

Conciliation agreement on the 2018 EU budget

On 18 November, European Parliament and Council negotiators reached a provisional agreement on the 2018 EU budget. The joint text, which provides for total commitments of €160.11 billion and total payments of €144.68 billion, is expected to be adopted by the Council and then voted on by the Parliament during the November II plenary session.

Outcome of the conciliation procedure

The amounts agreed in [the joint text](#) are close to the draft budget proposed by the European Commission, which had been cut by the Council and increased by the European Parliament (EP) in their respective readings earlier this year (see overleaf for details). However, some headings have been topped up and appropriations partly redistributed in comparison with the draft budget proposed by the Commission in July 2017, largely in line with the priorities of the European Parliament expressed in its [March 2017 resolution](#) on general guidelines for the preparation of the 2018 budget, and confirmed by the EP plenary in [its reading of the 2018](#) draft budget.

Sustainable growth, jobs, security, and climate change

The [EP reading of the 2018](#) EU budget (October 2017) highlighted the areas of sustainable growth; jobs – particularly youth employment; security; and climate change. The conciliation agreement confirmed increases in **commitments** above the draft budget in those areas. Under Heading 1a, Competitiveness for growth and jobs, the following programmes were strengthened: Horizon 2020 (+€110 million), Erasmus+ (+€24 million) and COSME (+€15 million). Under Heading 1b, Economic, social and territorial cohesion, the budget of the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) was increased to €350 million. A joint statement was also agreed, as well as a unilateral statement by the Commission, on the scope for a further increase in YEI funding by way of an amending budget. Under Heading 2, Sustainable growth: natural resources, there were increases in the following budget lines: young farmers (+€34 million), climate (+€95 million) and milk storage (+€2 million). Under Heading 3, Security and citizenship, the budgets of three agencies were topped up: Europol (+€3.7 million), the European Asylum Support Office (+€5 million) and Eurojust (+€1.8 million), as well as the budget for the Creative Europe programme (+€3.5 million). Under Heading 4, Global Europe, pre-accession funds for Turkey were cut by €105 million with a further part put in reserve (€70 million), pending improvements in the fields of rule of law, democracy, human rights and press freedom. Increases were agreed for the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI-South) (+€34 million), the Development Cooperation Instrument (+€20 million), ENI-East (+€10 million), the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA-Balkans) (+€10 million), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (Palestine/UNRWA) (+€6 million), Strategic communication (+€3 million) and the Turkish-Cypriot community (+€2 million). Under the Administration heading, the amounts proposed by the Commission were restored for all institutions. The EP and Council agreed to mobilise the **Flexibility Instrument** for 2018, with €837.2 million in commitment appropriations allocated to Heading 3. From the Global margin for commitments, €1.11 billion has been allocated to Heading 1a and Heading 1b. Concerning **payments**, the amounts proposed in the Commission draft have in general been restored or adjusted to reflect the amendments in commitments. They have been reduced in Heading 2 to reflect higher assigned revenues, and in Heading 1b in line with the Council's reading and based on an assurance by the Commission that these amounts would suffice.

The EP and the Council have 14 days from the date of the agreement to approve the joint text. If both approve it, the President of the EP signs the budget and declares it definitively adopted. If the EP rejects the joint text, the Commission must table a new draft budget. If the Council rejects the text, the EP may still decide to approve it.

Budgetary procedure – Rule 88: [2017/2044\(BUD\)](#); Committee responsible: BUDG; Rapporteurs: Siegfried Mureşan (EPP, Romania) – Section III: Commission, and Richard Ashworth (ECR, United Kingdom) – other sections.



2018 budgetary procedure: milestones and figures

July 2017: The European Commission submits the [draft EU budget](#) for 2018.

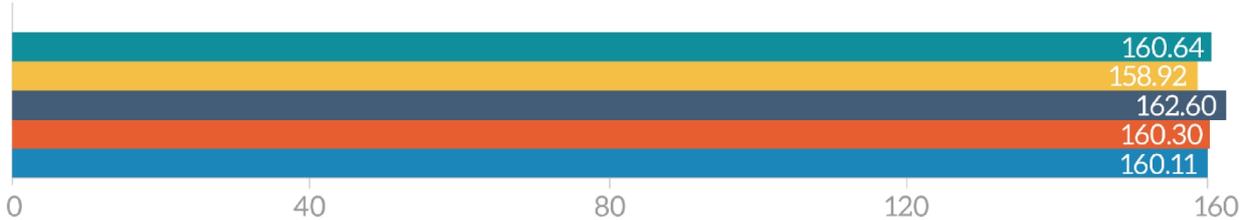
September 2017: The Council formally [adopts](#) its position on the draft 2018 EU budget.

October 2017: The European Parliament [amends](#) the Council's position on the draft 2018 EU budget.

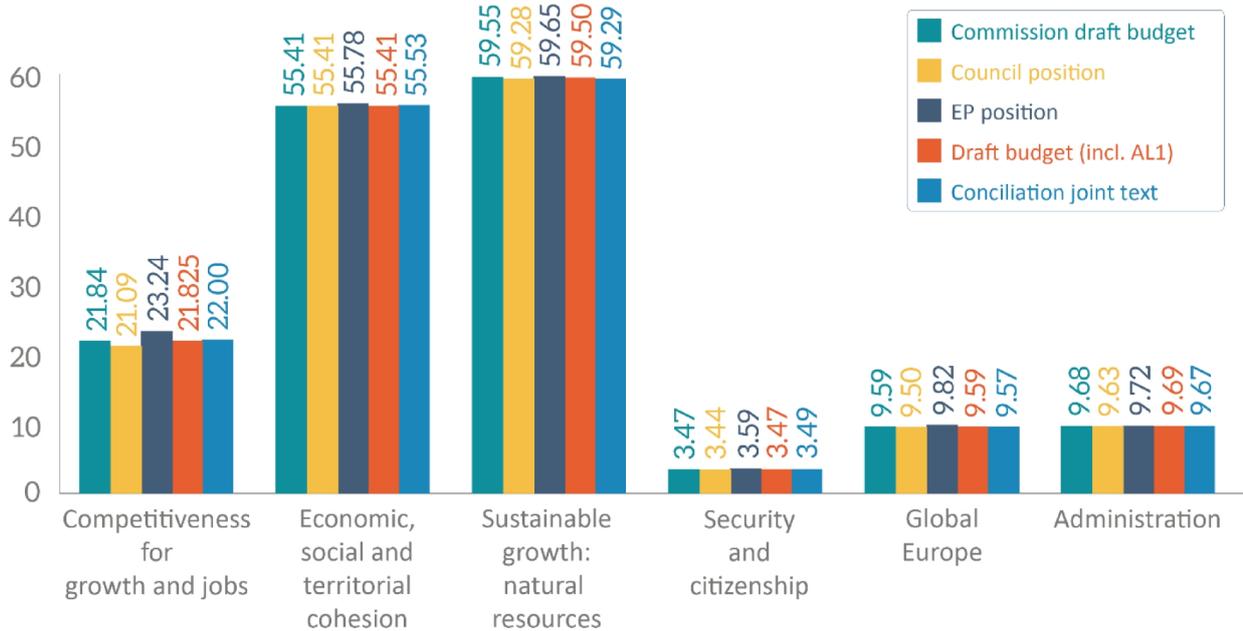
October 2017: The European Commission tables modifications to its proposal for next year's EU budget by means of [Amending Letter \(AL\) 1/2018](#).

November 2017: European Parliament and Council negotiators agree on a joint text (taking into account AL1/2018) within the conciliation procedure, as well as on draft amending budget (DAB) 6/2017.

2018 EU budget (commitments, billion euros, current prices)



2018 EU budget by policy area (commitments, billion euros, current prices)



2018 EU budget payments

