

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004722/25
to the Commission
Morten Løkkegaard (Renew)
(28 November 2025)**

Subject: Trends in staffing numbers and the need for additional administrative staff in the EU system

The Commission proposal on the forthcoming multiannual budget (MFF) for 2028-2034 suggests increasing the current administrative budget by around EUR 20 billion, or 25%. At the same time, there are plans to recruit 2 500 additional members of staff at the EU institutions. Given the Commission's campaign against red tape, which envisages substantial simplifications, this may seem a rather odd priority in the Commission's MFF proposal.

With the above in mind:

Can the Commission elaborate on what the additional 2 500 EU staff members are expected to do?

Submitted: 28.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission
(18 February 2026)**

Over the last five years, rapid economic and geopolitical changes have created new policy needs in defence, security, trade, and competitiveness, generating additional tasks and administrative pressures for the EU institutions.

Within an administrative framework built on stable staffing, the Commission largely maintained unchanged staff levels, with only limited exceptions agreed by the co-legislators, while internal redeployment was insufficient to absorb all new tasks.

The proposal for the administrative expenditure for the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2028-2034 ⁽¹⁾ is calibrated to close the capacity gap stemming from these additional tasks conferred upon the EU institutions over the current MFF.

This capacity gap is estimated at 2 500 full-time equivalents (FTE) for all institutions, comprising both officials and external staff, to be phased in over the first three years of the next MFF.

Closing the capacity gap is essential to equip the institutions with the resources for addressing new needs, such as — among others — cybersecurity, AI, etc., and for allowing the Commission to take on efficiently the numerous new tasks since the start of the current MFF, such as the EU's Foreign Investment Screening Mechanism ⁽²⁾, Digital Markets Act ⁽³⁾, Critical Raw Materials Act ⁽⁴⁾, European Health Data Space ⁽⁵⁾, Sustainable Products initiative ⁽⁶⁾, General Product Safety Directive ⁽⁷⁾, the Act in Support of Ammunition Production ⁽⁸⁾.

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

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52024PC0023>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022R1925>.

⁽⁴⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202401252.

⁽⁵⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202500327.

⁽⁶⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202401781.

⁽⁷⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32001L0095>.

⁽⁸⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52023PC0237>.