

EN

E-003489/2026

Answer given by Mr Serafin
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.10.2026)

External action and internal EU policies are not competing priorities but complementary investments in a stable and prosperous EU. In the current global context, the EU can no longer afford growing exposure to external shocks. Investing in the stability of its neighbourhood, addressing migration at its source and securing market access amid rising global competition is not optional – it reflects the EU’s ambition to be a reliable partner and it generates tangible returns for EU businesses and citizens through trade, access to critical resources and stronger partnerships.

The 2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework proposal is designed to complement Member States’ budgets and deliver results that national budgets cannot achieve alone. For Ukraine and for activities funded by Global Europe¹, the EU budget prevents the duplication of efforts and resources among Member States. Hence, the EU budget contributes to more cost-effective spending on external policy, creating space for other policies in national budgets.

Furthermore, the EU faces growing demands in areas such as competitiveness, defence, and climate action; while support for long-standing policies such as cohesion and the common agricultural policy remains essential. Introducing new own resources would diversify revenue streams, reduce the burden on Member States’ national budgets and ensure the sustainable funding of common EU policies, and financing the repayment of NextGenerationEU borrowing due to begin in 2028².

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034_en#legal-documents.

² https://next-generation-eu.europa.eu/index_en.