

## Enabling Europe to act

for a future-proof EU budget



**Joint appeal by: Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie e.V., Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund, Deutscher Bundesjugendring e.V., Deutscher Naturschutzring e.V., dbb beamtenbund und tarifunion, Deutscher Olympischer Sportbund e.V., Verbraucherzentrale Bundesverband e.V., Albert Schweizer Stiftung für unsere Mitwelt, Berliner Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Bundesvereinigung Nachhaltigkeit e.V., Citizens of Europe e. V., DFK - Verband für Fach- und Führungskräfte, Europa-Union Deutschland e.V., Germanwatch e.V., Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Junge Föderalist:innen Deutschland e.V., Katholische Arbeitnehmer-Bewegung Deutschlands e.V., PariJus gGmbH, Polyspektiv, Zentralkomitee der deutschen Katholiken e.V., Zentrum für Europäischen Verbraucherschutz e.V. at the initiative of Europäische Bewegung Deutschland e.V. – 14th of October 2026**

Europe faces growing common challenges. Security, competitiveness, the green and digital transitions and social cohesion are becoming increasingly difficult to safeguard through national action alone. We, the undersigned member organisations of European Movement Germany, therefore call on the German Federal Government, in the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2028–2034, to advocate **a significantly more ambitious EU budget that gives the Union greater capacity to act**. Anyone who assigns new tasks to the EU must also give it the means to carry them out.

Germany in particular benefits greatly from a functioning single market, joint investments, European infrastructure and other European public goods. These benefits cannot be measured by how much funding flows directly back into the national budget. A debate that assesses the EU budget primarily in terms of net contributors and net recipients therefore narrows the focus to national balances. **What matters is the shared added value that European investments create for prosperity, security and cohesion throughout Europe, and thus also in Germany.**

The forthcoming MFF must therefore be guided by this **European added value** and visibly reflect Europe's political priorities: **competitiveness, innovation and research, climate, environmental and transformation**

**policies, European security and defence, social and territorial cohesion, high-quality employment** as well as the **strengthening of democratic resilience**. These tasks must not be pitted against one another. At the same time, the budget must be able to respond more flexibly to new crises, and its programmes must be simpler.

European funds must be democratically legitimised and used effectively and efficiently. To this end, the German Federal Government must closely involve the European Parliament, the German Bundestag, the economic and social partners, and local authorities in negotiations at all levels and in the implementation of the budget. EU funds must also remain consistently conditional on respect for the rule of law.

At the same time, there must be an **early agreement on the new MFF**, without sacrificing substance to the timetable. Businesses, academia and research, as well as other stakeholders in society across Europe, need planning certainty to ensure that no funding gap arises from January 2028. The new national and regional partnership plans must not lead to further fragmentation of the single market. Regions, municipalities and social partners must have a guaranteed role in drawing them up and implementing them, in accordance with the partnership principle.

**We call on the German Federal Government to take responsibility for a Europe capable of action in the forthcoming negotiations and to advocate an MFF that is commensurate with Europe's shared responsibilities.**

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### Signatory organisations within the network of Europäische Bewegung Deutschland e.V.:

- Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie e.V.,
- Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund,
- Deutscher Bundesjugendring e.V.,
- Deutscher Naturschutzring e.V.,
- dbb beamtenbund und tarifunion,
- Deutscher Olympischer Sportbund e.V.,
- Verbraucherzentrale Bundesverband e.V.,
- Albert Schweizer Stiftung für unsere Mitwelt,
- Berliner Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit,
- Bundesvereinigung Nachhaltigkeit e.V.,
- Citizens of Europe e. V.,
- DFK - Verband für Fach- und Führungskräfte,
- Europa-Union Deutschland e.V.,
- Germanwatch e.V.,
- Heinrich Böll Stiftung,
- Junge Föderalist:innen Deutschland e.V.,
- Katholische Arbeitnehmer-Bewegung Deutschlands e.V.,
- PariJus gGmbH,
- Polyspektiv,
- Zentralkomitee der deutschen Katholiken e.V.,
- Zentrum für Europäischen Verbraucherschutz e.V.