

Long-term EU budget

143. Due to crises and challenges of recent years, there is a more urgent need for the European Union to have and implement common priorities. This is why, for the **EU budget period starting in 2028, the long-term budget** must increase in size and contribute significantly more to EU public goods, in particular to comprehensive defence, strengthening external borders, and the development of cross-border connections, as well as ensure support for Ukraine and take into account EU enlargement.

144. **Cohesion policy** must continue to support the socio-economic convergence of countries and regions. As countries' wealth increases, subsidies should not fall sharply compared to the previous period. **More favourable treatment in the use of EU budget support should be foreseen for the border regions of eastern EU** to mitigate the impact of disruptions to cross-border trade flows and security constraints on local economies and infrastructure development, and to strengthen the resilience of communities.

145. **The Common Agricultural Policy** must continue to harmonise the level of direct payments between Member States to achieve equal terms of competition.

146. **Possible new sources of revenue for the budget** must have added value compared to the current system, i.e. not merely redistribute contributions from national budgets. Neither should the new own resources place a disproportionate burden on less prosperous Member States.