

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002955/26
to the Commission
Barbara Bonte (PfE)
(15 July 2026)**

Subject: Budgetary absorption of enlargement under the 2028-2034 MFF proposal

Independent analyses (including CEPS, June 2026) estimate the structural absorption of agricultural and cohesion funds for the Western Balkans at approximately EUR 9.5 billion per year, and highlight the potential unsustainability of the CAP model in the event of Ukraine's accession, as desired by the Commission, particularly given the size of that country's agricultural sector.

1. Is the Commission considering linking an absolute cap and long-term transition periods for agricultural and cohesion funds to the accession of new Member States — as envisaged by the Commission — within the 2028-2034 MFF, in order to prevent these costs from being borne by the existing budgetary ceilings?
2. What solution does the Commission envisage if it is not considering capping funds?

Submitted: 15.7.2026

**Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission
(7 September 2026)**

The Commission is committed to working with candidate countries and potential candidates to prepare for accession, in full respect of the merit-based process.

Without prejudice to potential financial packages for other candidate countries, the Commission has recently proposed a financial package ⁽¹⁾ for the accession negotiations with Montenegro, which builds on the principles and methodologies that were accepted in previous enlargements, while taking into account the Commission's proposal for the 2028 — 2034 Multiannual Financial Framework ⁽²⁾ (MFF) and country specific characteristics.

The proposed approach combines transition periods and limits on the initial level of support, rather than providing for an absolute cap on the overall expenditure resulting from accession.

Article 11 of the proposed MFF Regulation ⁽³⁾ specifically provides for the revision of the MFF following the accession of a new Member State in order to accommodate the expenditure requirements arising from accession.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52026DC0334>.
⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0570R%2801%29>.
⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0571>.