

EFA statement on VdL letter - MFF

The Commission's latest proposal for the Union's budget is moving in the right direction but remains entirely insufficient. For now, we only have a draft, NOT a formal proposal, which in essence changes nothing. Three fundamental aspects remain untouched:

1. the Commission does not give up centralisation with the 27 national plans;
2. the role of the regions and cities on the design, management and implementation is still highly insufficient;
3. it does not question the "Frankenstein" structure that mixes funds, creating a system that is inconsistent and difficult to govern.

The allocation for regions in transition and for the more developed ones also remains insufficient, and no clear and transparent methodology for the distribution of funds is specified. This is why, from the European Free Alliance, we cannot be satisfied with the proposal. Europe needs more and better: a project that recognises its greatest strength—its regions and their citizens.