

Brussels, 12 October 2026
(OR. en)

14265/26

ELARG 192
FIN 1434

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Council conclusions on the financial package for the accession negotiations with Montenegro

Delegations will find attached Council conclusions on the financial package for the accession negotiations with Montenegro approved by the Council on 12 October 2026.

Council conclusions on the financial package for the accession negotiations with Montenegro

The Council welcomes the progress made by Montenegro in its accession process and considers the initiation of the internal works on the financial aspects of Montenegro's future accession as an important milestone.

The Council takes note of the Commission Communication outlining a financial package for the accession negotiations with Montenegro and the assessment of the financial impact of Montenegro's accession included therein (document 11098/26), recalling that all amounts remain indicative. Considering the comments of the Member States received on this basis, including on the methodology used for assessing the financial impact on funds under direct management and administrative expenditure, the Council invites the Commission to present a draft common position on the negotiating chapter 33 (financial and budgetary provisions) and, in this context, to include more detailed elements on Montenegro's integration in the different policy areas.

The Council notes that this financial package is based on the assumption that a possible accession of Montenegro could take place in the course of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034.

The Council recalls that neither the Communication on the financial package for the accession negotiations with Montenegro, nor these conclusions, can prejudge the position of the Council in relation to the 2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework.

The date of Montenegro's accession to the European Union will depend on how soon Montenegro meets all outstanding requirements, according to the merit-based enlargement methodology. However, the Council concurs that the Commission's model calculation of the financial implications of a future Montenegro EU membership helps to provide the European Union and Montenegro with greater predictability on the possible future needs with a view to guaranteeing the smooth transition of Montenegro to EU membership.

Without prejudice to final positions to be taken, the Council considers the Commission's Communication on a financial package for the accession negotiations with Montenegro as an important step forward and a basis for the presentation by the Commission of a draft EU common position on the negotiating chapter 33 (financial and budgetary provisions).

The Council notes that the financial package presented by the Commission is largely based on the same principles and methodology underlying the financial packages agreed in previous enlargement rounds. The Council underlines the importance of balancing the specific needs of Montenegro on the one hand with limits on absorption capacity on the other, including an appropriate phasing in of certain expenditure items, where necessary.

Montenegro has to ensure, in a timely manner, that the required capacities and structures for the sound management and effective control of the Union's financial instruments are in place in accordance with the acquis. Protection of the EU's financial interests is of utmost importance.

The Council stresses that the overall financial package for Montenegro has to be firmly inscribed in the general effort for budgetary discipline.

The Commission is invited to present appropriate proposals to take account of the expenditure requirements resulting from the outcome of the accession negotiations.

The Council will keep the European Parliament duly informed on the budgetary aspects in view of the conclusion of accession negotiations with Montenegro.
