2025.\)](#)

[Recording of the Budgets Committee meeting with Commissioner Serafin presenting the MFF proposal \(16.7.2025.\)](#)

[Recording of the press point by the Co-rapporteurs on the new long-term budget and on own resources after the Budgets Committee meeting \(16.7.2025.\)](#)



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[EU long-term budget website - Parliament's position in a nutshell](#)

[Parliament's resolution on a revamped long-term budget for the Union in a changing world](#)

[Recording of the press briefing on the next EU long-term budget with EP President Roberta Metsola, and co-rapporteurs Mureşan and Tavares \(7.5.2025\)](#)

[Recording of plenary debate on the next long-term EU budget \(6.5.2025\)](#)

[Press release - Leading MEPs support flexible budget, stress strong parliamentary oversight](#)

How can one follow the budgetary negotiations?

[Subscribe to Parliament's press releases and newsletters.](#)

To access Parliament's premises and to use the rooms and resources available to journalists, accreditation is required. Find detailed and practical information on the types of accreditation available on [Parliament's press room webpage](#). Click here to [apply for accreditation](#).

Get in touch: [Contact details of spokespeople and press officers.](#)

Check the Parliament's [Multimedia Centre for the latest available](#) videos and photos on the topic.

How does the Parliament protect the EU budget?

The EU and member states work together to protect the financial interests of the Union and give citizens confidence their money is being spent properly. Once the EU budget is adopted, the Commission is responsible for its implementation (other institutions are in charge of their own administrative budgets). As a significant share of the EU budget is managed by member states, initial control of expenditure is carried out to a large extent by national authorities.

To ensure transparency and accountability, Parliament's committees regularly hold hearings with Commissioners overseeing EU expenditure, and organise missions to member states to check on the ground how the EU budget is being used. Parliament



committees also prepare reports on the implementation of different policies and funds to assess their efficiency and if policy objectives are being met.

The EU's so-called '[discharge procedure](#)' is a key mechanism through which the European Parliament exercises democratic oversight of the budget's implementation. It serves to hold the European Commission and other EU institutions accountable for the management and disbursement of EU funds.

Based on reports from the Commission and the [European Court of Auditors \(ECA\)](#), Parliament's [Committee on Budgetary Control \(CONT\)](#) reviews the financial management of the EU budget in a given financial year, scrutinises irregularities and holds hearings with the relevant officials. CONT then recommends whether to grant or refuse budgetary 'discharge'. Parliament votes to approve or reject these decisions – refusal of discharge may result in remedial actions, stricter financial controls or political consequences. The process ensures transparency, accountability and the proper use of EU taxpayer funds.

Rule of law conditionality mechanism

Following a plenary vote in December 2020, the EU introduced a [rule of law conditionality mechanism](#) in January 2021 as part of the EU's budgetary and financial framework. The mechanism links the disbursement of EU funds to member state compliance with the rule of law, ensuring EU money is not misused in countries where judicial independence, anti-corruption measures, or democratic principles are threatened or weakened. The mechanism allows the European Commission to propose the suspension or reduction of EU funds if a member state's rule of law breaches risk undermining the sound financial management of the budget. In **2022**, the Commission applied the mechanism for the first time against Hungary, [recommending the suspension of €6.3 billion](#) in funding due to concerns over corruption and judicial irregularities.

In a [resolution adopted](#) in December 2025, Parliament warns that the Commission's proposals for the next long-term EU budget risk weakening and fragmenting the EU's rule of law safeguards. They stress that the proposal fails to simplify the toolbox and introduces "overlap and contradictions" that could create a parallel and incoherent system of instruments. The resolution further emphasises that any decision to suspend EU funds must rely on "clear, objective and transparent criteria", not bargaining, and insists that frozen funds be released only once a member state has fully implemented sustainable reforms and demonstrated verifiable compliance with EU values.

Combating fraud

The EU has established robust mechanisms to protect its financial interests and ensure EU funds are used effectively and lawfully. [The European Public Prosecutor's Office](#)



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(EPPO) and the [European Anti-Fraud Office \(OLAF\)](#) are key players in these efforts. The **EPPO**, operating independently across participating member states, investigates and prosecutes serious crimes such as cross-border VAT fraud, embezzlement, and corruption that affect the EU budget. By bringing offenders to justice and recovering misused funds, the EPPO strengthens the rule of law and accountability across the EU. OLAF, on the other hand, conducts administrative investigations to detect and prevent fraud, corruption, and irregularities within EU-funded programs and institutions. It works closely with national authorities and EU bodies, issuing recommendations to recover funds and improve anti-fraud measures.

Parliament plays a crucial role in overseeing these efforts. Through its Committee on Budgetary Control, Parliament monitors the effectiveness of both EPPO and OLAF, assesses their reports and ensures member states and EU institutions take the necessary action on foot of their findings. Parliament also advocates for legislative improvements to enhance anti-fraud measures, reinforcing the integrity of EU financial governance. Together, these institutions form a coordinated framework to safeguard the EU budget and uphold the principles of transparency and accountability.

Further reading:

[Press release - Discharge: MEPs sign off EU budget for 2023 while highlighting persistent issues \(7.5.2025\)](#)

[EU Fact Sheet: Budgetary control](#)

[EPRS Briefing: Discharge procedure for the EU Budget. Political scrutiny of budgetary implementation](#)

[EU Fact Sheet: Combating fraud and protecting the EU's financial interests](#)

[At a glance: The tools for protecting the EU budget from breaches of the rule of law: the Conditionality Regulation in context](#)

[At a glance: EU anti-fraud architecture – the role of EU-level players, how they cooperate and the challenges they face](#)

[EU anti-fraud measures \(Commission\)](#)

[Rule of law conditionality regulation \(Commission\)](#)

EU budget glossary



CBAM: The carbon border adjustment mechanism is the EU's tool to combat carbon leakage (where companies move production to non-EU countries with less stringent climate regulations) by imposing tariffs on carbon-intensive imports like steel and cement. Importers must buy carbon certificates reflecting their emissions. It ensures fair competition, supports the EU's climate goals, and encourages global emission reductions. CBAM reporting began in 2023, with full implementation from 2026.

Ceilings: The maximum amount that can be spent on programmes within a policy area (heading). Ceilings help budget planning and keep finances under control. The long-term budget defines these limits for the whole EU and for key spending areas (headings) over a seven-year period. There are two types of expenditure ceilings: an annual ceiling for each heading, expressed in commitment appropriations, which are legally binding promises to spend money. Commitment appropriations are not necessarily spent in the same year, but may be disbursed over several financial years. The second is the overall annual ceiling: for commitment appropriations, corresponding to the sum of each heading's ceilings, and for payment appropriations, where the ceiling indicates the maximum actual amounts authorised for disbursement in a given year.

Cohesion: [Cohesion policy](#) is the EU's main investment framework. It aims to reduce disparities between EU regions by promoting economic, social, and territorial cohesion. It focuses on supporting less-developed regions through funding for infrastructure, innovation, job creation, and sustainable development. The policy is mainly funded through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF).

Commitments: Commitment appropriations are the cost of all legal obligations contracted during the current financial year, with possible financial implications for future years.

Conditionality mechanism: Co-legislators agreed on this [new instrument](#) in 2020, in parallel with the negotiations on the current MFF, and it entered into force in 2021. This legislation links access to EU funds with respect for the rule of law and democratic values. If a Member State violates these principles, the EU can suspend or reduce financial support. This mechanism aims to ensure that EU resources are used properly and that Member States uphold core EU values, promoting good governance and accountability across the EU.

Consent procedure: Under the [consent procedure](#), Parliament has veto power, i.e. it cannot modify but may approve or reject a legal act. Without Parliament's consent, an act cannot be adopted. At the end of the negotiations on the long-term EU budget, Parliament needs to approve the Council Regulation establishing the EU's next multiannual financial framework (MFF). For the MFF, Parliament's consent requires a majority of its component members, but this is not standard for the budget process, and



other consent votes may require a simple majority.

Consultation procedure: Consultation is a special legislative procedure, an exception to the ordinary legislative procedure applied to files in most policy areas. It requires the Council to request Parliament's opinion, though the Council is not bound by it. The absence of consultation would make the act illegal and potentially annulable by the Court of Justice. Introducing new own resources under the long-term EU budget requires consultation with Parliament.

Common agricultural policy (CAP): The [CAP](#) is a unified policy on agriculture in EU countries. Established in 1962, it is the oldest EU policy in operation, [accounting](#) for around 31% of the current long-term budget. It aims to provide affordable, safe and high-quality food for EU citizens, and ensure a fair standard of living for farmers while preserving natural resources and respect for the environment. The CAP provides direct support, market measures and support for rural development. In 2024, Parliament approved [reforms aimed at easing the administrative burden for EU farmers](#).

ETS: The EU's emissions trading system (ETS) is a cap-and-trade mechanism to reduce greenhouse gas emissions cost-effectively. It sets a cap, which is progressively reduced over time, on total emissions from sectors such as energy and industry. Companies must buy or receive emission allowances to cover their operations, trading them if needed. This creates a financial incentive to cut emissions, supporting the EU's climate goals.

Headings: A heading in the EU's multiannual financial framework (MFF) refers to the broad policy categories that define the EU's spending priorities for a specific period (usually seven years). Each heading includes resources for different EU programmes and funds.

Headroom: The headroom is the difference between the maximum amount of funds that the EU can request from EU countries to cover its financial obligations (own resources ceilings) and the maximum amount of funds that can be spent in a given period (long-term budget payment ceilings). With NextGenerationEU, the own resources ceiling was temporarily (until 2058) and exceptionally increased to 2% by 0.6 percentage points.

MFF: The MFF (multiannual financial framework) is the name of the EU's long-term budget and usually covers a seven-year budgetary period. It sets the limits for EU spending – as a whole and for different areas of activity – in this period. It breaks EU expenditure down into broad categories ('headings'), which correspond to the EU's priorities and areas of action. For each year covered by the MFF there are fixed expenditure limits, or 'ceilings'.

NGEU: NextGenerationEU (NGEU) is the EU's unique economic recovery package to support member states since the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic consequences.



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It is sometimes called NextGenEU or referred to as the European Union Recovery Instrument, and totals €806.9 billion. Its funds can be used until 2026.

Own resources: They are the main sources of revenue for the EU budget. The EU long-term budget's annual expenditure may not exceed its revenue (i.e. it operates a balanced budget). They include customs duties, a portion of VAT revenues and revenues from a plastic tax, and a share of national gross national income (GNI). The EU is exploring potential new sources like digital taxes and carbon border adjustment revenue. (See above.) These resources fund EU policies and programmes, and can alleviate pressure on member state contributions.

Own resources ceiling: The own resources ceiling establishes the maximum amount of own resources the EU can request from member states to finance EU expenditures in the specific budget period. The revenue ceilings are defined in the Own Resources Decision, the legal text that sets the conditions to fund the EU budget. The own resources ceilings are expressed as a percentage of the EU's estimated gross national income (GNI), the sum of all the member states' GNI.

Payments: Payment appropriations are the money actually paid out during a given year, including commitments entered into in previous years. For this reason, the level of payments is usually higher in the final years of a multiannual financial framework.

Qualified majority voting (QMV): When the Council of the EU votes on a proposal from the Commission or the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, it needs the support of a qualified majority to be approved. This requires two simultaneous conditions: 55% of member states (15 out of 27) must vote in favour, and these states must represent at least 65% of the EU's total population. A blocking minority must include at least four Council members.

RRF: The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) is a temporary [instrument](#) that is the main vehicle for channelling NextGenerationEU funds. The Commission raises funds by borrowing on capital markets (issuing bonds on behalf of the EU). These funds are then available to EU countries as loans or grants based on ambitious reform and investment programs.

Rapporteur: An MEP appointed to steer a legislative or non-legislative file through Parliament's legislative procedure. Shadow rapporteurs are appointed by the other political groups to work alongside the rapporteur and defend their group's views. The rapporteur leads Parliament's negotiation team in talks with the Council of the EU.

Rebate: Financial corrections granted to certain member states to reduce their net contributions to the EU budget. They are designed to ensure fairness in funding and are often negotiated during budget discussions to balance contributions and benefits.



Currently, the EU grants budget rebates (also called ‘lump sum corrections’) to Denmark, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands and Sweden.

Regulation: An EU legislative act that is immediately enforceable as law in all EU countries simultaneously. A directive is an EU legislative act that sets out a goal that EU countries must achieve. National legislators can then decide how to achieve these goals through their own legislation.

Single market: Established by the 1992 Maastricht Treaty, the EU [single market](#), often referred to as the ‘internal market’, covers approximately 450 million consumers. It was a precursor to the EU’s monetary union and the adoption of the euro as a single currency. Its core objective is to create a unified economic space, treating the EU as a single territory with free movement of goods, capital, services and people. Four non-EU countries – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland – participate in the single market, but with certain negotiated opt-outs.

Special instruments: They are designed to create flexibility in the EU budget. In the case of unforeseen events, the EU budget’s expenditure ceilings can be surpassed to facilitate use of a special instrument. However, even then, the commitment appropriations for the special instruments cannot go beyond the own resources ceiling. The Solidarity Reserve for natural disasters and the Emergency Aid Reserve for humanitarian assistance are two examples of this mechanism.

Subsidiarity: An EU [principle](#) that decisions should be made at the most local level possible. It rules out EU intervention – where the EU does not have exclusive competence – when an issue can be dealt with effectively by member states themselves at the national, regional or local level. However, it authorises EU action (even in matters of non-exclusive EU competence) when EU countries cannot achieve objectives better dealt with at the EU level.

Unanimity: The Council must decide unanimously on a number of sensitive policy areas, for instance EU membership, taxation, own resources, the MFF and the harmonisation of social security. The abstention of one or several member states does not prevent a unanimous decision.

Further reading:

[Legislative glossary](#)

Fact sheets



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Here you will find fact sheets explaining different aspects of the long-term EU budget, and the Parliament's position

[Transparency and public scrutiny on EU spending](#)

[The making of the EU's long-term budget](#)

[Comparing the MFF 2020-2027 vs. 2027-2034](#)

[Own resources Fact Sheet](#)

EP Think Tank's latest briefings on EU's long-term budget

[A revamped long-term budget for the Union in a changing world \(April 2025\)](#)

[Budgetary Outlook for the European Union 2025 \(March 2025\)](#)

[Future of EU long-term financing: Post-2027 needs and how to finance them \(February 2025\)](#)

[First-ever revision of the EU's long-term budget: Agreement between Parliament and Council \(February 2024\)](#)

[EU Fact Sheets - Multiannual financial framework \(May 2025\)](#)

[Parliament's consent to the revision of the 2021-2027 MFF](#)

[Mainstreaming in the post-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework](#)

[EU enlargement and the post-2027 Multi-Annual Financial Framework](#)

[Revamping the EU's budgetary flexibility](#)

[Management of debt liabilities in the EU budget under the post-2027 MFF](#)

[Multiannual financial framework](#)

[The EU's expenditure](#)

[The budgetary procedure](#)

[The History of the EU Budget](#)

Other useful resources



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Factsheet on the EU - Financing

What Europe does for me - Discover how the EU supports your region and your life

Commission's Kohesio: Discover EU projects in your region



European elections

As established in the EU Electoral Act, elections for the European Parliament take place every five years. In 2024, they were held across the 27 EU member states from Thursday 6 June to Sunday 9 June.

Results from previous elections

The dynamic and interactive website results.elections.europa.eu offers overall European election results, including national breakdowns, the composition of all outgoing European Parliaments since 1984, breakdowns by national parties and political groups since 1979 and all results at the national level since 2009. In addition, the site offers information on trends in European elections, for example on gender balance.

After the European elections - constitution of the new Parliament

Constitution of the political groups and election of Parliament's Bureau

Political groups are (re)established following each election. There are currently [eight political groups](#) (one more than in the ninth term). A political group must consist of at least 23 MEPs elected in at least one-quarter of the member states (i.e. at least seven), as established in [Rule 33 of the EP rules of Procedure](#).

In the first plenary session following the elections, the new Parliament must elect its President from among the members (for a renewable term of two and a half years), alongside 14 Vice-Presidents and five Quaestors -which together comprise Parliament's decision-making Bureau-, as established in [Rules 16, 17 and 18 of the EP Rules of Procedure](#).

[Roberta Metsola \(EPP, MT\)](#), EP President since January 2022, was re-elected in July 2024 until 2027, with 562 votes in the first round of voting.

Election of the President of the European Commission

[Article 14 of the Treaty of the European Union](#) provides that the EP "shall elect the



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President of the Commission". In practice, based on [rule 128 of the Rules of Procedure](#), the candidate proposed by the European Council presents their political guidelines to Parliament, followed by a debate.

On 18 July, [Parliament backed Ursula von der Leyen for a second term](#) as President of the European Commission, with 401 votes in favour in a secret ballot. Ahead of the vote, Ursula von der Leyen presented her [political priorities](#) for the next five years during a [debate with MEPs](#).

Confirmation hearings of Commissioners-designate

The European Council formally appoints the College of Commissioners based on candidates proposed by member states, in agreement with the Commission's President-elect and following approval by the European Parliament. As established in [rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure](#), each Commissioner-designate is assigned responsibility for a specific policy area (portfolio) by the Commission President-elect in accordance with the political guidelines she/he has outlined. The relevant EP committees assess each of the Commissioners-designate, before a plenary vote (consent) on the appointment of the College as a whole.

Find all information about 2024 confirmation hearings of all commissioners in the [dedicated webpage](#).

The procedure for Parliament to approve the College of Commissioners is described in detail in [Annex VII to the Rules of Procedure](#).

The current College of Commissioners received Parliament's approval in a [vote on 27 November 2024](#), with 370 votes for, 282 against, 36 abstentions, following a plenary debate with President Ursula von der Leyen on its composition and the proposed Commission's work programme.

Further information

[European Elections 2024 website](#)

[EP factsheets: The European Parliament: electoral procedures](#)

[Audiovisual material: European Elections 2024 package](#)



A brief guide to the European Parliament

The European Parliament is the legislative branch of the European Union and one of its seven institutions. It is directly elected, and made up of members representing all EU countries.

The European Parliament decides upon EU legislation, including the multiannual budget, together with the Council of the European Union (EU member state governments). Read more about the [European Parliament's powers](#).

The European Parliament holds other EU institutions, like the European Commission, to account. It elects the President of the European Commission and plays a key role in vetting Commissioners-designate through individual hearings.

Organisation of the Parliament

In its tenth legislative term, the European Parliament has 720 members. The number of MEPs elected from each EU country is agreed before each election and is based on the principle of degressive proportionality, which means each MEP from a larger country represents more people than an MEP from a smaller country.

MEPs are organised by political affinity, not nationality, and join political groups that have representatives from many different countries. Check here [the number of MEPs by country](#).

The President of the Parliament is elected from among its members for a renewable term of two and a half years. The President represents the European Parliament *vis-à-vis* the outside world and in its relations with the other EU institutions. MEPs re-elected [Roberta Metsola as President in July 2024](#), until January 2027.

The President oversees the work of the Parliament and its constituent bodies as well as the debates in plenary and ensures that Parliament's [Rules of Procedure](#) are adhered to. At the beginning of every European Council meeting, the President of the European Parliament sets out Parliament's point of view and its concerns as regards the items on the agenda and other subjects.

After the European Union's budget has been adopted by Parliament, the President signs it, rendering it operational. The EP President and the President of the Council both sign all legislative acts adopted under ordinary legislative procedure.

Parliament's committees

Committees amend legislative proposals through the adoption of reports, propose amendments to plenary and appoint a negotiation team to conduct negotiations with the Council on EU legislation. They also adopt own-initiative reports, organise hearings with experts and scrutinise the other EU bodies and institutions.



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In the 10th term, Members are divided up among 22 specialised standing committees and two subcommittees, that have between 25 and 90 full members, and the same number of substitutes. Find here the [list of current standing committees and sub-committees](#). In December 2024, Parliament established two new [special committees](#): one on the so-called “Democracy Shield” initiative, and another to deal with the EU’s housing crisis.

Each committee has a chair and up to four vice-chairs, elected from among its full members during a first, constitutive committee meeting. These form the ‘committee bureau’, for a two-and-a-half-year mandate. The political make-up of the committees reflects that of the full Parliament.

The committee chairs coordinate committee work in the [Conference of Committee Chairs](#)(CCC).

Political groups

A political group must consist of at least 23 MEPs elected in at least one-quarter of the member states (i.e. at least seven countries), as established in [rule 33 of the EP’s Rules of Procedure](#). By forming a group, MEPs accept by definition that they have political affinity - a political declaration, setting out the purpose of the group is included in the statement sent to the President. A political group can be established at any time during the legislature.

Political groups can hire staff and are provided with administrative facilities, funded by Parliament’s budget. Parliament’s Bureau sets the rules for how these funds and facilities are managed and audited. The funds available to the groups are intended not only to cover the administrative and operational cost of a group’s staff but also the cost of political and information activities in connection with the European Union’s political priorities.

The budget may not be used to finance any form of European, national, regional or local electoral campaign or to finance political parties at national and European level or their dependent bodies.

Not all MEPs sit in a group. Those who do not are called “non-attached” members. They also are entitled to staff and have rights under the rules set out by the Bureau.

There are currently eight political groups in the European Parliament:

- [Group of the European People’s Party \(Christian Democrats\)](#)
- [Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament](#)
- [Patriots for Europe Group](#)
- [European Conservatives and Reformists Group](#)
- [Renew Europe Group](#)
- [Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance](#)
- [The Left group in the European Parliament - GUE/NGL](#)
- [Europe of Sovereign Nations Group](#)

Each political group elects its own chair or co-chairs.



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The political group chairs and the EP president constitute the EP Conference of Presidents.

The [Conference of Presidents](#) organises Parliament's business and legislative planning, decides the responsibilities and membership of committees and delegations and is responsible for relations with other EU institutions, the national parliaments and non-EU countries.

The political groups elect "coordinators" for the parliamentary committees. They are each group's political leader in the committee. They coordinate their group's viewpoint on the topics before the committee, and together with the chair and the vice-chairs, they organise the work in the committee.

Further information

[MEPs' individual web pages and contact details](#)

[EP Research Service briefing: Political groups in the European Parliament: A historical perspective](#)

[Former Presidents of the European Parliament \(since 1977\)](#)

[Facts and figures about the European Parliament](#)



How to follow Parliament's work: a short guide

Parliament's services put a wide range of tools and information services at your disposal to help you follow the work in committees and during plenary part-sessions.

Covering plenary sessions

Parliament sits for twelve plenary sessions in Strasbourg and a number of mini-sessions in Brussels each year. View the [2025 calendar](#).

In the week before each Strasbourg part-session, parliament's press service publishes a newsletter on the main topics on the agenda. It also holds a press briefing with Parliament's group spokespersons on Friday at 11.00 in the Anna Politkovskaya press room in Brussels. A last-minute briefing takes place at 16.30 on the Monday of the session in the Daphne Caruana Galizia press room in Strasbourg. Political group leaders regularly brief journalists in the Strasbourg press room on Tuesdays. Check the schedule of press conferences [here](#) (click on "other"). All briefings are [webstreamed and recorded](#). Journalists can also ask questions remotely.

The press service publishes a newsletter ahead of any mini-session held in Brussels and the Parliament's spokespersons brief journalists on the main topics on the plenary agenda.

During plenary sessions, the press service issues alerts and press releases, a number of them in all EU languages, which are available on the Parliament's pressroom [webpage](#). To receive the newsletter briefing, press releases and media alerts via email, sign up via the [News Subscription Services](#).

Press officers are available in the Parliament's press room during the part-session ahead of plenary votes and to explain voting outcomes. They can be [contacted via email and telephone](#) - according to language and policy area.

Parliament's press service's accounts on X ([@EuroParlPress](#)) and Bluesky ([@press.europarl.europa.eu](#)) provide the most up-to-date information about the session. Committees also have [dedicated X accounts](#) publishing useful information and updates related to their respective policy areas.

You can find useful [data about the plenary sessions of the current and previous legislative terms](#), including their duration, the number of legislative and non-legislative procedures passed, amendments tabled per session, and the number of votes.

Official documents and background information

Parliament's [plenary webpage](#) provides the [agenda](#), [texts and amendments](#), voting schedules, [voting lists](#) and [vote results](#) as well as [video recordings](#) of the part-session, with interpretation in all EU official languages. All plenary debates can be followed live from the [plenary webpage](#), on



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Parliament's [Multimedia Centre](#) and via the [Europe Broadcast Service](#).

Ahead of the session, parliamentary services prepare background materials on the debate and vote topics. The [European Parliament's Research Service](#) prepares briefings on legislative proposals that MEPs will vote on and Parliament's [News page](#) offers a selection of interviews with lead MEPs and articles on topical issues as well as infographics. The [Multimedia Centre](#) provides further video and photo materials to download free of charge.

Each legislative proposal is registered and tracked in the publicly accessible [Legislative Observatory](#) database, where documents for each stage of the procedure and the names of MEPs steering the legislation through parliament can be found. The [Legislative Train](#) is another useful tool for tracking draft legislation.

Information on how EU decisions benefit citizens and regions can be found at the page [What Europe does for me](#). Graphs, charts, podcasts, tables and maps with statistical data organised by subject can be found on the EP Research Service [Graphics Warehouse](#) page.

Covering discussions and votes in committees



MEPs discuss legislative proposals in committees before tabling recommendations to plenary ©EP2020

Before they are debated and voted on in plenary, legislative proposals, resolutions and own-initiative reports are scrutinised and voted on in parliamentary committees (see parliamentary



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[calendar](#)). Read [more](#) about these procedures and committee work.

Parliament's press service sends out information on the highlights of the upcoming week, which is also available on the [News page](#). You can sign up for the mailing list [here](#). Press officers use Twitter to inform about the key issues on a committee agenda, and use it to issue press releases and the details of press conferences following committee votes.

The committee-specific press service X accounts are listed [here](#). Find also the [contact details of the press officers](#) covering specific policy areas and committees.

Documents and contact details of MEPs

The list of members on each committee and their contact details can be found on [committee webpages](#), as can agendas, meeting calendars and other meeting documents such as texts and amendments, voting lists, the names of rapporteurs and committee coordinators. Press releases related to votes in committees, hyperlinks to watch the meetings online and studies conducted at the request of the committee are also available on the committee webpages.

Background materials are prepared by EP services ahead of votes in committees, and can be found on the [EP Research Service web page](#) as well as on the EP [News page](#).

Accreditation

To access Parliament's premises and to use the rooms and resources available to them, journalists require accreditation. Find detailed and practical information on the types of accreditation available in the [Parliament's Press room webpage](#). Click here to [apply for accreditation](#).

Further information

[Contact details of press officers by policy area](#)



Eurobarometer surveys in all member states

Parliament regularly issues Eurobarometer surveys on public opinion, monitoring citizens' expectations, concerns and political priorities.

These surveys cover a wide range of issues, focusing on citizens' perceptions and expectations of EU action, and the main challenges the Union is facing. The surveys also measure in detail citizen attitudes on the EU and the European Parliament, while keeping a close eye on the public's views on the European elections.

Eurobarometer data in general goes back to 1979, while dedicated surveys from the European Parliament have been commissioned since 2007. The results provide detailed insights into trends and the evolution of public opinion on European issues, at the European and national levels, including also socio- demographic indicators. All Eurobarometer data are public and can be found on the [inter-institutional Eurobarometer website](#).

Eurobarometer survey methodology

The European Parliament and the EU Commission are the main producers of Eurobarometer surveys. All Eurobarometer surveys are carried out using the same methodology. This allows for direct comparison of data and the easier observation of trends. The standard overall sample size is around 27,000 respondents from all 27 EU member states, drawn from the general population aged 15 years or older.

The survey sample mirrors the socio-demographic context of each member state and is statistically fully representative.

For each survey, Parliament publishes the following products and information:

- Full report (in English)
- Executive summary (in English on publication date, followed later by French and German versions)
- Presentation on EU27 (in English)
- National factsheets for each member state (both in English and the local languages)
- National presentations (in English and in local languages)
- Complete socio-demographic and results annex
- Aggregated Excel data files
- Complete SPSS file with the full raw data set (on request).

Additional services by the Public Opinion Monitoring Unit

"Plenary Insights" is a monthly newsletter providing MEPs and the wider public with the most recent Eurobarometer data on key topics of the plenary agenda. The briefing is published on the [EP's website](#) on the Monday of each plenary week.



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Further information

[Inter-institutional Eurobarometer website](#)
[EP Eurobarometer website](#)



What Europe does for me

Detailed information on the EU's impact on the lives of individual citizens and local communities can be found on a multilingual website of the European Parliament's Research Service.



What Europe Does For Me

<https://what-europe-does-for-me.europarl.europa.eu/en/home>

The interactive, multilingual, '[What Europe Does For Me](https://what-europe-does-for-me.europarl.europa.eu/en/home)' website, put together by the European Parliament's Research Service, presents hundreds of short, easy-to-read, documents that give examples of the positive difference that the EU makes to people's lives. Users can easily find specific information about what Europe does for their region, their profession or their favourite pastime. Around 2,000 notes are available to read, share or reuse as online pages or as PDF files.

More than 1,700 localities covered

In the first section of the website, 'In my region', users can find information about EU-supported projects in their area by selecting the place where they and their family live or work. This section covers over 1,700 places in every part of the European Union. There is also a new feature that allows for the possibility to view individual projects (as 'pins' on the map).

More than 400 snapshots of EU action for citizens



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In the section 'In my life', users can choose from 400 short notes (with more to come) to find out how the EU affects, for example, families, health care, hobbies, travel, security, consumer choices and social rights.

What next?

The third section, with longer articles on EU policies, outlines some of the achievements of the previous parliamentary term, and the outlook for the future, with a special focus on public opinion and the concerns of citizens and their expectations for EU action.



Useful contacts for journalists covering the European Parliament's activities

Press officers in Parliament and member states (EP liaison offices) cover all policy areas and can help with media enquiries on Parliament's work.

Spokesperson's service

The [Spokesperson's service](#) provides information on institutional issues and responds to enquiries about Parliament's rules, procedures, finances and administration. For responses to the most frequently asked questions, see the recently updated [FAQs](#).

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Parliament's press services

The European Parliament's press service provides journalists with accurate and neutral information on parliamentary activities and offers practical and technical assistance. Press officers are available to brief media professionals on specific files on Parliament's legislative agenda and inform them about the audiovisual offer at their disposal.

[Press officers in Brussels/Strasbourg by policy area and language](#)

[Press officers in the Member States](#)



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Assistance for audiovisual journalists

Press briefings, press releases and alerts can be found online in the [Press room](#) section of the Parliament's webpage. Follow the latest news at [@EuroparlPress](#) on X and [@press.europarl.europa.eu](#) on Bluesky or [subscribe](#) to receive press releases and media alerts via email.

Political groups' press services

Political groups in the European Parliament have dedicated staff to manage press and media relations. They publish their own newsletters and press releases related to committee and plenary activities. They also organize briefings and media events.

You can find here the contact details for the [political groups' spokespersons](#).

President's press service

A communication team, including a spokesperson and a deputy spokesperson, deals with all media requests addressed to the Parliament's President.

Jüri LAAS

Spokesperson of the President

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Further information

[Accreditation for media](#)

[Subscribe to press releases and media alerts](#)

