

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002435/26
to the Commission
Alvise Pérez (NI)
(12 June 2026)**

Subject: Disproportionate administrative spending and lack of control over value for money in the 2027 EU draft budget

The Commission's 2027 draft budget amounts to EUR 199.9 billion in commitments and EUR 212 billion in payments. It is presented as a budget for competitiveness, housing, defence, Ukraine, the energy transition and agriculture. However, the figures raise serious questions about priorities and value for money.

The European public administration alone receives EUR 13.659 billion, more than four times the EUR 3.066 billion allocated to security and defence, and significantly more than migration and border management and security and defence combined.

At a time when European families, workers and companies are facing inflation, housing pressure, high taxation and weak competitiveness, the EU cannot justify ever-expanding administrative costs, politically convenient subsidies or external spending without strict audits, while funding allocations to core priorities such as defence, borders and productivity remain comparatively limited.

1. Will the Commission explain why the European public administration is being allocated more than four times as much funding as security and defence?
2. Will the Commission publish a detailed value-for-money assessment of administrative expenditure and subsidy-based programmes in the 2027 draft budget?
3. Will the Commission identify which budget lines can be reduced to prioritise competitiveness, border control, defence and tax relief for citizens?

Submitted: 12.6.2026

**Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission
(5 August 2026)**

The Draft budget (DB) 2027 is in line with the multiannual financial framework (MFF) ceilings establishing the maximum spending for each heading and indicating the intention to implement policies covered by those ceilings. These elements are agreed unanimously by all Member States and approved by the European Parliament and the Council as the budgetary authority.

Heading 7 'Public Administration' represents only 7% of the total MFF. It covers all European institutions, including the European Parliament.

Heading 5 'Security and defence' in DB 2027 respects the ceiling provided by the MFF Regulation, which has been increased in the MFF mid-term revision in 2024.

Beyond Heading 5, via the Security Action for Europe (SAFE), the EU is providing to Member States up to EUR 150 billion in loans backed by the EU budget to speed up their defence readiness by allowing urgent and major investments in support of the European defence industry.

In addition, the European Peace Facility⁽¹⁾ was established as an off-budget instrument financing military and defence activities under the Common Foreign Security Policy with EUR 17 billion for 2021-2027.

The Programme Performance Statements provide an overview of the financial implementation and progress towards achieving the programme objectives for each spending programme⁽²⁾. Working Document I⁽³⁾ provides a granular evaluation of the implemented funds against the set objectives.

As regards administrative expenditure, the Commission provides detailed breakdowns of human resources, establishment plans and operational costs across all institutions in the Working Document II⁽⁴⁾ and demonstrates how administrative expenditure complies with the strict principle of sound financial management⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/european-peace-facility-2021-2027.html>.

⁽²⁾ Article 41 Financial Regulation, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202402509.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/3cb30a7c-a2dd-4e00-9343-f04e335ebd7_en?filename=draft-budget-2027-working-document-1-programme-performance-statements.pdf.

⁽⁴⁾ Working Document II, https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/307081a9-ad13-4027-943d-dc4b52a2e493_en?filename=draft-budget-2027-working-document-2-human-resources.pdf.

⁽⁵⁾ Working Document VI, https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/2727d4c0-020d-44b6-8dfb-173c01958be6_en?filename=draft-budget-2027-working-document-6-administrative-expenditure-h7.pdf.

On an annual basis, the Commission provides an overview ⁽⁶⁾ of the results achieved by the EU budget and explains how it was managed and protected.

DB 2027 is in line with the financial programming defined for the last year of the MFF 2021-2027, including for competitiveness, border control and defence.

⁽⁶⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/annual-management-and-performance-reports_en.