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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Humanitarian funding - post-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework
- presentation by ECDPM

Following the informal videoconference of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) on 13 May 2025, delegations will find in Annex the presentation made by ECDPM¹².

¹ European Centre for Development Policy Management, identification number in the EU Transparency Register: 738492215435-82.

² This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.



The next MFF and the future of humanitarian funding

Presentation for COHAFA working group

Mariella Di Ciommo
13 May 2025

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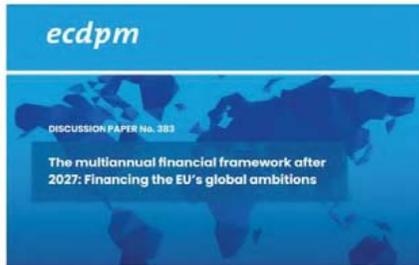
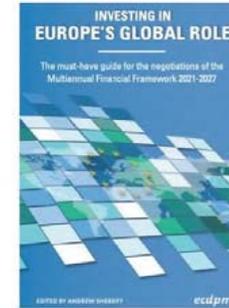
The MFF as a core area for ECDPM

Inside the EU's long-term budget: The multiannual financial framework explained

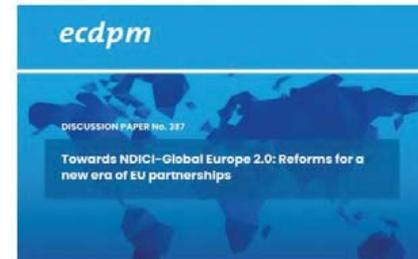


Dossier – Last updated on 30 April 2025

The multiannual financial framework (MFF) is the EU's long-term budget, covering its policies both within and beyond its borders over a seven-year period. The current MFF, amounting to €1.2 trillion in constant prices and excluding the €750 billion allocated for the NextGenerationEU recovery instrument, will run until 2027. The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the EU – representing the EU member states – are gearing up for negotiations on the next budget framework beyond 2027, set to begin in earnest in 2025.



By Alexei Jones, Mariella Di Ciommo and Andreu Sarrill
December 2024



By Alexei Jones, Poulina Veron, Amandine Sabourin and Karim Karim
April 2025

The post-2028 MFF: key stakes and hot issues

3

EU external funding: a tool to navigate a more unstable, multipolar and interconnected world



War in Ukraine



Global Power Shifts



Growing Internal-External Policy Linkages



Competitiveness Compass sets reform in motion

Potential hot issues in MFF negotiations



Reflect EU geostrategic interests and internal priorities more prominently (eg: security, EU competitiveness, migration management)



A search for more flexibility and potential consolidation of financing instruments



Affirmation of a different model of cooperation based more on investments and less grants, eg: Global Gateway



How to ensure support to Ukraine, prominence of the Neighbourhood



...and concerns on human development, 'countries in complex settings' (fragile states), universal values

A new political and policy direction for EU international and development cooperation

*The next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) [will be] **a simpler, more focused and responsive budget** delivering on our priorities.*

A revamped external action financing to make it more impactful and targeted for our partners, and more aligned with our strategic interests



Piotr Serafin

Commissioner-designate for Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration

*In recent years, the EU has maintained its unwavering commitments on development and on the eradication of poverty, while **taking a more and more assertive approach to aligning its interests with its partnerships in a more contested and unstable world.** It is essential that we continue this work as **part of our economic foreign policy** to ensure we create **long-term, mutually beneficial partnerships, investing in a common future.***



Jozef Síkela

Commissioner-designate for International Partnerships

6

...with weaker links to fragility and humanitarianism

*work with the Executive VP for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy to **shape a new foreign economic policy**, focusing on economic security and statecraft, free and fair trade and investing in mutually beneficial partnerships around the world, notably through Global Gateway and **more strategic use of our external financial instruments**.*

*a comprehensive **EU Middle East Strategy** and a **renewed approach to the Sahel region***

Kaja Kallas

High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission

*I want you to explore ways to bring about a more **equitable responsibility among donors** [...] develop a more strategic approach to the humanitarian supply chains, encouraging joined-up approaches and cost-savings.*

*work with other Members of College on a Commission-wide **integrated approach to fragility***

Hadja Lahbib

Commissioner-designate for Preparedness and Crisis Management

Commissioner-designate for Equality

7

Current ambitions and challenges require multiple changes, beyond the sole focus on financing instruments/MFF



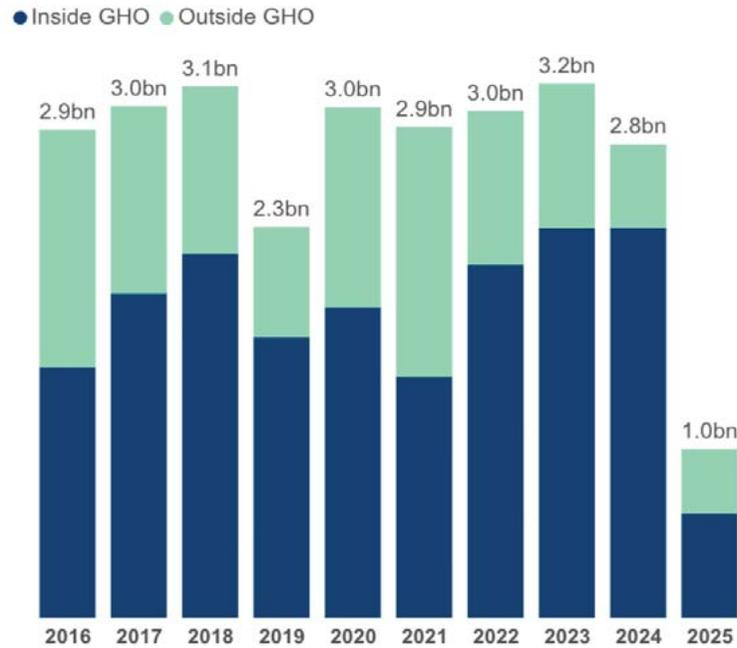
8

Humanitarian funding and the EU: key issues for the next MFF

9

The EU is a top humanitarian funder

Funding Trends by Years (USD)



Source: [FTS](#)

In 2021-2023, the EU was the 3rd largest humanitarian aid donor, after the US and Germany

In 2023, EU humanitarian aid was 9.4% of the global humanitarian aid

In 2023 the EU's humanitarian funding was 14% of EU total ODA

Responding to the growing humanitarian needs

- Rising needs and protracted crisis
- **Unclear political EU leadership on humanitarian assistance** and related issues, e.g. fragility and countries in complex settings
- ... Yet a recognition of the need to deal with those situations

- Consistent **aid cuts** in Europe and the US
- Budgetary pressure and competing priorities of the EU
- **Potential cuts to 'external assistance'** envelopes in the post-2028 MFF

What space is left to ensure that funding for humanitarian assistance is preserved in the next MFF?

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11

Jumbo instrument: To merge or not to merge?

Potential opportunities	Potential risks
Harmonisation of objectives and processes – reduced fragmentation	Erosion of Humanitarian Principles
Potential synergies with development cooperation	Reduced Visibility and Protection for Humanitarian Aid
Increased Flexibility and Efficiency	Accountability and Oversight Risks
Simplified Budget Structure	Unclear gains if challenges are institutional in nature
Leverage and Scale	

Strengthening the humanitarian-development-peace nexus

- Support from the policy community / EC staff to operationalise the nexus
- Instruments design matters but institutional challenges probably more:
 - silo approaches in HQ
 - limited coordination HQ-EUD-MS and ECHO field offices
 - capacity constraints
 - procedural bottlenecks

Challenges pertain to instruments and their regulations but also to the institutions that implement those

How can the HDP nexus be reinforced, taking into account existing challenges, both at the instruments and institutional level?

How to then ensure a more comprehensive and coordinated European response across the *humanitarian, development, and peace instruments*?

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13

Thank you!

www.ecdpm.org

Mariella Di Ciommo: mdc@ecdpm.org

This powerpoint was designed for a discussion to be accompanied by a verbal presentation and Q&A.
Please note as a standalone document it could be subject to misinterpretation.
For questions please get in contact with ECDPM.

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14