

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003488/26
to the Commission
Erik Kaliňák (NI)
(3 September 2026)

Subject: The largest EU budget in history. And on top of that, hidden EU-wide taxes for businesses and households.

In its proposal for the 2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework, the Commission is proposing the highest level of expenditure to date, together with new own resources from the ETS, the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, a tobacco levy, an e-waste levy and a corporate contribution. For businesses and consumers, this means further compulsory financial burdens benefiting the EU budget. It is a new form of EU-wide taxation, even though the Commission calls it 'own resources'. Such an approach is unacceptable. The Commission should first rein in its spending and only then reach into the pockets of EU citizens for new revenue. Decisions on the tax burden borne by citizens and businesses should primarily be made by the Member States, not the Commission.

1. Why is the Commission pushing for new EU-wide levies when decisions on the tax burden should primarily be made by the Member States?
2. What cumulative impact does the Commission estimate these measures will have on industry and final prices in smaller economies, such as Slovakia?
3. Why is the Commission seeking additional revenue rather than cutting expenditure that it cannot cover from existing resources?

Submitted: 3.9.2026

Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission
(20 October 2026)

According to Article 311 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) ⁽¹⁾, the EU shall provide itself with own resources to finance its policies.

Article 311(3) empowers the Council to establish new categories of own resources. This Article neither defines own resources nor limits the form they may take.

The Own Resources Decision ⁽²⁾ fully respects Member States' tax sovereignty. It is adopted with unanimity in the Council after having consulted the European Parliament and must be approved by all Member States according to their constitutional requirements.

The EU faces growing demands in areas such as competitiveness, defence and climate action while support for long-standing policies such as cohesion and common agricultural policy remains essential.

The Commission has proposed a balanced package of new own resources that ensures adequate revenues for EU priorities while minimising pressure on national budgets.

The effects of the package on industry and final prices should be considered with the wider benefits of the EU, the proposals for expenditure and the proposed changes to existing own resources ⁽³⁾. Decisions at national level will also continue to have an impact ⁽⁴⁾.

Introducing new own resources would diversify revenue streams, reduce the burden on Member States and ensure the sustainable funding of common EU policies, while stabilising national contributions overall and financing the repayment of NextGenerationEU borrowing due to begin in 2028 ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/tfeu_2016/art_311/oj/eng.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0574>.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034_en#legal-documents.

⁽⁴⁾ For instance, revenues stemming from the tobacco own resource proposal will be collected based on the minimum rate only. Any additional impact on industry and final prices will continue to depend on decisions taken at national level.

⁽⁵⁾ https://next-generation-eu.europa.eu/index_en.