

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003508/25
to the Commission
César Luena (S&D)
(10 September 2025)**

Subject: End of the LIFE programme and the response to climate change in the new multiannual financial framework (2028-2034)

The LIFE programme is a key funding instrument for projects on biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and combating climate change in the EU. However, according to the proposal for the new multiannual financial framework for 2028-2034, LIFE would be integrated into a European Competitiveness Fund. It is clear that this will end up both weakening its specific focus on environmental protection and reducing the amount of funding dedicated to the green transition. At a time when the environmental and climate crisis is becoming more evident by the day, the Commission has decided to cut the legs out from under the European Green Deal tools.

In light of the above:

1. How does the Commission intend to ensure that the LIFE programme being integrated into a larger fund does not divert to other matters the much-needed funding for projects on environmental conservation, restoration and protection, as well as on climate change mitigation and adaptation?
2. What action does the Commission intend to take to ensure that the new multiannual financial framework upholds and strengthens the EU's commitment with respect to the environmental and climate emergency and its consequences, which Europeans are all too familiar with?

Submitted: 10.9.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(9 December 2025)**

As part of its proposal on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) ⁽¹⁾, the Commission proposed to establish a European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) ⁽²⁾.

It also proposed to repeal a number of funding programmes in the current MFF ⁽³⁾, including the EU programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE) ⁽⁴⁾. It is important to note that activities funded under LIFE would remain under the remit of the new MFF, including the ECF ⁽⁵⁾.

The framework Programme for Research and Innovation FP10 ⁽⁶⁾ will support collaborative research for clean transition, decarbonisation and bioeconomy, with its overall budget subject to a 40% green target.

LIFE activities have therefore been firmly anchored in the ECF. Additionally, support for strategic environmental initiatives, as well as cross-national projects, have been included in the new MFF proposals under the National and Regional Partnership Plans and specifically within the EU Facility ⁽⁷⁾.

To uphold and strengthen the EU's commitments with respect to environment and climate ⁽⁸⁾, the Commission has proposed a dedicated 35% spending in the next MFF to mobilise EUR 700 billion for climate and environment objectives.

1 https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034_en.

2 COM(2025) 555, Article 85.

3 https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/2021-2027/documents_en.

4 Regulation (EU) 2021/783 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE), and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013, OJ L 172, 17.5.2021, p. 53-78.

5 as stated in Articles 33 and 37 of the proposed Regulation.

6 The successor of Horizon Europe — https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/horizon-europe-2028-2034-twice-bigger-simpler-faster-and-more-impactful-2025-07-16_en.

7 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the committee of the Regions — A dynamic EU Budget for the priorities of the future — The Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034, at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0570>.

8 established for the EU or pledged at international level.

This target encompasses climate mitigation, climate adaptation and resilience, and the environment, including biodiversity. It will apply to most of the funds ⁽⁹⁾, with 43% of the national and regional partnership plans and 43% of the ECF, for actions supporting the green transition, renewables, industrial decarbonisation, the protection of water and biodiversity, reduction of pollution, or the recycling of critical raw materials.

The proposals allow for a coherent tracking of the next MFF's contribution to environmental and climate goals, through a unified tracking methodology that avoids double counting of expenditure for climate and environment.

Importantly, the new MFF includes mechanisms to integrate climate and environment aspects, as activities supported by the European budget will have to comply with the 'do no significant harm' principle.

⁹ The target does not apply to AgoraEU, Erasmus+, and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and Union support for health emergency preparedness and response.