

THE PROPOSED EU BUDGET

UNDERSTANDING THE MULTI-ANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK (MFF)



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The European Union is much more active around the globe than many citizens realise. It has used its soft power to promote its values in the world, advancing human rights for people in so many places.

The proposed EU budget framework, or *Multi-Annual Financial Framework* (MFF), allocates unprecedented levels of funding for border management and military projects over the next seven years. This includes 21€bn for external border control, and another 21€bn for arms research, development and procurement. In both cases this is many times what has been spent in the last seven years.

The impetus for this spending comes from perceptions about public attitudes to immigration, fears about Russia and efforts to increase economic growth – including the arms industry.

Leading peacebuilding, human rights, development and humanitarian organisations are keen to share their expertise so that Europe does not repeat the mistakes which the international community has made countless times in the past.

In particular, proposals to spend billions of euros on private sector arms trade research, military capacity-building and border control - both at home and abroad - do not address the root causes of violent conflict, environmental degradation, poor governance and other drivers of migration. Simplistic responses to complex challenges risks further entrenching cycles of violence, fragility and the displacement of people.

The EU is proud of the global contribution it has made over the last seven years. Reviews into funds such as the Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace and the Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights have demonstrated the impact the EU can make when it spends its budget well.

Investment in peacebuilding and human-centred migration policies has been proven to work. Evidence demonstrates the impact of an integrated approach to peacebuilding, sustainable development and human rights. Such an approach must be ring-fenced within the seven-year budget framework or the current political climate will be «locked in» for years to come.

Europe doesn't need an EU budget that normalises the crisis mode of recent years. Instead, Europe should be at the forefront of addressing the drivers of conflict and insecurity.

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HUMAN RIGHTS + BORDER MANAGEMENT

- **How will the EU ensure that these vast new funds will not be used to violate the human rights of vulnerable people**, or to suppress freedoms in recipient countries? Transparency is needed, but complex and inconsistent national and European Commission reporting mechanisms will make public access to information difficult.
- Some of the new funding for border control represents **a boost for private-sector security companies in EU member states and the USA.**¹ Monitoring EU money going to third countries for border management and the building up of other security forces will be a huge challenge. The EU has significant experience in trying to build sustainable and appropriate state security institutions, and so there is an opportunity to learn from its own evaluations.

PEACE + SECURITY

- The existing Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace will be subsumed into a larger, more general fund. This might mean more joined-up thinking by European Commission departments and member states, but **risks undermining crucial funding for peacebuilding and conflict prevention.**²
- The proposed new “European Peace Facility”, worth €10.5bn, is not what its name would suggest. It does not seek to address the root causes of conflict, but **allows the EU to arm and equip foreign militaries.**³ As this fund lies outwith the main EU budget, it is not subject to oversight by the European Parliament.⁴
- At the same time, the new “European Defence Fund” foresees a further €10.5bn for private-sector military research and development. Funding would only be made available if three or more member states committed to buy the final products⁵ – in other words, **an effective subsidy for the European arms trade.**

Many have said it before us, including the former UN Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson: “There is no peace without development, and there is no development without peace, and none of the above without respect for human rights.”

The EU’s next budget is an opportunity for the EU to stand up for its original values of peace and respect for human rights by securing funding for civilian peacebuilding, and not risk undermining its reputation for human rights and the rule of law.

***Peacebuilding works.
Refugees are people.
Let’s invest in them.***

1. Akkerman, Mark. “How the security industry reaps the rewards of E.U. migration control”, NewsDeeply, June 4 2018.

<https://www.newsdeeply.com/refugees/community/2018/06/04/how-the-security-industry-reaps-the-rewards-of-e-u-migration-control>

2. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, European Commission, 14 June 2018.

<http://www.qcea.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/PART-2018-347913V1.pdf>

3. Proposal of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, with the support of the Commission, to the Council for a Council Decision establishing a European Peace Facility, Council of the European Union, 13 June 2018.

https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/EU/XXVI/EU/02/60/EU_26051/imfname_10818839.pdf

4. The budgetary tools for financing the EU external policy, European Parliament, January 2017.

Article 41(2) of the Lisbon Treaty prohibits the use of the EU budget for military missions. Including the full EDF in the budget would make it difficult to continue those parts of the EU's support to the APF [African Peace Facility, precursor to the European Peace Facility] that fund military operations. [...] The EP makes budgetisation conditional on “a permanent and separate solution for EU financing for security expenses that are linked to and in coherence with development cooperation.” Page 36.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/572708/IPOL_STU\(2017\)572708_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/572708/IPOL_STU(2017)572708_EN.pdf)

5. Defending Europe: The European Defence Fund, European Commission factsheet, June 2018.

https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/defence_fund_factsheet_0_0.pdf