

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003086/26
to the Commission
Piotr Müller (ECR)
(22 July 2026)

Subject: EU takeover of proceeds from national spectrum auctions

The President of the Eurogroup has publicly floated the idea of channelling 75% of proceeds from national spectrum auctions to the EU's multiannual budget and the remaining 25% to a fund managed by the European Investment Bank.

Rather than creating new resources, such a mechanism would redirect existing revenues from national budgets to the Union level. It would mean further fiscal centralisation, limiting the freedom of Member States to manage their own revenues and encroaching hugely on an area that, to date, has remained a national responsibility — and all without solving the underlying problem of the high cost of spectrum access.

Making auction proceeds a permanent source of funding for the EU budget risks entrenching incentives to maximise public revenues at the expense of operator investments in developing the network.

In this connection:

1. Is the Commission considering laying claim to all or some of the proceeds from national spectrum auctions in the context of the Digital Networks Act, the EU budget for 2028-2034 or new own resources?
2. On what legal basis could the Commission deprive the Member States of these revenues, and how would such a mechanism be consistent with the principles of conferral, subsidiarity and budgetary sovereignty?
3. Does the Commission share the view that making national proceeds from spectrum auctions an EU own resource would unjustifiably redirect revenues and budgetary powers from the Member States to the Union level, and can it rule out proposing such a measure?

Submitted: 22.7.2026

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

New own resources are essential to support a more ambitious long-term budget on 2028-2034 whilst reducing the burden on Member States' Gross National Income contributions.

The Commission proposed a package of five new own resources ⁽¹⁾ and stands ready to support the European Parliament and the Council in reaching an agreement on the package still this year.

The Commission calls for a more coordinated approach to spectrum management at the European level. As part of the 'One Europe, One Market' roadmap ⁽²⁾, in the proposal for a Digital Networks Act (DNA) ⁽³⁾, the Commission calls for a greater coordination of spectrum assignment to incentivise investments, improve the efficiency and reduce market fragmentation.

In the recent proposals for the authorisation of systems providing mobile satellite services using the harmonised 2 GHz band ⁽⁴⁾ or for the use of radio spectrum by satellite in the DNA, EU fees are proposed for the specific satellite spectrum cases where the new EU level authorisation and, where applicable, EU selection are considered justified.

⁽¹⁾ Proposal for a Council Decision on the system of own resources of the European Union and repealing Decision (EU, Euratom) 2020/2053, COM(2025) 574 final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0574>.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/5445de81-9481-4335-9902-9756159ba614_en?filename=one-europe-one-market-roadmap.pdf.

⁽³⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/proposal-regulation-digital-networks-act-dna>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-proposes-new-authorisation-mobile-satellite-services-eus-resilience-and-competitiveness>.