

Common Civil Society position paper on the outline of the 2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework -Executive Summary of the transversal points

This document is the Executive Summary of the transversal points of the [Common Civil Society position paper on the outline of the 2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework](#). For the specific programmes, we encourage you to read the position paper.

General considerations on the Multiannual Financial Framework

A principled MFF

- Ensure that the economic dimension of the MFF is not reduced only to competitiveness, but that supports policies contributing to sustainable development, social and economic cohesion, promoting culture and education, investing in research and innovation, the protection of patients and consumers, international cooperation and humanitarian aid, while addressing new challenges and priorities such as climate change, cyber security, rule of law, fundamental rights, equality and democracy;
- Strengthen the link between the Rule of Law conditionality mechanism, the country-specific recommendations of the annual Rule of Law report, and the respect of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights;
- Renew the commitment to gender budgeting as an overall principle for the MFF;

A simplification of the MFF that makes sense

- Simplify the programmes in consultation with beneficiaries, and complement them with awareness and support mechanisms including on EU environmental, social and fundamental rights standards;
- Ensure that the merging or splitting up of the current programmes is done in a way to uphold objective and thematic coherence and to safeguard the capacity of the programmes to address a wider range of EU objectives and target groups;

A human-centred approach to security and defence

- Ensure that funding for security, defence does not come at the expenses of the other policies supported by the MFF;
- Develop a broader concept of security and defense which includes international development, peace building, active citizenship education and reducing polarisation, conflict prevention, crisis management, and civil society preparedness where civil society plays a key role in rebuilding, as well as development policies;

A strengthened partnership principle with civil society

- The MFF should adequate resources to ensure consistency with the upcoming civil society strategy, including by ensuring strong and structural support for civil society and its participation in policymaking in all relevant thematic programmes, and develop

a strong accountability mechanism engaging civil society and other stakeholders in the implementation of the different programmes;

- Ensure that the national reform and investment plans under the new MFF are drafted in timely and meaningful consultation with local and regional authorities, civil society and other stakeholders, and that are complementary and consistent with existing planning procedures on transition to climate neutrality, nature protection and restoration, adaptation and just transition efforts, such as the National Energy and Climate Plans, Social Climate Plans, the Prioritised Action Framework and the future National Restoration Plans;
- Renew the conditionality for the usage of shared management funds (called 'enabling conditions' in the MFF 2021-2027) to the implementation of EU policy frameworks upholding human and social rights such as the European Pillar of Social Rights and the EU Fundamental Rights Charter, and of international human rights conventions such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Revised European Social Charter;

An ambitious MFF for a just green transition

- Earmark at least 50% of the future MFF should be dedicated to sustainability. climate and environment-related objectives, with separate funding targets for biodiversity and zero pollution;
- Strengthen the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) principle and apply it across all EU funding instruments, to exclude any direct or indirect EU funding for projects not aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement and undermining the EU's efforts to reach a net-zero economy by 2050;

An MFF open to the civil society of the accession countries

- Allow civil society organisations from the accession countries to participate in the different EU programmes as programme countries when suitable agreements with sufficient checks and balances with the relevant Member States are established.

On the financing of the MFF with EU own resources

- Swiftly adopt the new own resources proposed by the Commission in 2023 and propose new own resources to fill the investment gap, based on the criteria of: 'polluter pays' principle; fair and progressive taxation; partial earmarking to the EU external action projects; transparency, as well as respect for fundamental rights;
- Explore the possibility to issue common debt to finance transnational investments in common European public goods, for an amount of €1 trillion.

On the Operating Grants

- Allocate operating grants, across the different programmes of the MFF, to enable organised civil society participation in dialogue and advocacy on all European policy-making thematic priorities, with a long-term, predictable outlook, ensuring that, when evaluating the activities proposed in the operating grants, no activities or policy outcomes are mandated or banned from the operating grants, as long as they are compliant with EU values enshrined in Article 2 TEU;

- Develop a structured mechanism to ensure adequate and regular dialogue and information flow between civil society and public donors on the design and implementation of funding programmes;
- Increase the dedicated funding to support the timely and meaningful engagement of local communities, organisations and the public in the implementation of EU funding programmes, including at Member State level.

About Civil Society Europe

[Civil Society Europe](#) (CSE) is the coordination of civil society organisations at EU level. Through its membership, CSE unites EU-level membership-based organisations that reach out to millions of people active in or supported by not-for-profits and civil society organisations across the EU. CSE was created by several civil society organisations as a follow-up to the European Year of Citizens and was established as an international not-for-profit under Belgian law in 2016. Since then, it has become the point of reference for EU institutions on transversal issues concerning civil dialogue and civic space.