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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Joint text on the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2027 • *Statement*

Delegations will find in the annex a joint statement by Austria, the Netherlands and Sweden.

ANNEX

Statement by Austria, the Netherlands and Sweden on the European Union's budget 2027

The EU budget should be based on sound budgetary principles, maintain sufficient margins and safeguard special instruments for unforeseen circumstances.

The agreement on the 2027 budget significantly reduces available margins, with limited redeployments, while increasing reliance on special instruments. While welcoming the financing of the overrun in NGEU interest costs in line with the European Council agreement, the statement on the use of the USL-instrument stands as an unnecessary invitation to go even further in this regard.

The agreement also includes significant increases in administrative expenditure and staff levels.

In our opinion, the EU budget cannot ignore the wider context, in which most national budgets are faced with substantial consolidation measures. We therefore regrettably consider the agreement on the EU budget for 2027 to go beyond the principle of prudent budgeting.