



Manon Aubry and Martin Schirdewan
Co-Presidents of the GUE/NGL in the European Parliament

To
Charles Michel
President of the European Council

18. February 2020

Re: Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027

Dear President of the European Council,

A special meeting of the European Council on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) will be held on 20 February 2020.

Ahead of this meeting, the GUE/NGL group in the European Parliament would like to articulate its defence of an ambitious MFF and to state the following points:

A majority of the political groups in the European Parliament has decided to reject any insufficient MFF. With 1.074% of the Member States GDP, the last proposal sent by the Presidency on 14 February still constitutes a MFF level way below Parliament's expectations (1.3%). Parliament cannot accept it.

We strongly believe in the necessity to preserve the historical and future policies of the EU, such as the Common Agriculture Policy and Cohesion Policy at their current budgetary levels. These two policies ensure convergence, a fair standard of living for people involved in agriculture, rural development and fight against social, economic and territorial disparities within Europe. Conversely, we reject the proposed increase in the share of the budget allocated to defence and border control, in particular via the Frontex agency.

What is more, we believe that a strong MFF is the only solution to tackling climate change, respecting the Paris Agreement, and an effective Green Deal, notably through a real just transition. We believe that, in order to achieve the goals of the European Green Deal and a climate-neutral Europe by 2050, a percentage much higher than 25% of the MFF should be dedicated to climate-friendly investment.

The MFF should also defend a more Social Europe, delivering the European Pillar of Social Rights, supporting quality employment, education, social inclusion, integration of migrants and refugees, and equal access to healthcare.

Finally we also want to recall that we believe in the necessity to create new EU own resources such as a Financial Transaction Tax or a Carbon Border Adjustment tax and we would like to insist on the importance of a strong EU approach to confront tax dodging, including within the EU.

This budgetary approach is the only way to defend real political ambition for the future and an EU that is closer to its citizens and regions. An insufficient MFF and austerity policies as promoted via the European semester are detrimental to the people of Europe and to European cohesion.

Finally, we would like to recall the European Parliament's strong statement in favour of freezing MFF related dossier negotiations until there is progress from the Council side.

During this period of negotiation, the GUE/NGL group will always be alongside those who advocate for a European budget that serves people and planet first. We count on you to defend these political lines in the most constructive way.

Sincerely yours,

M. Schirdewan

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be a combination of 'M. Schirdewan' and 'Marion Aubry', written over a horizontal line.

Martin Schirdewan and Marion Aubry

Co-Presidents of the European United Left / Nordic Green Left in the European Parliament