

Brussels, 09.11.2025

Dear President Metsola, dear Prime Minister Frederiksen,

The current EU budget was designed for a world that no longer exists. The demands for EU action are greater than ever and the size of the EU budget must be commensurate with the Union's growing responsibilities. Yet resources are limited. National budgets are under strain and cannot tackle cross-border challenges alone. The joint borrowing supporting NextGenerationEU will require repayment in the coming years. This is why the Commission proposed last July an ambitious EU budget for an ambitious Europe, giving Europe the means to respond to a rapidly evolving world and translate shared ambitions into concrete action. This dynamic long-term budget fit for the future will allow us to get more for every euro invested in the budget. As global changes intensify, EU policies are increasingly interconnected. It is therefore essential to foster synergies to maximise the impact of EU spending.

Four months after the Commission presented the MFF 2028-2034 proposal, we have heard the views expressed by all parties, in particular about the role of regions and the need for continuity of investments in regions, the concerns on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy, and the need for a reinforced governance, involving the European Parliament and the Council.

*The continuation of today's partnership principle, multi-level governance and regional dimension ensures that the Plans are designed and implemented by all regions and for the benefit of all regions, in accordance with the respective institutional rules and territorial organisation of each Member States. A '**regional check**' can be introduced to further guarantee the **full involvement** of regional authorities in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the Plans as well as a clear right for the regional authorities to exchange directly with the Commission. We also strongly reaffirm that each Member State will organize itself according to their institutional and territorial set up regarding the coordination function of the Plans.*

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*Ms. Roberta Metsola
President European Parliament*

*Ms. Mette Fredriksen
Prime Minister Denmark*

*On top of the minimum allocation already provided for less developed regions, **specific safeguards** can also be considered to ensure continuity of investment in transition and more developed regions, taking due account of their specific needs and challenges.*

*The **Common Agricultural Policy** remains defined by common EU-level objectives and common policy requirements to guarantee a level playing field. To reinforce the identity and to safeguard the **common character** of the Common Agricultural Policy certain provisions enshrined in the Regulation on the National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPP Regulation) could be integrated in the **sectoral regulation** on the Common Agricultural Policy together with a set of definitions to ensure policy coherence, while maintaining the benefits of the integrated programming and common set of rules within the NRPP Regulation. In addition, a target ensuring continuity of investment in the rural areas – ‘a **rural target**’ – could also be introduced to guarantee financing for these territories contributing to the economic, social and territorial cohesion of rural areas. The involvement of regional authorities, as explained above, will preserve the well-established **role of regions in the implementation of the CAP**.*

*The proposal respects the Union institutional balance as established by the Treaties and **increases the role of both arms of the budgetary authority**. The proposed ‘**steering mechanism**’ will inform the identification of policy priorities, including for the National and Regional Partnership Plans. The role of the European Parliament and the Council in this new mechanism should be reinforced in the Interinstitutional Agreement.*

With the proposed changes in the legal texts provided in annex to this letter, and all along the process, the Commission stands ready to support the European Parliament and the Council in the process leading to the adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework.

As provided for under Article 324 of the Treaty, I would therefore like to invite you to a meeting to jointly take stock of the discussions to date and to provide political guidance for the work to come.

Yours sincerely,



Ursula von der Leyen