

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002515/25
to the Commission
Harald Vilimsky (PfE), Georg Mayer (PfE)
(23 June 2025)

Subject: Revamped long-term budget for the Union in a changing world

The draft report on a revamped long-term budget for the Union in a changing world (2024/2051(INI)) raises questions about funding, subsidiarity, EU programmes and funds. EU financing remains largely based on Member States' GNI contributions and this constitutes a significant financial burden for net contributors such as Austria in particular. The introduction of new own resources effectively creates an EU tax sovereignty that undermines Member States' national fiscal sovereignty. Many EU programmes and funds are known for inefficiency and lack of oversight.

1. How does the Commission justify the fact that Austria continues to make a disproportionately high contribution, while some net recipients contribute hardly any of their own resources to the financing of the EU?
2. Does the Commission consider that the creation of its own EU tax competence is compatible with the principle of subsidiarity?
3. How does the Commission ensure that the increasing budgetary resources do not continue to flow into overly bureaucratic and ineffective projects, and are there plans to cut inefficient spending programmes and reduce the EU's administrative costs?

Submitted: 23.6.2025

Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission
(28 August 2025)

Gross National Income (GNI)-based contributions from Member States are the largest revenue source for the EU budget. As outlined in the communication 'A dynamic EU Budget for the priorities of the future — The Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034' ⁽¹⁾, a modernisation of EU financing is proposed, including an enhanced new own resources package that will diversify the revenue sources to the EU budget.

The power to levy and set taxes is a national competence. The EU does have autonomous powers of establishing new categories of own resources to finance the EU budget.

It must be agreed unanimously by all Member States and approved by the Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional traditions.

The EU budget is not a simple accounting exercise of who pays and who receives. It serves as a collective investment tool, addressing cross-border challenges and delivering European added value in areas like competitiveness, climate resilience, security and cohesion. The EU budget creates an added value for all, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity.

With its reduced number of programmes, harmonised rules, stronger focus on performance and increased synergies and flexibility, the Commission's proposal for the multiannual financial framework 2028-2034 ⁽²⁾ aims at more efficient allocation of resources by simplifying procedures and reducing administrative burden for beneficiaries and Member States.

This will enable the allocation of resources to high-impact projects, support efficient spending programmes, and optimize administrative processes, ultimately maximising value of every euro invested.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0570>.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/multiannual-financial-framework_en.