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COVER NOTE

From:	The European Affairs Committee of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
date of receipt:	5 February 2026
To:	The President of the Council of the European Union

Subject:	COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION A dynamic EU Budget for the priorities of the future - The Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 [11690/1/25 - COM(2025)570 final/2] Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2028 to 2034 [11691/25 - COM(2025) 571 final] Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the system of own resources of the European Union and repealing Decision (EU, Euratom) 2020/2053 [11705/25 - COM(2025)574 final] - Opinion on the application of the Principles of Subsidiarity and Proportionality
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Delegations will find enclosed the opinion¹ of the European Affairs Committee of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on the above.

¹ The translation(s) of the opinion may be available on the Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange website (IPEX) at the following address:

<https://secure.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/document/COM-2025-0570>
<https://secure.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/document/COM-2025-0571>
<https://secure.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/document/COM-2025-0574>



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO
EUROPOS REIKALŲ KOMITETAS**
**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

Vilnius, 5 February 2026, No. S-2026-444

OPINION

ON THE EUROPEAN UNION'S MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK 2028-2034

17 December 2025 No. 100-P-99
Vilnius

The Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on A dynamic EU Budget for the priorities of the future – The Multiannual Financial Framework 2028–2034 (COM(2025) 570 final), the Proposal for a Council Regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2028 to 2034 (COM(2025) 571 final), and the Proposal for a Council Decision on the system of own resources of the European Union and repealing Decision (EU, Euratom) 2020/2053 (COM(2025) 574 final),

having taken note of the negotiating position of the Republic of Lithuania on the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034,

having regard to the conclusions of the Committee on Environment Protection, the Committee for the Future, the Committee on Budget and Finance, the Committee on Economics, and the Committee on State Administration and Local Authorities of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

having examined the European Parliament resolution of 7 May 2025 on a revamped long-term budget for the Union in a changing world (2024/2051(INI)),

noting that, while shaping the new Multiannual Financial Framework in the context of the Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine and hybrid attacks within the EU, the EU needs to strengthen its political response, overcome geopolitical instability and macroeconomic challenges, increase its economic weight in the world, and reassess its political priorities,

emphasising the strategic, geopolitical, financial, economic, and social importance of the EU budget from 2028 to 2034 for Lithuania in defending Lithuania's interests and ensuring national stability and economic security,

noting that the ambition for an agreement on the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 may become an important highlight of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2027,

noting the importance of ensuring, in the next long-term EU budget, due attention to the key EU priorities, namely, defence, security, competitiveness, cohesion, agriculture, climate change adaptation, investment in sustainable economy, and EU enlargement,

having full confidence that Ukraine's membership of the EU, with a target date set no later than January 2030, constitutes a key driver for further EU enlargement without leaving behind Moldova, which has maintained the pace of reforms,

emphasizing that, in order to secure a comprehensive multiannual EU budget that also accommodates borrowing costs, the joint borrowing supporting the NextGenerationEU (NGEU) will require repayment over the next few years, while ensuring the financing for EU policies and priorities,

supports the funding proposed by the European Commission for security, defence, military mobility, and support for Ukraine; and **takes the view** that the level of funding allocated for these areas during the negotiations on the new EU Multiannual Financial Framework should be maintained and not reduced, while financing for the defence industry in the EU Multiannual Financial Framework has to be ring-fenced, with priority given to the production and development of military-purpose equipment;

emphasises that the priority in the area of defence must be given to the EU Member States (hereinafter referred to as 'the Member States'), including Lithuania, which face military threats from Russia and Belarus and are allocating substantial national resources to strengthen the defence of the EU's external borders and to support the development of the defence industry. In its efforts to strengthen national security and contribute to collective defence within the EU and NATO, Lithuania plans its 2026 defence expenditure by allocating a substantial share of the state budget, amounting to 5.38 per cent of GDP, for this purpose;

stresses that, in light of growing hybrid threats, geopolitical challenges, and the role of energy security, it is essential to systematically reinforce the security and resilience of energy infrastructure and, therefore, **considers** that dedicated funding should be provided in the framework of the Connecting Europe Facility by establishing a separate budget heading within the new EU Multiannual Financial Framework;

emphasises the need to increase funding for the *Rail Baltica* and *Via Baltica* projects within the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034, as this would directly strengthen the strategic transport links between the Baltic region and Western Europe, enhance the competitiveness of this region, meet the military mobility requirements, reinforce NATO's eastern flank, and reduce dependence on Russian and Belarusian transit routes. For Lithuania, it is essential to secure transitional financing for these projects, enabling the coverage of costs in 2026 from the EU budget for the new programming period;

stresses that the security challenges facing Lithuania, which is situated on the external borders of both the EU and NATO and shares frontiers with Russia and Belarus, are also challenges for Europe as a whole and, therefore, **welcomes** the increased funding for the protection of the EU's external borders and for internal affairs provided for in the European Commission's proposal; and **underlines** the need to allocate additional, targeted funding for these regions from all EU budgetary programmes. This would allow regions facing the greatest external threats not only to respond effectively to security and resilience challenges, but also to tackle the issues relating to competitiveness, as well as economic and social development;

notes that the programmes for the decommissioning of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant and the Special Transit Scheme constitute contractual obligations stemming from Lithuania's membership of the EU and must be fulfilled; **welcomes** the ring-fencing of the proposed funding and **emphasises** that all costs associated with the operation of the Special Transit Scheme should be fully reimbursed, given that the resources allocated to this purpose represent a significant share of Lithuania's national resources;

advocates that the traditional EU policies enshrined in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, such as Cohesion Policy and the Common Agricultural Policy, must retain their distinctive and prominent role, together with adequate funding, at EU level; expressing concern that the level of funding envisaged for Lithuania in these areas is substantially lower than under the current EU Multiannual Financial Framework, **emphasises** that Cohesion Policy, which promotes harmonious regional development and reduces social exclusion, must remain one of the EU's top

priorities and maintain the objectives and principles enshrined in the EU Treaties. Cohesion Policy must not become a tool for dealing with natural disasters and crises. The Common Agricultural Policy must retain its strategic role and autonomy, and it is therefore essential to preserve the current structure and the implementation and management framework of EU agricultural direct payments, as well as rural development instruments;

underlines that the challenges confronting the agricultural sector impact farmers across all the Member States equally, and that ensuring uniform conditions for agricultural direct payments therefore imperative. In 2027, direct payments to Lithuanian farmers are projected to amount only to 79 per cent of the EU average. Completing the external convergence of direct payments is not only a key objective for Lithuania, but also reflects the EU's principles of fairness and solidarity. It is therefore essential to ensure adequate funding for this purpose, reserved exclusively for instruments under the Common Agricultural Policy and not diverted to other uses;

disagrees with the European Commission's proposal to change the management and implementation mode in respect of EU funds under shared management. Integrating the instruments of the Common Agricultural Policy, the Common Fisheries Policy, and the Internal Security Fund – each with distinct activities and characteristics – into a single financing and management system would cast doubt on the continuity and effective implementation of policies in these areas;

supports the European Commission's proposal to provide equal opportunities for the Member States and the European Commission to manage the implementation of the National and Regional Partnership Plan (hereinafter referred to as 'the NRPP'). This principle will enable the Member States to launch the necessary reforms and investments and to determine the pace of their implementation;

considers that the 25 per cent reserve provided for in the NRPP represents an excessively high share of unplanned funds for the future, which poses a risk to the implementation of the NRPP, and, therefore, **approves and supports** the proposal of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania to reduce this share to at least 15 per cent or to introduce more flexible options for using this reserve;

supports the European Commission's proposal to establish the Ukraine Facility, a dedicated instrument as a key element of the EU's strategy of long-term support to Ukraine and its integration into the EU, with the aim of facilitating Ukraine's recovery, reconstruction, and essential wartime reforms; and **underlines** the need to increase future support through subsidies, given the worsening outlook of Ukraine's debt sustainability;

supports the merit-based model under which payments from the European Commission are contingent upon the achievement of milestones and targets; **believes**, however, that this model should only be applied once the shortcomings of the current Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) framework have been addressed and the rules made clear, consistent, and capable of providing sufficient legal certainty and predictability. The current proposal still contains elements inherent to a cost-based model, particularly the requirement for continuous cost monitoring and additional cost verification. In this case, there is a risk that a hybrid model could emerge, requiring the verification of not only the achieved results but also the incurred costs. It is therefore essential to reach a clear prior agreement on the methodology for calculating expenditure, the evidence confirming the achievement of results, and the scope of the management and control system;

advocates for a sustainable and well-founded increase in the EU budget to ensure that the set priorities can be met in practice; and notes that new EU own resources should be introduced only if the EU budget volume increases and they generate additional revenue for the budget. For Lithuania, it is essential that new own resources do not impose a disproportionate burden on the economies of smaller countries, ensure fair burden-sharing among the Member States, and contribute to overall EU solidarity;

supports the ambition that the future Multiannual Financial Framework should be grounded in the rule of law and the provisions of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, thus safeguarding the Union's financial interests and promoting transparent and responsible use of EU funds across all the Member States. Only then can we build on genuine solidarity, shared European values and trust, which are all essential for the EU to remain a strong, resilient, and effective force in today's unstable world.

Chair of the Committee



Rasa Budbergytė