



Vlaanderen
is kwaliteitsvolle
omgeving

MFF 2028-2034: perspectives for environmental policy

CCIM Stakeholder dialogue 20/01/2026

DEPARTEMENT
OMGEVING



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- ▶ **Volume, architecture and environmental provisions in the proposed MFF**
- ▶ **Own resources**
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MFF = “politics cast in figures”

- ▶ **EU budget priorities are coloured by the broader political context**
 - 2021-2027: Brexit, Green Deal, digital transition, Covid-19 (RRF)
 - 2028-2034: competitiveness, defense and security
- ▶ **New priorities vs traditional spending**
- ▶ **Centralization/flexibility vs sufficient guarantees/predictable funding**
- ▶ **Net contributors (budget approach) vs net receivers (investment need approach)**
- ▶ **Excellence criteria vs. Geographical distribution**
- ▶ **Unanimity rule (art.312 TFEU) + every policy area is concerned**
 - Long and intense process

Germany quick to reject EU's mega \$2.3 trillion budget proposal

Net contributors (budget approach)

Minister Heinen vindt voorgestelde EU-begroting 'echt te hoog'



Massive EU 'competitiveness' fund too vague, auditors warn

Next EU budget must be more flexible, have new revenues says von der Leyen

Centralization/flexibility, new priorities

Czechia leads push for 'targeted' nature funding in EU's next long-term budget

Simon Pickstone

Twelve member states have expressed concern about securing enough support for biodiversity projects under the proposed multiannual financial framework, ENDS Europe has learned

Predictability,
continuity,
sufficient
guarantees

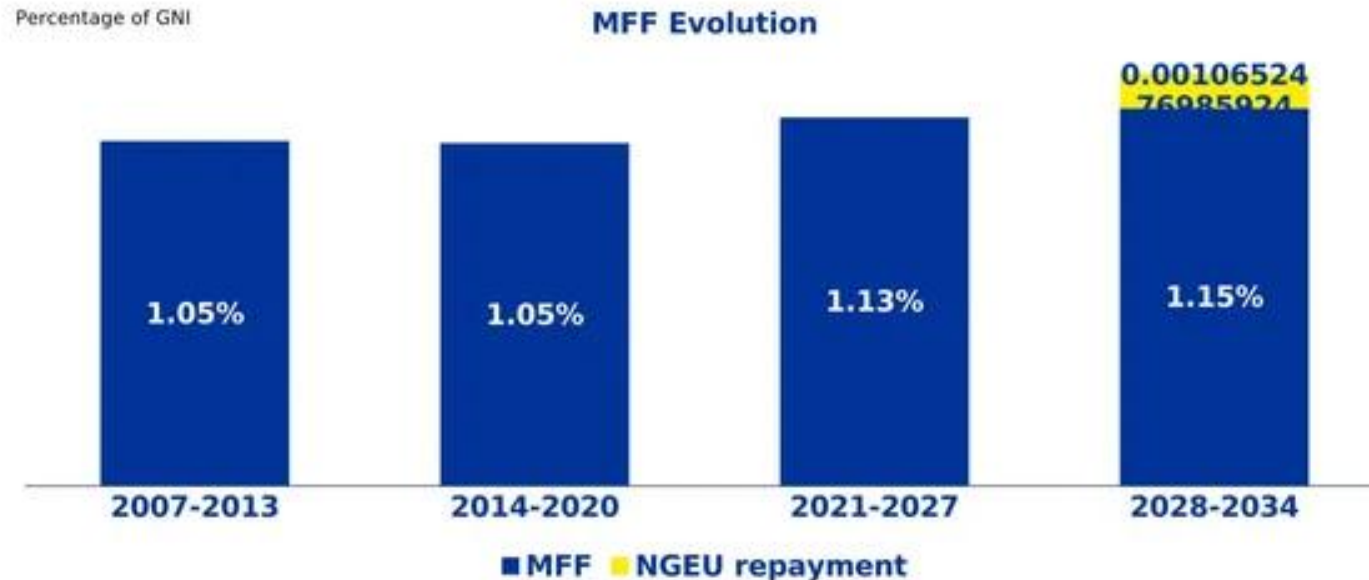
EU Budget Proposal for 2028–2034 Sparks Concern Over Climate and Nature Funding Gaps

Mario Draghi's report calls for an additional EUR 800 billion per year for green, digital, and defence investments. With private capital unable to meet these needs, only substantial public financing can rise to the challenge.

Investment need approach

Total volume of the proposed MFF: 2000 billion EUR

An ambitious EU budget for an ambitious Europe



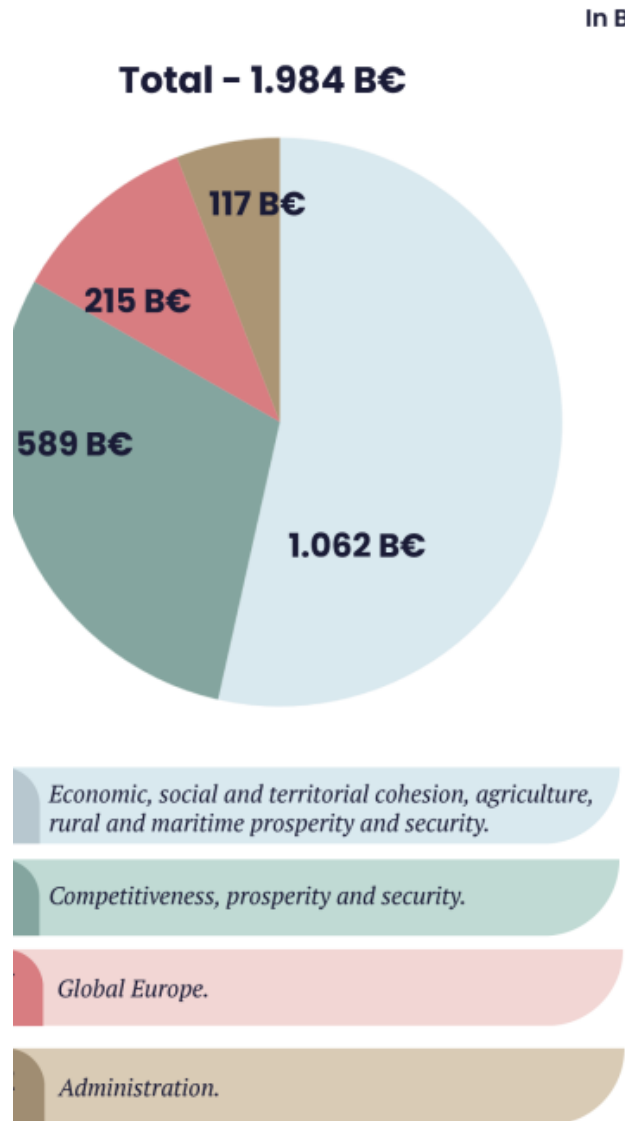
Commitment appropriations are based on adopted Multiannual Financial Frameworks (including European Union Solidarity Fund and European Aid Reserve).



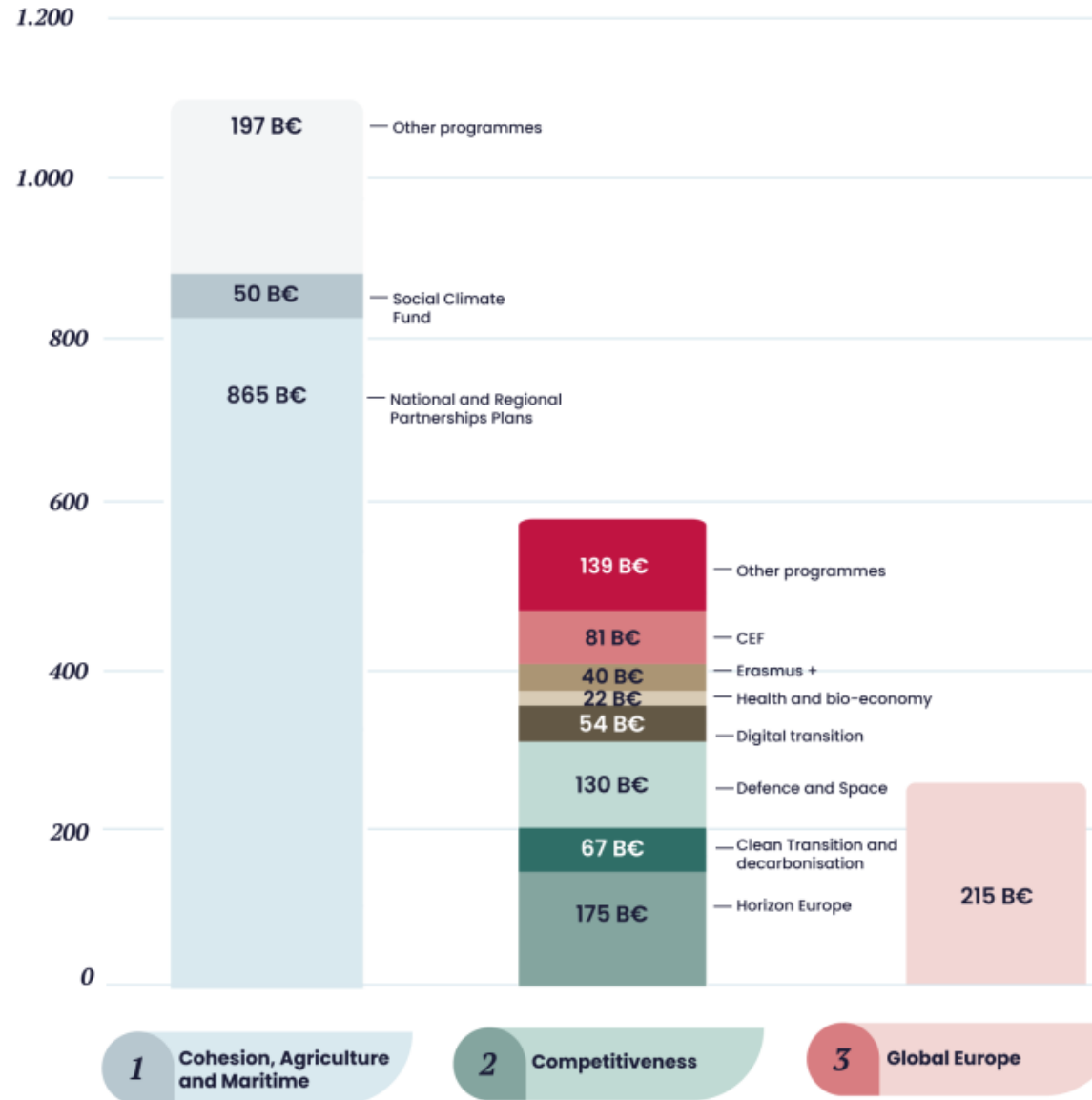
3 Gross National Income amounts are based on the first Technical Adjustments of the respective Multiannual Financial Framework.

- Increase linked to NextGenerationEU repayment (24 billion EUR per year)
- Financing through new own resources

Architecture of the proposed MFF 2028-2034



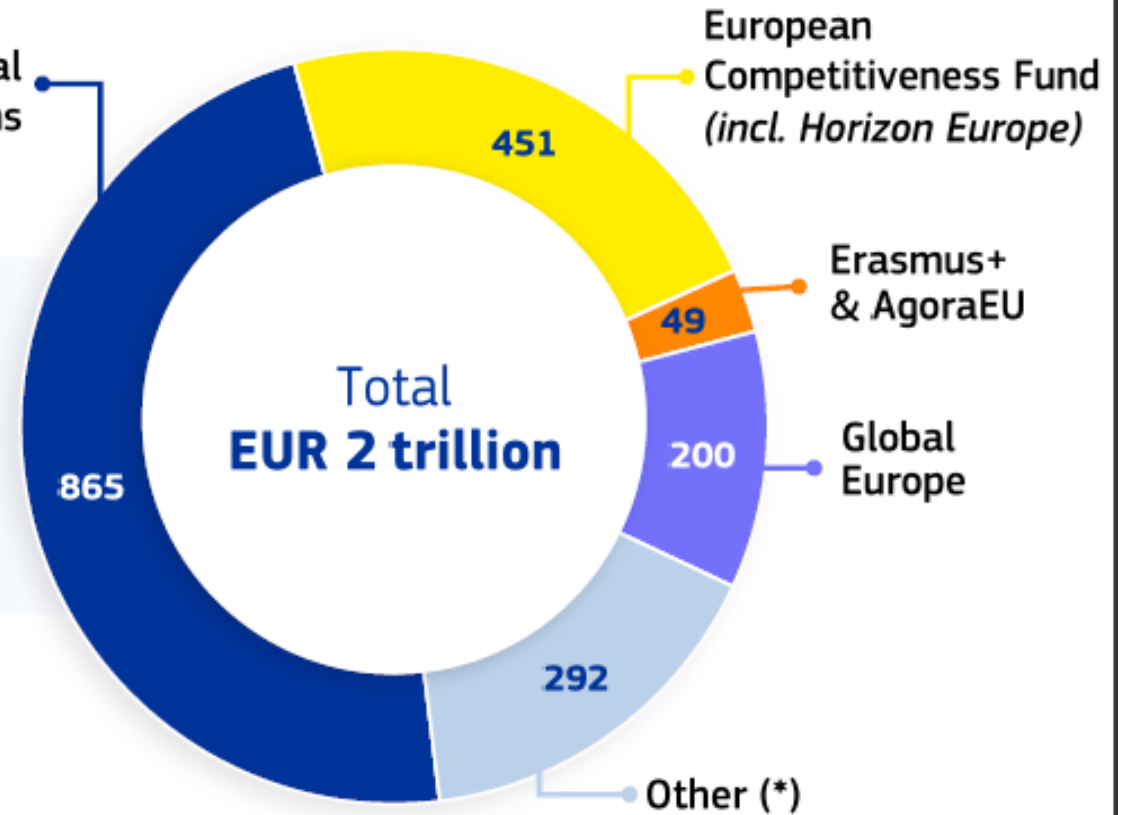
In Billion €



Smarter in design

- From 52 to **16 programmes**
- **Simpler** for beneficiaries
- **Results** oriented
- More **agile** = more flexibility

National and Regional Partnership Plans



(*) CEF, Civil protection and health, Single Market Programme, Euratom Research & Training, CFSP, Justice, Nuclear Decommissioning, OCT, Pericles.
Excludes NextGenerationEU repayment

All amounts in EUR, current prices



Budget expenditure tracking and performance framework

An ambitious green spending target

35%

of the EU budget around over €700 billion

EU budget: Progressive MEPs express fears over lack of ringfenced biodiversity funding

Alexandra Warren
12 Nov 2025

The European Commission's proposal to 'mainstream' green spending in the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) has been criticised for raising the prospect of channeling funding away from biodiversity and nature restoration.



At a meeting of the European Parliament's environment committee last night, MEPs from Renew, the S&D and the Greens questioned the Commission's decision to propose an [overarching 35% target](#) for climate and biodiversity spending.

targets

Horizon Europe	40%
Connecting Europe Facility	70%
Global Europe	30%



- ▶ Merges the current 30% climate and 10% biodiversity target

Expenditure tracking and performance framework delivering simplification

543
intervention fields

Common list of
performance indicators

Single report
on performance

Single Gateway
portal

142 intervention
fields for the
environment,
climate and energy
policy areas

47

on **water resilience, biodiversity and nature restoration, circular economy and bioeconomy, pollution prevention and control**

95

on **energy efficiency, electricity generation, cogeneration, hydrogen** etc.

Intervention fields for **other policy areas**, e.g. 'transport' and 'agriculture' will also **contribute** to **environmental** and **climate** objectives e.g. 'agroforestry systems, including climate resilience measures'

Tracking
coefficients for
climate and
environment

0%

neutral impact, e.g. demolition and wrecking of buildings and other structures

40%

positive contribution, e.g. data collection, support to marine observation, analysis and knowledge

100%

substantial contribution, e.g. protection and restoration of wetlands and peatlands

A consistent and simple application of the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) principle

Goal

Ensure **no significant damage** to climate and environmental objectives

Approach

- A single **proportionate** guidance, replacing current **fragmentation**
- Distinction between **always compliant** activities and **non-compliant** ones

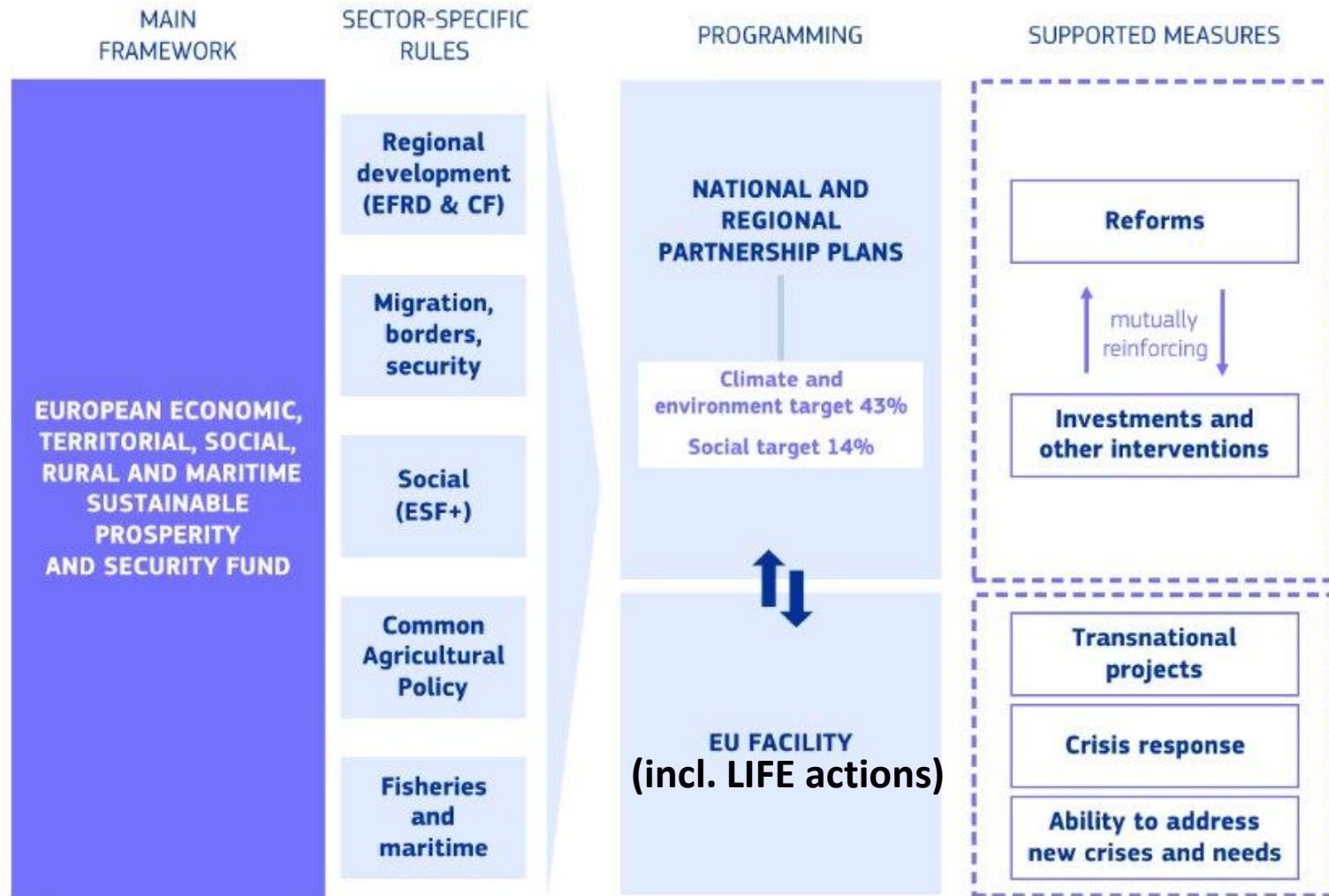
Benefits

Increased **predictability** for beneficiaries, with the **same rules** across the budget, regardless of the programme, **facilitating access** to EU funds



-> COM guidance expected by 1 January 2026

Pillar I: National and regional partnership plans



- Link with national energy and climate plans (NECP) and nature restoration plans
- Integration of Social Climate Plans

National and regional partnership plans will combine EU funds implemented by Member States and regions into a coherent, tailored planning process – fully aligned with the Union’s common priorities. They will maximise the impact of every euro, provide more flexibility to adapt to regional and local needs, and simplify rules for Member States and regions.

NRPs* will contribute around €427 billion to climate and environmental priorities

Reforms and investments

Link **climate, energy and environment-relevant reforms** with investment across different policy areas, including cohesion, agriculture, and fisheries.

43%

climate and environment **spending target**, representing around **€427 billion**

Specific objectives focusing on environment only (Art. 3)

-  Supporting efficient **water** management, quality and resilience,
-  **environmental protection**, climate **adaptation**, climate resilience and
-  enhancing **biodiversity**, soil quality and natural resources,
-  promoting **circularity**, **bioeconomy** and wider resource efficiency,
-  strengthening **pollution** prevention, control and remediation,
-  preserving and restoring **nature** and enhancing **biodiversity** and natural resources,
-  as well as promoting the **New European Bauhaus** solutions in the built environment.

* NRPs = national and regional partnership plans

NRPs* will support the implementation of the national restoration plans

Relevant parts of the policy reference framework for the NRPs

European semester

National energy and climate plans

National restoration plans

'Other plans and programmes...'

- **Art. 1 and 4-13** of the Nature Restoration Regulation set **targets and objectives** for terrestrial, marine, urban, river, pollinator, agricultural and forest ecosystems
- Member States must develop national restoration plans with **measures** necessary to deliver these targets, including assessments of **funding needs**
- The national restoration plans **timeline** will run in parallel to the NRP timeline, with draft submission by 1 September 2026 and **final submission by September 2027**
- The NRP Plans shall be **consistent** with the ambition of the national restoration plans, with measures contributing to their **overarching objectives** and aligned with their targets and obligations.
- The **assessment procedure** will also ensure that the measures and financing needs identified in the national restoration plans are **adequately reflected**.

**EUROPE'S
BUDGET**
THE POWER
OF TOGETHER

European Competitiveness Fund contribution to climate, energy and environment

European Competitiveness Fund will support the entire investment journey

Competitiveness architecture (including ECF, FP10 and the Innovation Fund)

ECF windows
€234 bn*



Focus of the next slides

Technical assistance

ECF InvestEU instrument

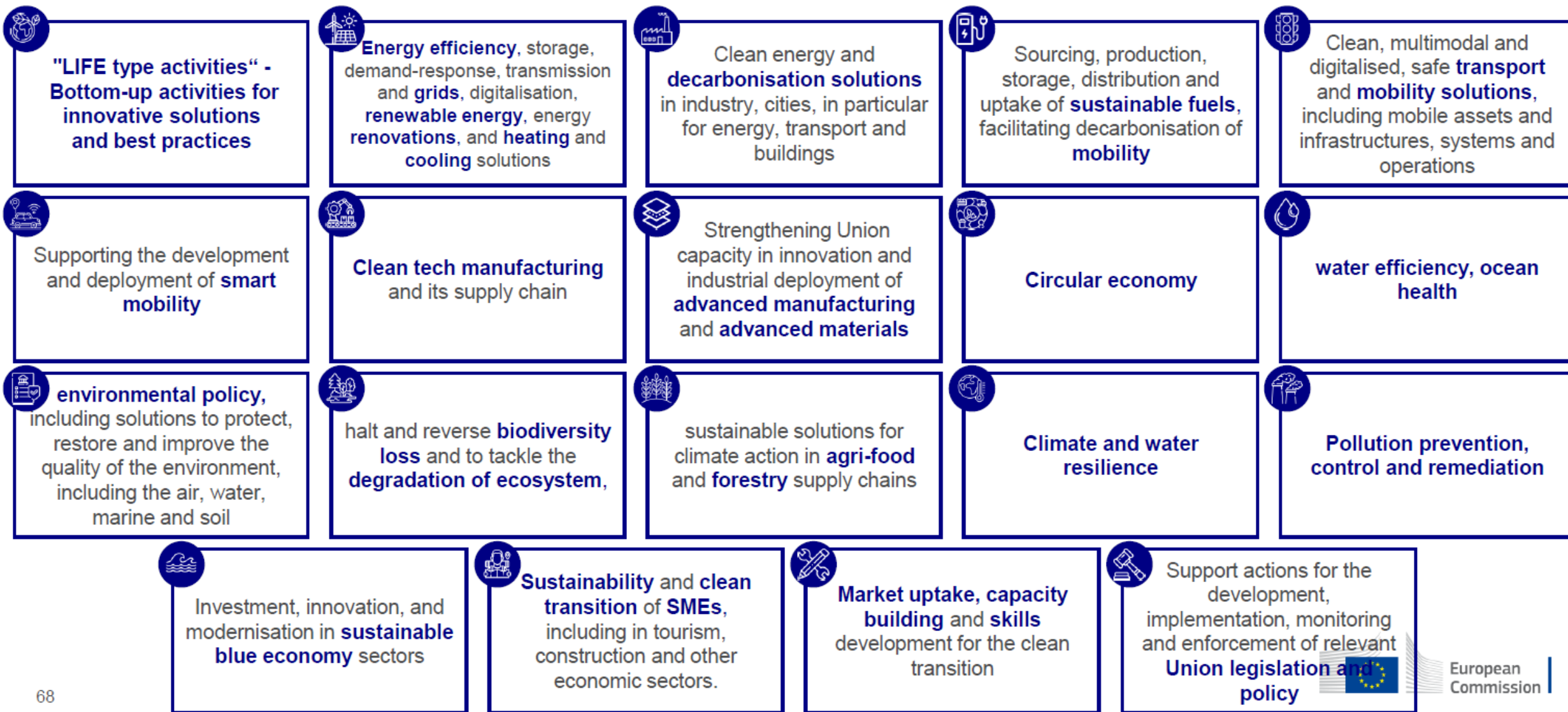
Horizon
Europe
(FP10**) €175 bn



- **43%** green spending target, excluding defence
- Maximise the impact of every euro spent by drawing in **private finance**
- **Integrated work programmes** covering the **full investment journey**

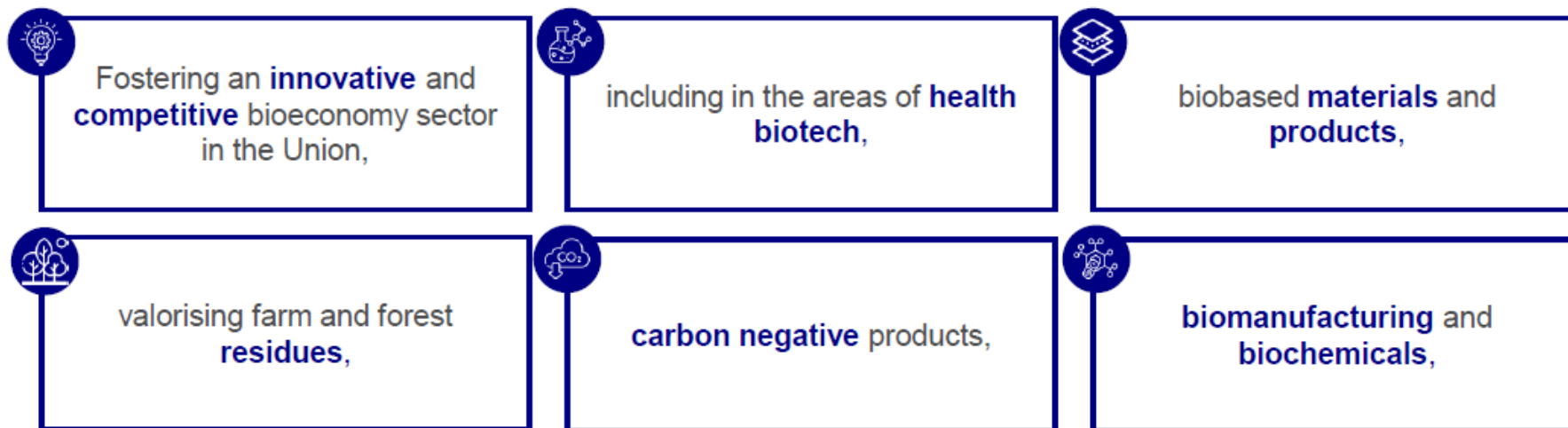
* Amounts shown include the ECF InvestEU instrument integrated in each window; ** FP10 includes four pillars: 1. excellent science; 2. competitiveness and society; 3. innovation; 4. European research area; only the windows under the 'competitiveness' component of pillar 2 are detailed on this slide; the €175 billion budget contributes to all four pillars of FP10

Possible activities under the clean transition window

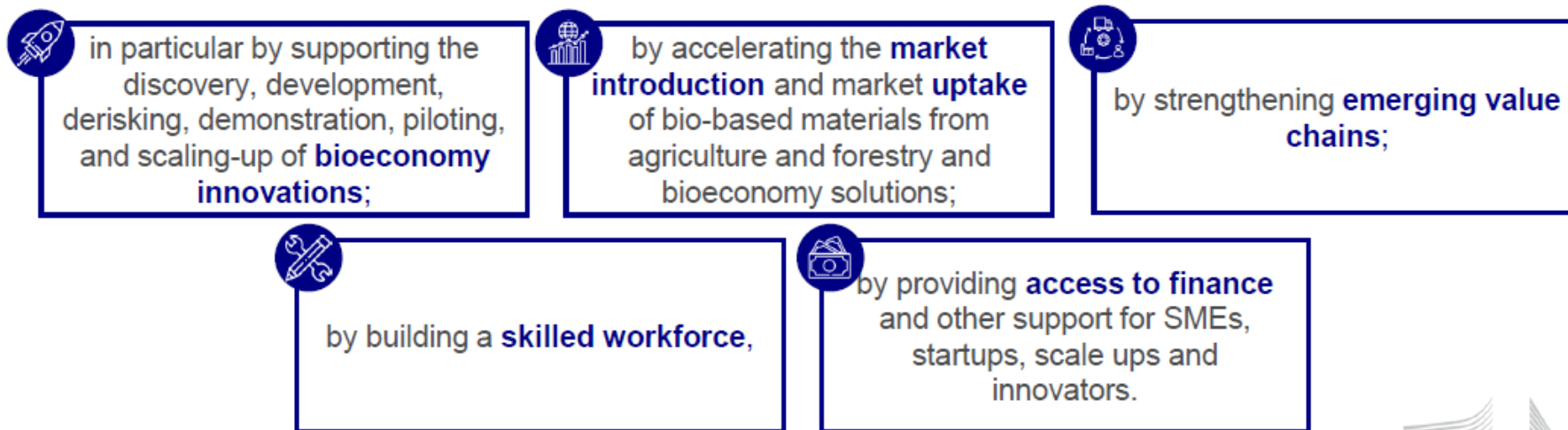


Possible activities under the bioeconomy window*

Thematic priorities

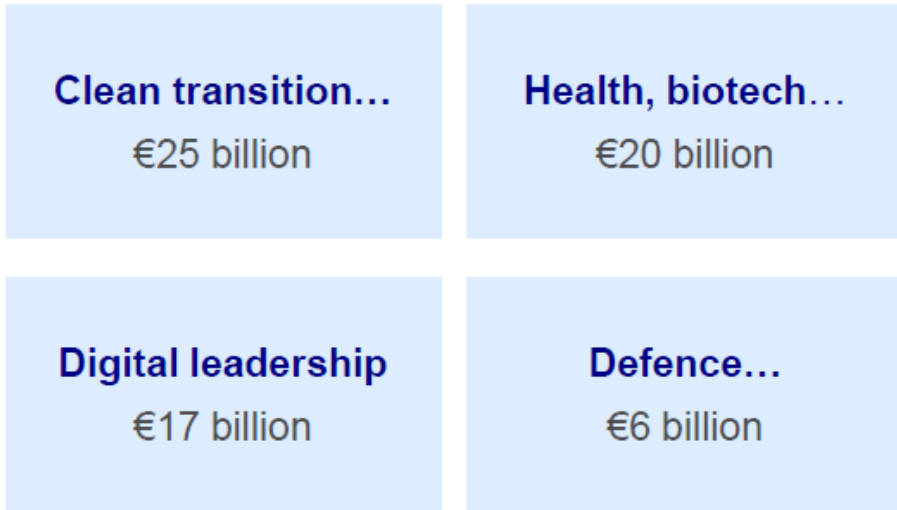


Enablers



Horizon Europe will be closely linked to the European Competitiveness Fund

Pillar II mirrors the ECF windows



Other pillars retain key features of Horizon Europe



40% climate and environment spending target

**EUROPE'S
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Future of LIFE

LIFE actions and activities are included in the NRPs* and the ECF**

LIFE actions in the NRPs*		LIFE-type activities in the ECF**	
In each NRP	National or regional Strategic Integrated Projects, Strategic Nature Projects or Standard Action Projects	Innovative solution and market uptake	Support to bottom-up projects for the demonstration, testing and market uptake of innovative solutions and best practices
In the EU Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-border or transnational strategic nature projects, strategic integrated projects and strategic action projects • Support to design, implementation, enforcement of policies and legislation and governance • Support to civil society organisations 	Awareness raising and capacity building	Awareness raising and capacity buildings on climate, energy and environment
		Technical assistance and investment mobilisation	Development of the energy efficiency investment pipelines and greening of investments, e.g. Green Assist, CET PDA, ELENA

* NRPs = national and regional partnership plans; ** ECF = European Competitiveness Fund

Brussels, 28 October 2025

TO:

Ms Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, ec-president-vdl@ec.europa.eu

Cc: Mr Björn Seibert, Head of Cabinet to the President, bjoern.seibert@ec.europa.eu

Mr Alexandre Adam, Deputy Head of Cabinet, alexandre.adam@ec.europa.eu

Subject: LIFE Programme in the Current Proposal for the 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework

Dear President von der Leyen,

We are writing to you as representatives of **35 European regional and local authorities, 105 municipalities, including their network, 94 enterprises and their trade associations, 90 Universities and Research Institutes and 496 other organisations** across Europe (820 signatories in total) to request that the LIFE program be reconfirmed as a stand-alone funding mechanism in the future Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034.

Other key funds will also contribute to environmental action

Connecting Europe Facility

Will boost investments in key **cross-border infrastructure** projects in the **energy** and **transport** sectors

Erasmus+

Will help build up the needed **skills** for a successful clean transition, in line with the **Clean Industrial Deal**

UCPM

Union Civil Protection Mechanism will strengthen the understanding and anticipation of **disaster risks and threats**, including nature loss, floods and droughts

Global Europe can help partners deliver climate and environmental commitments

Guiding principles

(i) **Consolidation** of instruments (ii) increased **flexibility** to deal with new priorities and unexpected crises (iii) high level **political steer** to fix priorities.

Mainstreaming

Global Europe to design and implement actions to **mainstream environmental protection** and create co-benefits

International commitments

General objective to promote **SDGs, Paris Agreement and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

Geographic objectives

5 geographic pillars; support for the environment included among the specific objectives (Annex II).

Enlargement

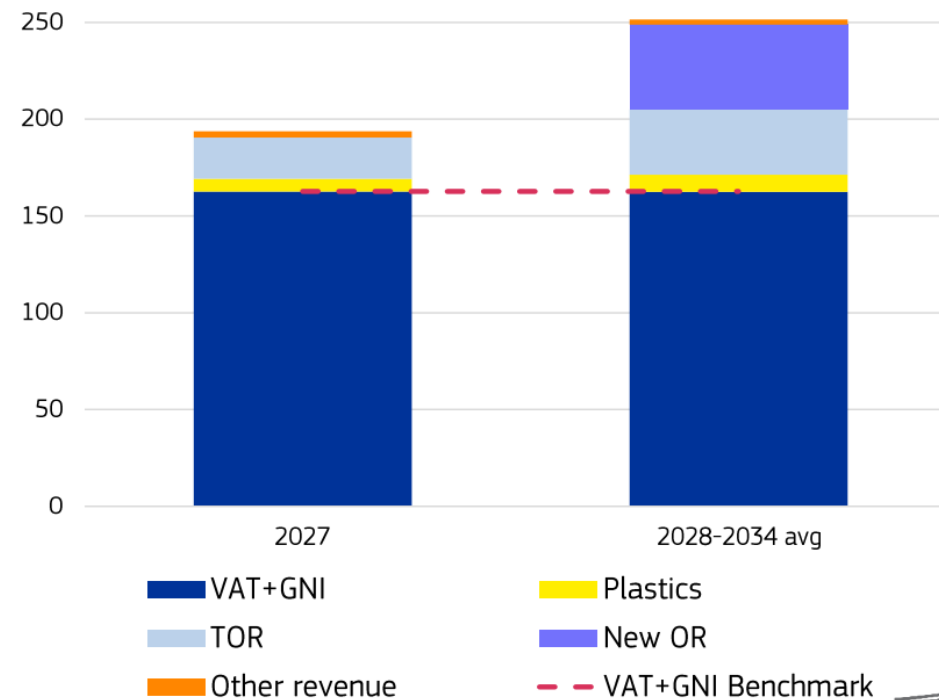
Performance-based approach; priorities are socio-economic development and convergence to the acquis

MFF revenues

- **VAT and GNI own resources remain stable** for EU27 in comparison with 2027 at constant prices.
- **Introduction of new own resources** (ETS1, CBAM, E-waste, Tobacco and CORE).
- **Changes to the existing own resources** (plastics call rate, TOR collection costs, de minimis removal and e-commerce fee).
- **No capping of VAT bases and no lump-sum reductions** to the plastics and GNI-based own resources.
- ETIAS fee is increased and added to other revenues.

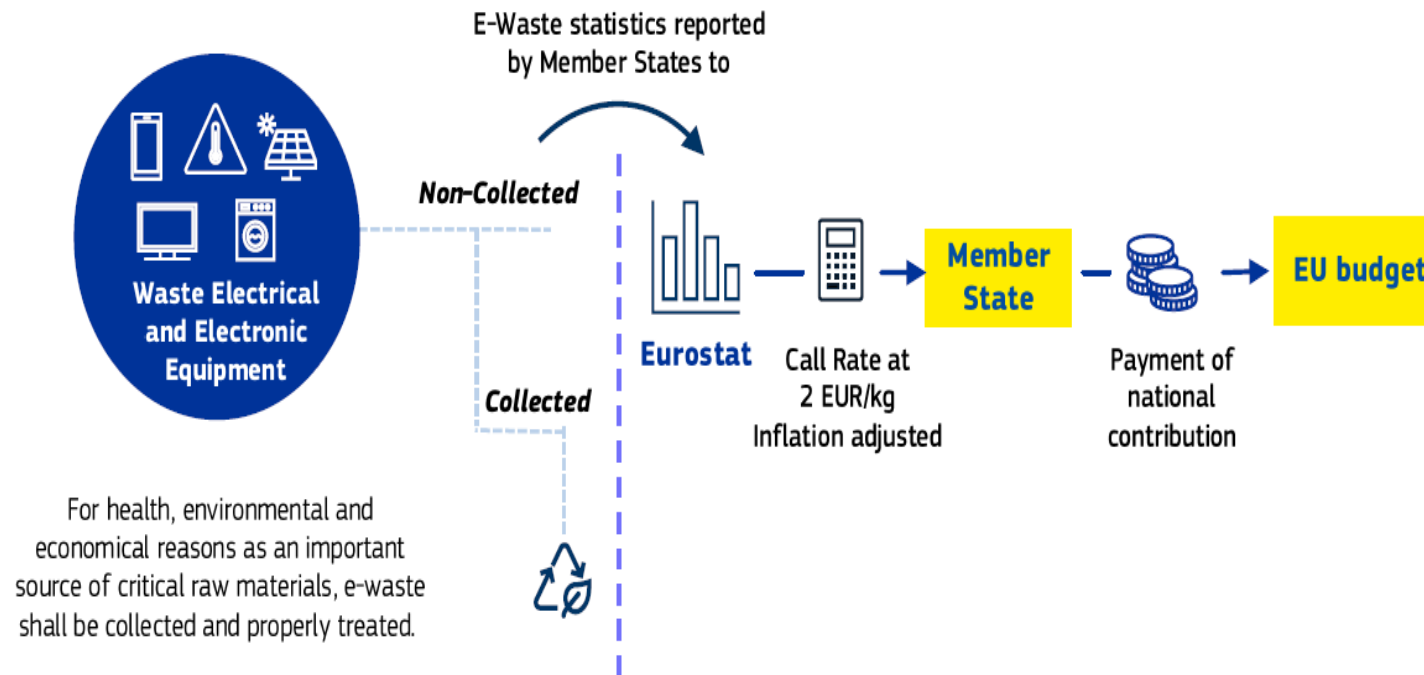
In EUR billion,
2025 prices

**Revenue composition
2027 vs. average 2028-2034**



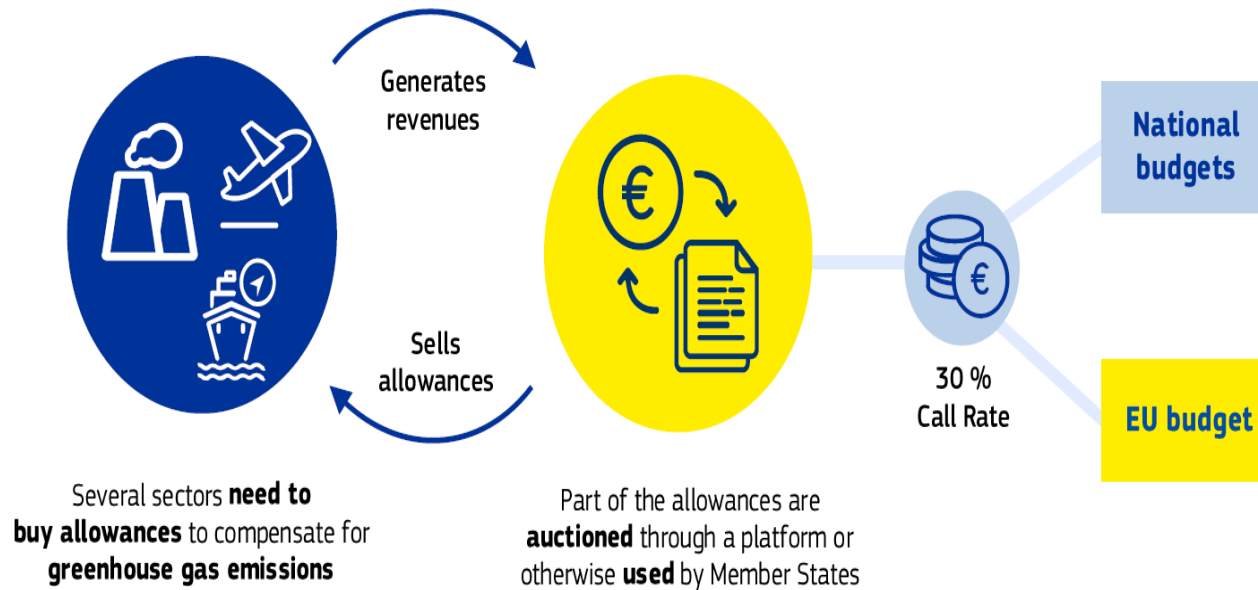
Proposed non-collected e-waste own resource

Non-collected e-waste own resource



Proposed ETS own resource

ETS own resource

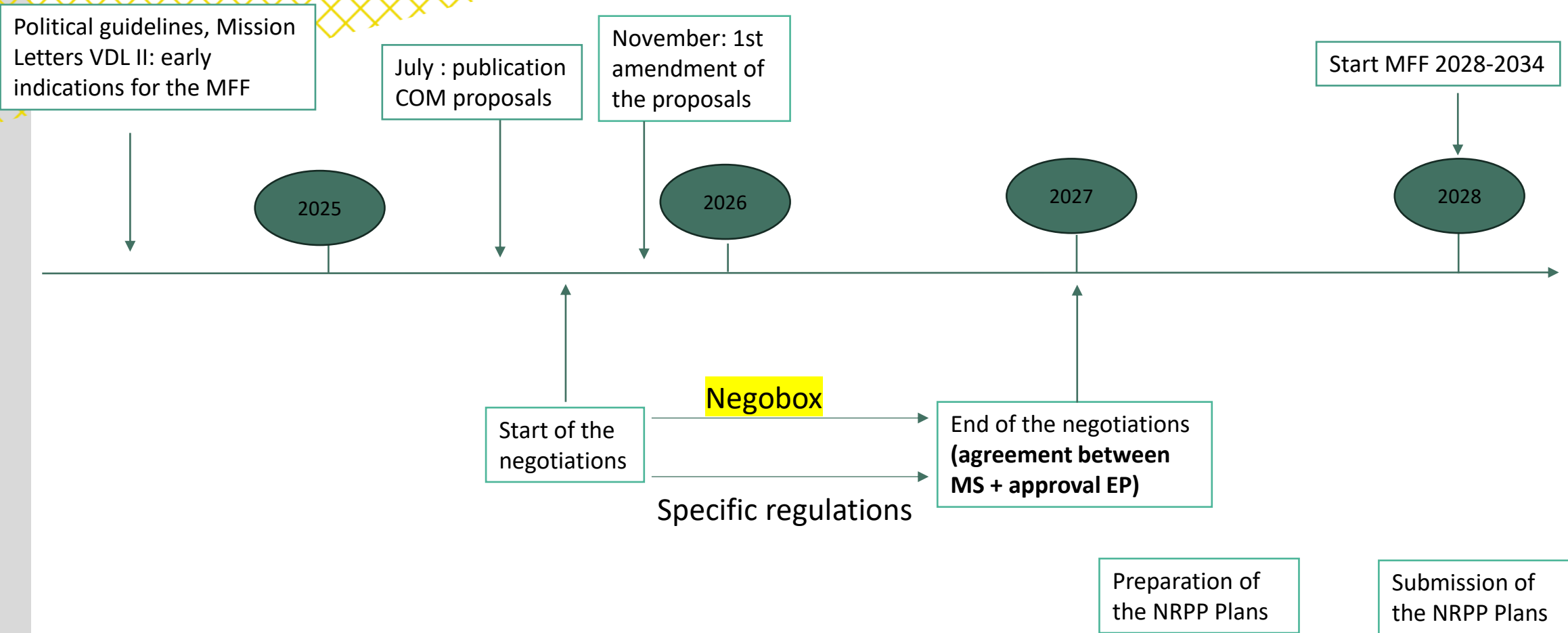


Proposed CBAM own resource

CBAM own resource



Timeline of the negotiations



COM proposals

- ▶ COM communication on a dynamic EU budget for the future
- ▶ Proposal for a Council regulation laying down the MFF for the years 2028-2034
- ▶ Budget expenditure tracking and performance framework
- ▶ Proposal for a Council decision on Own resources
- ▶ Proposed regulations for each Fund

Thank you for your attention!

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