

EN

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Answer given by Mr Serafin
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission agrees on the importance to enhance the EU's budget agility, ensuring a collective capacity to address the unexpected challenges faced by the Member States.

As shown in the Commission's proposal on the long-term budget 2028-2034¹, the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) must equip the EU with a simpler, more flexible and more strategic budget architecture. To this end, the Commission's proposal focuses on several key improvements.

Firstly, the Commission aims to simplify the budget structure by reducing the number of categories (headings) and programmes. Additionally, the proposal includes a reinforced 'Flexibility instrument' and a 'Ukraine Reserve' that can provide additional funds over and above the MFF ceilings. This will allow for both easier reprioritisation within a given programme and, if necessary, mobilisation of additional resources.

Furthermore, by integrating reserves and cushions within the main programmes and maintaining larger unallocated margins, the EU will be better equipped to address emerging priorities and unexpected needs as they arise.

Lastly, in case of severe crisis, serious hardship or serious threats thereof, a new extraordinary Crisis Mechanism will be available, offering loans to Member States backed by the EU budget. The activation of this mechanism will be decided by the Council with the involvement of the European Parliament.

Crises may also be addressed through solidarity actions funding from the EU Facility, which replaces the current EU Solidarity Fund. Such amounts will top up Member States' National and Regional Partnership plans, when reprogramming meets the thresholds set out in Article 34 of the proposal².

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/multiannual-financial-framework_en.

² https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034_en.