



**Group of the Progressive Alliance of  
Socialists & Democrats  
in the European Parliament**

**European Parliament**  
Rue Wiertz 60  
B-1047 Bruxelles  
T +32 2 284 2111  
F +32 2 230 6664  
[www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu](http://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu)

Brussels, 16 October 2025

Dear President von der Leyen,

Having undertaken serious internal work on your proposals on the next MFF 2028-2034, we are writing to explain why our group cannot accept the National and Regional Partnership Plans for investments and reforms (NRPPs) in their current form.

The current political objectives and design of the partnership plans risk undermining the very goals of cohesion and solidarity that the EU stands for. We will always defend the idea of a Union in which “*cooperation strengthens, and solidarity unites*”, in the words of Jacques Delors. On behalf of the S&D Group in the European Parliament, we therefore call on you to reconsider your position on the following political elements of your proposal:

This will not come as a surprise to you: we have consistently stated, in our Group communication as well as in the European Parliament MFF Initiative report that was co-authored by our Group, that the ‘one national plan per Member State’ approach with the Recovery and Resilience Facility model as a blueprint, cannot be the basis for shared management spending post-2027.

The shift towards centralised national planning, weakening regional participation and civil society involvement, is unacceptable to us. The proposal presents a risk of financing 27 national growth plans rather than one coherent EU-wide investment strategy and may exacerbate regional disparities rather than reduce them, jeopardising the stability of the internal market. The objective of the NRPP should be to promote upwards convergence, not lead to further divergence. We strongly oppose unfair enhanced conditionality mechanisms pairing investment plans with reform pledges that address European Semester recommendations and other reform guidelines, which would hamper the regional development perspective. Such mechanisms lack democratic accountability and are incompatible with instruments meant to promote social and territorial cohesion. In addition, we want to ensure that the European Parliament has stronger democratic control over spending, which is clearly not embedded in your proposal.

We have to show to our citizens that social progress is an acquis of the Union and that the European Pillar of Social Rights is not just words. It is therefore fundamental that the ESF+ remains earmarked with a dedicated and increased budget line within the 2028-2034 framework. We need to invest in people and provide strategic policy frameworks for active labour market policies, gender equality, education and training, social inclusion, poverty reduction and health. This is crucial to allow the EU to meet the increasing economic and social challenges it is facing.

We also consider that, at a time of rising economic and social inequality and increasing geopolitical pressure, the proposal of merging of Cohesion Policy with the Common



**Group of the Progressive Alliance of  
Socialists & Democrats  
in the European Parliament**

**European Parliament**  
Rue Wiertz 60  
B-1047 Bruxelles  
T +32 2 284 2111  
F +32 2 230 6664  
[www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu](http://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu)

Agriculture Policy into a single national envelope per Member State is a step back from the EU's founding principles. We ask for a strong financial commitment to Cohesion Policy, along with a clear and future-fit mandate, maintaining its key principles. The legislative framework of the next NRPP needs to be more binding when it comes to the involvement of regions, with a place-based approach to ensure well-tailored transitions that leave no-one behind. In the same vein, we want to maintain a clear CAP budget line to preserve the integrity of the two pillars. For us, ensuring a strong CAP budget indexed to inflation is key to protect farmers' income and support rural development measures. A well-funded, more resilient and future-proof agriculture policy is essential to preserve Europe's food security, ensure we reach the EU's climate goals and meet our biodiversity commitments.

Housing has become a social emergency in Europe, which we need to tackle head-on. For that, we need to invest massively in housing through a dedicated budget line in the next MFF. We therefore call for a major increase in EU funding for affordable and decent housing, delivered through grants, equity, loans, guarantees, and other tools tailored to local needs, without excessive administrative burden.

On a more general note, and while welcoming the idea behind Catalyst Europe, we strongly believe that, in order to answer to our multiple investment needs and to bridge the gap left by the expiration of NextGenerationEU, we must provide the EU with an additional joint borrowing capacity. This would truly unlock the necessary joint investment we need in the long term, in areas such as defence, innovation or infrastructure. Such changes are essential to restore trust, enhance effectiveness, and empower the Union to deliver for citizens.

We urge you to use your leadership to prioritise reforms aimed at improving fairness and solidarity in the current MFF proposal and to take the necessary steps to address the abovementioned concerns for the sake of stronger, more inclusive and more united European cooperation. How you take into account our requests will play a key role in the definition of our position as a group on this file of central importance. We hope you will stand ready to work constructively, as we do, to ensure the stability of the European project, which is so direly needed in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,

Iratxe García Pérez, S&D Group President

Mohammed Chahim, S&D Group Vice President, Responsible for the Green Deal for Industry, Energy and Climate and Financing the Just Transition

Carla Tavares, Co-Rapporteur on the Post-2027 MFF in the European Parliament's Committee on Budgets

Jean-Marc Germain, S&D Coordinator, Committee on Budgets