## Basic information

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## Key players

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<tr>
<th>European Parliament</th>
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<th>Rapporteur</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BUD - Budgetary Conciliation Committee</td>
<td>MUREŞAN Siegfried</td>
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<td>ASIMAKOPOULOU Anna-Michelle</td>
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<td>S&amp;D NEGRESCU Victor</td>
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<td>PAPADIMOULIS Dimitrios</td>
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- **BUDE**: Budgetary Conciliation Committee
- **BUDG**: Budgets
- **EPP**: European People's Party
- **S&D**: Social Democrats
- **RE**: Renew Europe
- **ECR**: Europe of Conservatives and Reformists
### Former committee for opinion

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The committee decided not to give an opinion.
### Key events

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<td>Council position on draft budget published</td>
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<td>11/09/2023</td>
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### Technical information

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2024 general budget: all sections

PURPOSE: presentation by the Commission of the EU's annual draft budget for the year 2024.

CONTENT: the EU faced exceptional challenges in the last years, including the COVID-19 pandemic, dramatic natural disasters and migration issues. In addition, rapidly rising inflation has put considerable pressure on the budget's ability to respond to new developments. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the accompanying weaponisation of energy supplies have had serious economic and financial repercussions in Europe, its neighbourhood and the rest of the world.

Addressing these challenges considerably constrains the ability of the budget to further respond to new developments, but the draft budget for 2024 again provides key funding to the Unions shared priorities, including the green and digital transitions.

NextGenerationEU, the European Union Recovery Instrument, continues to provide extraordinary support to investments and reforms across the Union, notably through the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). With REPowerEU, the financial means of the RRF have been strengthened to respond to the energy challenges emerging from Russia's war of aggression.
The budget remains on track to dedicate 30% of the long-term budget and the NextGenerationEU recovery instrument on combatting climate change. The budget will keep driving Europe's ongoing economic recovery and create jobs, while strengthening Europe's strategic autonomy.

DRAFT BUDGET 2024

The draft budget 2024 sets appropriations of EUR 189.3 billion in commitments, and EUR 143.1 billion in payments, including special instruments, leaving EUR 30.6 billion of margin below the payment ceiling for 2024. The budget will be complemented by an estimated EUR 113 billion in payments for grants under NextGenerationEU, the EU's post-pandemic recovery instrument. In total, commitment appropriations increase by 1.4% compared to the commitment appropriations entered in the 2023 budget.

This proposal is fully in line with the current regulation setting the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), reflecting its limits after three years of unprecedented crises, in a geopolitical and economic context totally different from the one prevailing in December 2020.

The draft 2024 budget is the halfway point in the current 2021-2027 MFF. The Commission will shortly present a mid-term review of the MFF to the European Parliament and the Council.

APPROPRIATIONS BY HEADING OF THE MFF 2021-2027

To meet the EU's various priorities, the Commission proposes to allocate the following amounts (in commitment appropriations):

Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital: EUR 21.4 billion

- EUR 13.6 billion for research and innovation, including EUR 12.8 billion for Horizon Europe, the Union's flagship research programme. The Draft Budget also includes the financing of the European Chips Act under Horizon Europe and through redeployment from other programmes;

- EUR 4.6 billion for European strategic investments, including EUR 2.7 billion for the Connecting Europe Facility to improve cross-border infrastructure, EUR 1.3 billion for the Digital Europe Programme to shape the Union's digital future, and EUR 348 million for InvestEU for key priorities (research and innovation, twin green and digital transition, the health sector, and strategic technologies);

- EUR 947 million to ensure the functioning of the Single Market, including EUR 602 million for the Single Market Programme, and EUR 200 million for work on anti-fraud, taxation, and customs;

- EUR 2.1 billion for spending dedicated to space, mainly for the European Space Programme, which will bring together the Union's action in this strategic field.

- EUR 213 million for secure satellite connections under the new Union Secure Connectivity Programme.

Sub-heading 2a - Economic, social and territorial cohesion: EUR 64.6 billion

- EUR 47.9 billion for regional development and cohesion to support economic, social and territorial cohesion, as well as infrastructure supporting the green transition and the Union's priority projects;

- EUR 16.7 billion for the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) to help Member States achieve high levels of employment, fair social protection and a skilled and resilient workforce ready for the transition to a green and digital economy.

Sub-heading 2b - Resilience and values: EUR 10.3 billion

- EUR 10.3 billion for people, social cohesion and values, including EUR 3.96 billion for increased borrowing costs for NGEU, EUR 3.7 billion Erasmus+ to create education and mobility opportunities for people, EUR 332 million to support artists and creators across Europe and EUR 215 million to promote justice, rights and values;

- 754 million for EU4Health to ensure a comprehensive health response to the needs of the population, as well as 230 million for the Union's civil protection mechanism (rescEU) to be able to rapidly deploy operational assistance in the event of a crisis.

Heading 3 - Natural resources and the environment: EUR 57.3 billion

- EUR 53.8 billion for the Common Agricultural Policy and EUR 1.1 billion for the European Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, for European farmers and fishermen, but also to strengthen the resilience of the agri-food and fisheries sectors and to provide the necessary opportunities for crisis management;

- EUR 2.4 billion for the environment and climate action, including EUR 745 million for the LIFE programme to support climate change mitigation and adaptation, and EUR 1.5 billion for the Just Transition Fund to ensure that the green transition benefits everyone.

Heading 4 - Migration and border management: EUR 3.9 billion

- EUR 2.2 billion for border protection, including EUR 1.1 billion for the Integrated Border Management Fund (IBMF) and EUR 874 million (total EU contribution) for the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex);

- EUR 1.7 billion for migration-related expenditure, including EUR 1.5 billion to support migrants and asylum seekers in line with EU values and priorities.

Heading 5 - Security and defence: EUR 2.3 billion

- EUR 1.6 billion to meet defence challenges, including EUR 638 million to support capability development and research under the European Defence Fund (EDF), EUR 241 million to support military mobility, EUR 260 million for the new short-term defence instrument (EDIRPA) and EUR 343 million to support munitions production;

- EUR 726 million for security, including EUR 315 million for the Internal Security Fund (ISF), which will combat terrorism, radicalisation, organised crime and cybercrime.

Heading 6 - Neighbourhood and the world: EUR 15.8 billion

- EUR 11.4 billion under the Neighbourhood, Development Cooperation and International Cooperation Instrument - Europe in the World (NDICI - Global Europe), EUR 2.1 billion for the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III) and EUR 1.7 billion for humanitarian aid (HUMA).

Heading 7 - European public administration: EUR 11.9 billion
- EUR 2.5 billion for staff pensions and EUR 247 million for the contribution to the financing of the European Schools;
- EUR 9.1 billion for expenditure by the institutions (including EUR 2.3 billion for the European Parliament).

Thematic special instruments: EUR 1.5 billion

The 'thematic special instruments' include the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve, the European Globalisation adjustment Fund for redundant workers (EGF) and the Brexit adjustment reserve.

### 2024 general budget: all sections

The Council adopted its position on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2024 (DB 2024).

The Council's position on the DB 2024 would amount to:

- EUR 187 008.20 million in commitment appropriations (EUR 189 340.98 million in the Commissions DB 2024);
- EUR 141 167.37 million in payment appropriations (EUR 143 053.38 million in the Commissions DB 2024).

The total amount of payment appropriations provided for in the Council's position on the DB 2024 corresponds to 0.80 % of the EU gross national income (GNI).

**Approach taken by the Council**

The Council's position on the 2024 DB has been defined in accordance with the guiding principles of prudent and realistic budgeting and the provision of sufficient resources to support clearly defined priorities.

These guiding principles have led the Council to undertake a detailed analysis of the commitment appropriations under each programme and action by budget line, in order to ensure:

- a realistic absorption capacity;
- an appropriate acceleration of the implementation of programmes by avoiding excessive increases compared to 2023;
- sufficient margins under the ceilings to deal with unforeseen circumstances.

The result of the Council's assessment is reflected in the proposal to adjust downwards the commitment appropriations by EUR 771.92 million.

Very targeted adjustments are limited to headings 1 (Single Market, Innovation and Digital), 2 (Cohesion, Resilience and Values), 3 (Natural Resources and Environment), 4 (Migration and Border Management) and 5 (Security and Defence) and aim at reducing lines that were increased compared to the voted budget 2023, in order to prevent risks in terms of absorption capacity.

A targeted adjustment is also proposed for sub-heading 2b (Resilience and Values) for the European Union Recovery Instrument (EURI) line. An upward adjustment under heading 6 (Neighbourhood and the World) in Humanitarian Aid (HUMA) is also suggested to maintain the same level of humanitarian support as in the voted budget 2023, in order to respond to the consequences of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

As regards administrative expenditure, it is suggested to accept the Commission's proposal as such.

### EXPENDITURE BY HEADING OF THE MFF 2021-2027

The Council amended the commitment appropriations (C/A) and updated the payment appropriations (P/A) for the 2024 DB as follows:

1) Single Market, Innovation and Digital (heading 1 of the MFF): EUR 21 201 352 987 in c/a and EUR 20 908 212 003 in p/a

- the heading is characterised by a total reduction of EUR 230 million in commitment appropriations on a number of specific budget lines related to: Research and Innovation (-EUR 178 million); European Strategic Investments (-EUR 22.5 million); Single Market (-EUR 27.5 million) and Space (-EUR 2 million).

The margin available under heading 1 would be EUR 396.65 million.

2) Cohesion, Resilience and Values (heading 2 of the MFF): EUR 74 366 546 565 in c/a and EUR 33 613 222 445 in p/a

a) Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion (sub-heading 2a of the MFF)

- the Council accepted the level of both commitment and payment appropriations as it stands (EUR 64 665.20 million and EUR 24 155.65 million respectively) in the DB 2024 as proposed by the Commission.

The margin available under sub-heading 2a would be EUR 17.80 million, as proposed by the Commission.

b) Resilience and Values (sub-heading 2b of the MFF)

- the sub-heading is characterised by a total reduction of EUR 612.82 million in commitment appropriations relating to the following: Recovery and Resilience (-EUR 572.82 million on the Financing cost of the European Union Recovery Instrument (EURI)); Investing in People, Social Cohesion and Values (-EUR 40 million on Creative Europe).

As there would be no margin available under sub-heading 2b, it is suggested to mobilise the Flexibility Instrument for an amount of EUR 1 095.35 million (-EUR 240 million).

3) Natural Resources and Environment (heading 3 of the MFF): EUR 57 378 890 839 in c/a and EUR 54 227 567 941 in p/a
The margin available under heading 3 would be EUR 70.11 million.

4) Migration and Border Management (heading 4 of the MFF): EUR 3 876 705 671 in c/a and EUR 3 237 967 443 in p/a

- the heading is characterised by a reduction of commitments appropriations of EUR 20 million for decentralised agencies, namely on the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX).

The margin available under heading 4 would be EUR 143.29 million.

5) Security and Defence (heading 5 of the MFF): EUR 2 287 177 926 in c/a and EUR 2 021 413 531 in p/a

- the heading is characterised by a total reduction of commitment appropriations of EUR 17 million (of which EUR 7 million for decentralised agencies, namely on the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and EUR 10 million on Union Secure Connectivity).

As there would be no margin available under heading 5, it is suggested to mobilise the Flexibility Instrument, in line with the EDIRPA proposal from July 2022, for an amount of EUR 283.18 million (-EUR 17 million).

6) Neighbourhood and the World (heading 6 of the MFF): EUR 15 947 900 000 in c/a and EUR 15 209 371 313 in p/a

- the Council established the level of commitment appropriations, targeting a total increase of EUR 117.90 million in the appropriations requested and set the level of payment appropriations, increasing the appropriations requested in the DB 2024 by a total amount of EUR 98.20 million, related to external action (Humanitarian aid (HUMA)).

As there would be no margin available under heading 6, it is suggested to mobilise the Flexibility Instrument for an amount of EUR 117.90 million.

7) European public administration (heading 7 of the MFF): EUR 11 949 625 456 in c/a and EUR 11 949 626 456 in p/a

For the European Parliament, it is suggested that the DB 2024 (Section I) be approved as it stands (EUR 2 354.86 million).

As there would be no margin available under heading 7, it is suggested to mobilise the Single Margin Instrument for a total amount of EUR 176.6 million, of which EUR 131.00 million for administrative expenditure of the institutions and EUR 45.62 million for pensions of all institutions and bodies, to allow the institutions to meet their legal obligations, as proposed by the Commission.

Special instruments

It is suggested to maintain the appropriations entered in the DB 2024 for the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve, the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund and the Brexit Adjustment Reserve.

The commitment appropriations entered in the DB 2024 for the Flexibility Instrument are established at EUR 1 496.43 million (-EUR 139.1 million) and for the Single Margin Instrument at EUR 176.62 million (-EUR 372.82 million). The payment appropriations for both are maintained as they stand in the DB 2024.

Revenue

It is suggested to accept the DB 2024 after the technical adjustments arising from the changes made to expenditure in the Council's position.

2024 general budget: all sections

The European Parliament adopted by 424 votes to 101, with 102 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the Council position on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2024.

Parliament was successful in increasing funding for programmes and policies which they see as vital for addressing the consequences of the war in Ukraine and high energy prices. It seeks to prioritise boosting research, innovation, and Erasmus+ scholarships, increase funds for the Eastern Neighbourhood and responses to Russian aggression in Ukraine, and bolster traditional areas like agriculture, especially for young farmers.

Parliament notes that, despite the Commission's proposal to revise the MFF, the Council chose to formulate its position on the 2024 budget assuming no change to the framework. Parliament deeply regrets that, despite the drastic constraints, the Council elected to apply a business as usual approach to its budget reading, cutting commitment appropriations in the DB by EUR 772 million and payment appropriations by EUR 515 million across the MFF headings in a way that would diminish the Union's impact, ability to act and relevance globally and that pays no heed to the challenging economic and social context. It considers that the cuts proposed by the Council are unjustified, are not driven by an objective assessment of needs or absorption capacity and run counter, in many instances, to shared policy ambitions and political agreements. It decides, therefore, to restore appropriations on all lines cut by the Council to the level of the DB.

MFF Headings

Heading 1 - Single market, Innovation and Digital

Parliament reinforces Heading 1 by EUR 1 454 239 500 in commitment appropriations and by EUR 1 684 239 500 compared to the Council reading. It points out that EUR 1 175 000 000 of its reinforcements are specific to STEP. It underscores that the ceiling for Heading 1 would increase by EUR 1.375 billion in 2024.

The resolution proposes to increase appropriations for the InvestEU guarantee by EUR 1.05 billion and for the EIC by EUR 125 million in 2024. Agreeing that the recently agreed Chips Act has a significant impact on the budget under Heading 1, Parliament suggested that an additional EUR 50 million is required to meet funding needs over the period 2024 to 2027. It also proposes, therefore, to cover 25 % of that shortfall by allocating EUR 12.5 million to the Chips Joint Undertaking in 2024.

Parliament also called for an increase of EUR 100 million for the Connecting Europe Facility Transport and EUR 10 million for the SME strand...
of the Single Market programme.

Heading 2a - Economic, social and territorial cohesion

Parliament accepts the Council position with respect to Heading 2a. It is deeply concerned however by the high energy and food prices and long-term high inflation, resulting, in particular, in a cost of living crisis across the Union. It highlights, in that regard, that, in 2024, EUR 4.8 billion of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) budget under shared management is to be allocated to food aid and basic material assistance for the most deprived persons, beyond the 4 % target.

Heading 2b - Resilience and values

Parliament reinforces Heading 2b overall by EUR 199 485 306 in commitment appropriations and by EUR 812 302 190 compared to the Council reading.

The resolution underlined that ensuring all EURI borrowing costs are covered by the EURI special instrument over and above the MFF ceilings would have the effect of restoring some margin within Heading 2b and creating budgetary space in the Flexibility and Single Margin Instruments.

An increase of EUR 100 million for Erasmus+ is proposed and EUR 2 million for the European Solidarity Corps to ensure the programmes are accessible for all.

Parliament also proposes and increase of:
- EUR 20 million for the EU4Health programme;
- EUR 20 million for the Union Civil Protection Mechanism;

Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

Heading 3 is strengthened by EUR 1.325 billion in commitment appropriations and by EUR 1.335 billion compared to the Council reading. Parliament proposes to create a new budget line for the Innovation Fund, with appropriations of EUR 1.25 billion.

An addition EUR 40 million is requested to support young farmers and EUR 5 million for school schemes to ensure broader access to healthy and nutritious food for children.

The LIFE programme is increased by EUR 30 million.

Heading 4 - Migration and Border Management

Parliament reinforces Heading 4 overall by EUR 173 941 500 in commitment appropriations above the DB and by EUR 193 941 500 compared to the Council reading. The ceiling for Heading 4 would also increase by EUR 250 million in 2024.

The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) should be strengthened financially by EUR 110 million above DB given its positive contribution in providing immediate support to refugees.

Members proposed to increase by EUR 60 million the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI).

Heading 5 - Security and Defence

Parliament reinforces Heading 5 overall by EUR 670 million in commitment appropriations above the DB and by EUR 687 000 000 compared to the Council. It points out that EUR 625 million of its reinforcements are specific to Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP).

Parliament also decides to increase appropriations for military mobility by EUR 45 million.

Heading 6 - Neighbourhood and the World

Parliament reinforces Heading 6 overall by EUR 2.525 billion in commitment appropriations above the DB and by EUR 2.407 billion compared to the Council reading. The ceiling for Heading 6 would increase by EUR 2.875 billion in 2024.

Parliament noted that the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)-Global Europe cushion has been depleted very quickly and used beyond its core purpose of responding to emerging challenges and priorities, while the humanitarian aid budget has relied heavily on mobilisation of the severely stretched SEAR.

The resolution called for the reinforcement of EUR 650 million for the Southern Neighbourhood line in supporting political, economic and social reforms in the region, in providing assistance to refugees, in particular Syrian and Palestinian refugees.

Parliament condemned unequivocally the brutal terrorist attacks perpetrated by Hamas against Israel and its people. The Commission should reassess humanitarian aid needs for the region to ensure that Union funding continues to reach those in need of assistance.

Regarding the Eastern Neighbourhood, Parliament decided to: (i) increase appropriations by EUR 450 million above DB for the Eastern Neighbourhood and (ii) increase accession-related support under the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA III) by EUR 50 million in 2024 for the Western Balkans.

Moreover, Parliament proposes to:
- increase appropriations for humanitarian aid by EUR 550 million compared to the DB;
- increase appropriations in the NDICI cushion by EUR 800 million above DB in 2024;
- increase by EUR 10 million above DB the allocation for the 'fundamental rights and freedoms' thematic programme;
- increase appropriations for the international dimension of Erasmus+ by EUR 10 million above DB, split evenly between the NDICI and IPA III.

Heading 7 - European Public Administration

Parliament accepts the Council position for Heading 7. It recalled that spending under Heading 7 should be set at a level that guarantees that
the Union has an effective and efficient administration.

European Parliament

Parliament expresses its astonishment and deep concern at the Commissions unilateral decision to reduce Parliaments estimates for 2024, which breaks once more the tradition of good cooperation between the two institutions.

Parliament restores the appropriations of its budget for 2024 set at EUR 2 383 401 312, in line with its estimates of revenue and expenditure adopted by the Plenary on 20 April 2023.

2024 general budget: all sections

The European Parliament adopted by 579 votes to 79, with 30 abstentions, a legislative resolution approving the joint text on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2024 approved by the Conciliation Committee under the budgetary procedure.

According to the elements for joint conclusions:

- the overall level of commitment appropriations in the 2024 budget is set at EUR 189 385.4 million. Overall, this leaves a margin below the MFF ceilings for 2024 of EUR 360.1 million in commitment appropriations.

- the overall level of payment appropriations in the 2024 budget is set at EUR 142 630.3 million. Overall, this leaves a margin below the MFF ceiling for 2024 of EUR 31 018.5 million in payment appropriations;

- the Flexibility Instrument for 2024 is mobilised in commitment appropriations for an amount of EUR 1 635.5 million, of which EUR 1 289.5 million for sub-heading 2b Resilience and Values, EUR 317.2 million for heading 5 Security and Defence and EUR 28.9 million for heading 6 Neighbourhood and the World;

- in accordance with the MFF Regulation, the Single Margin Instrument is mobilised in commitment appropriations for an amount of EUR 586.1 million, of which EUR 371.1 million for heading 6 Neighbourhood and the World and EUR 215 million for heading 7 European Public Administration.

The 2024 payment appropriations related to the mobilisation of the Flexibility Instrument in the years 2021 to 2024 are estimated by the Commission at EUR 1 734.4 million.

Expenditure headings of the financial framework - commitment appropriations

Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

The agreed level of commitment appropriations is set at EUR 21 493.4 million, leaving a margin of EUR 104.6 million under the expenditure ceiling of heading 1.

Sub-heading 2a - Economic, social and territorial Cohesion

Commitment appropriations are set at the level proposed by the Commission in the Draft Budget without any adjustments. As a consequence, the agreed level of commitment appropriations is set at EUR 64 665.2 million, leaving a margin of EUR 17.8 million under the expenditure ceiling of sub-heading 2a.

Sub-heading 2b - Resilience and Values

Erasmus+ is reinforced by EUR 60 million, in particular in order to make the programme more accessible for people with fewer opportunities. The agreed level of commitment appropriations is set at EUR 9 895.5 million, with no margin left under the expenditure ceiling of sub-heading 2b and the mobilisation of the Flexibility Instrument for an amount of EUR 1 289.5 million.

Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

The agreed level of commitment appropriations is set at EUR 57 338.6 million, leaving a margin of EUR 110.4 million under the expenditure ceiling of heading 3.

Heading 4 - Migration and Border Management

The agreed level of commitment appropriations is set at EUR 3 892.7 million, leaving a margin of EUR 127.3 million under the expenditure ceiling of heading 4.

Heading 5 - Security and Defence

The agreed level of commitment appropriations is set at EUR 2 321.2 million, with no margin left under the expenditure ceiling of heading 5 and the mobilisation of the Flexibility Instrument for an amount of EUR 317.2 million.

Heading 6 - Neighbourhood and the World

The agreed level of commitment appropriations is set at EUR 16 230.0 million, with no margin left under the expenditure ceiling of heading 6 and the mobilisation of the Flexibility Instrument for an amount of EUR 28.9 million and the mobilisation of the Single Margin Instrument for an amount of EUR 371.1 million.

Heading 7 - European Public Administration

The overall adjustment results in an increase of EUR 33.8 million of heading 7. Amendments introduced by the European Parliament to its own section are reinstated without modifications. Overall, this results in a level of appropriations of EUR 2 383.1 million, which represents an increase of EUR 27 707 693 in comparison with the Draft Budget as amended by Amending Letter 1/2024.

Transparency
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Position/Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FERNANDES José Manuel</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>11/10/2023</td>
<td>Head of EPRS budgetary policies, Tim Peters</td>
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<tr>
<td>FERNANDES José Manuel</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>26/09/2023</td>
<td>Minister of the sea of Cape Vert, The Entrepreneurs of Galicia</td>
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