



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO
EUROPOS REIKALŲ KOMITETAS**

**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

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Dear Colleagues,

As negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2028–2034 period are entering a crucial phase, I am writing to underline the importance of joining efforts in support of our common European priorities. The decisions taken in the coming months will shape the European Union's capacity to respond to both long-standing and emerging challenges, and to deliver on our shared ambitions. In this context, I believe that closer dialogue among the European Affairs Committees of national parliaments can help build common understanding and mobilise support for priorities essential to the Union's resilience, competitiveness and security.

First and foremost, we believe it is essential to reach a timely agreement on the next MFF by the end of 2026. Predictability and stability are indispensable for effective planning and implementation of EU policies, as well as for maintaining the trust of our citizens and stakeholders in an increasingly complex geopolitical environment.

Adequate financing volume for the next MFF is essential to reflect the EU's ambitious agenda. Therefore, the Commission's proposal of almost 2 trillion euros is a good basis, as the EU is expected to do more in areas such as security and defence, resilience, competitiveness, energy transition and migration management.

At the same time, adequate financing for new priorities should not come at the expense of well-established Treaty-based policies. In this regard, it is crucial to ensure that both the Cohesion Policy and the Common Agricultural Policy are adequately funded, clearly visible within the MFF structure, and safeguarded as strong policy areas. For the CAP, particular attention should be given to completing the external convergence of direct payments and ensuring fair and equal treatment of farmers across the Union. For the Cohesion Policy, it is essential to maintain its place-based approach and sufficient financial allocations to reduce economic, social and territorial disparities within and between the EU regions, while keeping focus on specific needs and challenges of the most disadvantaged territories and vulnerable groups. The Cohesion Policy should continue supporting long-term objectives and should not become a crisis response tool.

In this context, we welcome the clear and ambitious position expressed by the European Parliament on the next MFF. While we welcome the European Parliament's proposal to increase the MFF volume by 10 %, we consider it essential, at a minimum, to maintain at least the level proposed by the Commission. We share the view that the next MFF must be sufficiently ambitious, predictable and resilient, with adequate financing for both new priorities and well-established EU policies. The European Parliament's emphasis on safeguarding the Cohesion Policy and the CAP, strengthening

competitiveness, ensuring appropriate flexibility, and recognizing the specific challenges faced by the EU's Eastern border regions provides an important contribution to the ongoing interinstitutional discussions and reflects the need for a balanced budget that strengthens the Union as a whole.

Furthermore, we welcome a significantly increased ambition for competitiveness in the Commission proposal, with funding for this area projected to rise substantially. This sends a strong political signal. However, the structure and implementation of the European Competitiveness Fund must ensure inclusive participation of all Member States, maintaining excellence as the core principle. In particular, simplified procedures and improved access for SMEs are essential.

Furthermore, the next MFF must better reflect the evolving geopolitical realities facing the Union. In particular, we underline the need to recognize the Eastern border regions as a horizontal priority across the next MFF. Strengthening the resilience of the EU's Eastern border regions is of strategic importance for the security of the Union as a whole. This comes into focus in the European Commission's Communication of 18 February 2026 on the EU's Eastern border regions, which acknowledges that Member States directly neighbouring aggressor countries – Russia and Belarus – face particularly acute and persistent challenges.

In this context, such a recognition must now be followed by concrete targeted measures and strong additional budgetary backing within the next MFF. Adequate EU-level support for Eastern border regions is not only justified, but necessary for the security, resilience and competitiveness of the Union as a whole. This should be reflected across relevant MFF programmes, including the Cohesion Policy, the CAP, and centrally managed instruments, through appropriate allocations, incentives, and facilitated access to funding.


Closely linked to this is the need to properly address hybrid threats within the future MFF, including through relevant Home Affairs instruments and other programmes. Failing to do so would send a negative political signal and weaken the Union's resilience and preparedness.

Finally, we recognize the importance of advancing discussions on new own resources. The introduction of new own resources should be seen in direct correlation with the overall size of the EU budget: in the absence of an increase in the MFF, their necessity remains limited. On the other hand, it is important to acknowledge that the current own resources system is functioning well and is capable of financing a more sizeable MFF through the increased GNI-based own resource.

Dear colleagues, the next MFF must strike a careful balance: it must be modern and forward-looking, while preserving the core policies that underpin the Union's cohesion and prosperity. It must reflect both solidarity and responsibility, addressing the diverse needs of Member States and regions while reinforcing our common objectives.

In this spirit, we look forward to close cooperation with your committees and stand ready to contribute constructively to achieving a balanced and timely agreement that strengthens the European Union as a whole.

Yours sincerely


Rasa BUDBERGYTĖ
Deputy Speaker of the Seimas
Chair of the Committee