

COHESION POLICY IN THE FUTURE MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

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In view of the forthcoming Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) proposals, and in the context of the recent announcement by President Ursula von der Leyen that *there will be a central place for Cohesion Policy in our next budget*,

while valuing the assurance given in the mission letter of Commissioner Piotr Serafin that the Commission is to consult and exchange broadly and work closely with the Council throughout the ensuing negotiations,

We affirm our shared view that only a distinct and robust budget and a region-based allocation methodology, reflecting the different development levels of regions, together with a stand-alone Cohesion Policy dedicated legislation, can ensure that the next MFF will deliver long-term unity, competitiveness and convergence across EU regions.

Furthermore, we recall the messages in our joint non-paper "*A Strong Cohesion Policy for Growth, Convergence and Competitiveness*" (February 2025).