

# Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027: Commission proposal

## Initial comparison with the current MFF

#### **SUMMARY**

On 2 May, the Commission presented its proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework for the 2021-2027 period (2021-2027 MFF), outlining the structure of the EU budget and the policy priorities of the EU for a period of seven years, together with proposals on own resources financing the EU budget and a proposal to link the EU budget and the rule of law. A series of further legislative proposals presenting the individual spending programmes is expected later in May and June.

The Commission proposes that the 2021-2027 MFF (commitment appropriations) amounts to €1 135 billion in 2018 prices or 1.11 % of EU GNI. The previous MFF, converted into 2018 prices and including the European Development Fund (EDF) for comparative purposes, amounted to €1 138 billion or 1.03 % of EU GNI. Note, however, that this comparison does not take account of the various changes in programmes proposed or the impact of Brexit.

The number of headings grows from the 2014-2020 MFF to 2021-2027 MFF, from five to seven, and some programmes change place from one heading to another. Regarding the structure of the 2021-2027 MFF, the Commission proposals have the ambition to align the budget closer to the political priorities, to simplify the structure of the EU budget (i.e. a reduced number of programmes), and to increase the flexibility within and between programmes.



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## EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

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## Background

On 2 May 2018, the Commission presented its proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework for the 2021-2027 period (2021-2027 MFF) together with proposals on own resources to finance the EU budget and a proposal linking the EU budget and the rule of law. It has been preceded by numerous debates and differing expectations<sup>1</sup> and the proposal presented addresses most of the major issues under discussion. The proposal sets the policy priorities of the EU for a period of seven years. A series of further legislative proposals presenting the individual spending programmes in greater detail is expected later in May and June, entering the negotiations for adoption of the 2021-2027 MFF.

This briefing gives some first comments on the overall size, structure and distribution of resources in the 2021-2027 MFF. The Commission proposal addresses many other important issues related to the 2021-2027 MFF, such as the system of own resources, flexibility, conditionality based on the rule of law, a stronger focus on European added value, and less red tape, all of which will be addressed in follow-up EPRS briefings.

#### Overall size of the 2021-2027 MFF

In the current context of growth and increasing external challenges, the Commission proposes that the 2021-2027 MFF (commitment appropriations) should increase from €1 087 billion in 2014-2020 to €1 279 billion in 2021-2027 (in current prices). This is an increase from the 2014-2020 MFF (see graph 1), which had been negotiated against the backdrop of an economic downturn and was smaller than its predecessor (2007-2013 MFF). The European Development Fund (EDF) expenditure for the 2014-2020 period <sup>2</sup> was not included in the EU budget for that period, but is included in the 2021-2027 MFF. Therefore, when inflation is stripped out, and the EDF is included, there is no real increase in the 2021-2027 MFF – from €1 138 billion for 2014-2020 to €1 135 billion for 2021-2027 (in 2018 prices).



The increase of the MFF share of EU GNI is from 1.00% for the 2014-2020 MFF (EU-28) estimated in 2011 prices to 1.11% for the 2021-2027 MFF (EU-27) estimated according to 2018 prices. However, when including the EDF in the 2014-2020 MFF, the increase in EU GNI is from 1.03 % to 1.11 %. In addition, the 2021-2027 MFF is influenced by the withdrawal of the UK. Its budgetary consequences are complex as it will affect spending (UK receipts), revenue (own resources) and EU GNI itself. This makes it difficult to compare the two MFFs.

According to the current Council Decision on Own Resources the ceiling on own resources is established at 1.20 % of GNI and the ceiling on commitments at 1.26 % of GNI. According to the proposal, the own resources ceilings for payments and commitments will be increased respectively to 1.29 % and 1.35 % of GNI.<sup>3</sup>

## Structure of the 2021-2027 MFF

When comparing the current and proposed MFFs, the number of headings grows from five to seven. Despite the differences in the names, similarities between headings remain clear. However, some programmes will be moved from one heading to another, and the exact degree of correspondence

#### METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

Unless otherwise stated, values are expressed in constant 2018 prices, the reference year taken by the Commission for its proposal. The 2 % annual deflator provided for in the current MFF Regulation (Article 6) has been used to express the 2014-2020 MFF values in constant 2018 prices.

The graphs in this document include an estimate of the EDF for the 2014-2020 period as part of the budget, in order to compare spending with the 2021-2027 period when the EDF is incorporated into the budget.

The comparisons in this document do not include estimations of the budgetary impact of UK withdrawal.

between the current and the proposed headings can be analysed only after the detailed proposals per sector are announced.

The increase of the number of headings in the 2021-2027 MFF is due to the creation of two separate headings, broadly replacing one current heading: heading 1 Single Market, Innovation and Digital, and heading 2 Cohesion and Values replace heading 1 Smart and Inclusive Growth; heading 4 Migration and Border Management and heading 5 Security and Defence, replace heading 3 Security and Citizenship.

Table: Overall structure of 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 MFFs

	2014-2020 MFF	2021-2027 MFF			
	1. Smart and Inclusive Growth	1. Single Market, Innovation and Digital			
	1a: Competitiveness for growth and jobs	2. Cohesion and Values			
	1b: Economic, social and territorial cohesion	3. Natural Resources and Environment			
Headings	2. Sustainable Growth: Natural Resources	4. Migration and Border Management			
	3. Security and citizenship	5. Security and Defence			
	4. Global Europe	6. Neighbourhood and the World			
	5. Administration	7. European Public Administration			

Source: European Commission (A more detailed structure of the 2021-2027 MFF, according to the Commission proposal, can be found in the annex of this briefing).

The 2021-2027 MFF proposals have the ambition to simplify the structure of the EU budget and to align it more closely to the political priorities. According to the Commission, the funds under the current MFF are spread over too many programmes and instruments, both within and outside the budget. Therefore, the proposal aims at 'a simpler, more flexible and more focused budget' under the 2021-2027 MFF. The following principles related to the structure of the MFF can be found in the proposal:

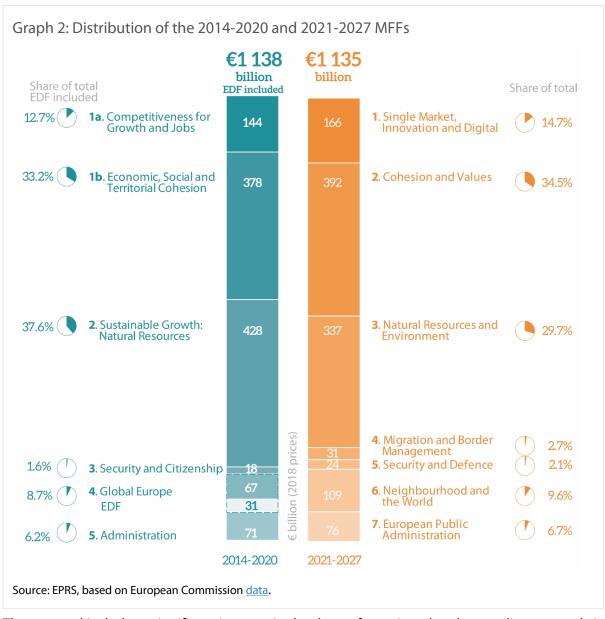
- A more streamlined and transparent budget, i.e. a reduced number of programmes, for example by integrating programmes, grouping in policy clusters and streamlining the use of financial instruments.
- A more flexible, agile budget, i.e. increasing flexibility within and between programmes, strengthening crisis management tools and creating a new 'Union Reserve' to tackle unforeseen events and to respond to emergencies in areas such as security and migration.

• **A budget for the Union's priorities**, i.e. aligning the EU budget structure to the agenda of the Union post-2020, as agreed in Bratislava and Rome.

Following the principle of the unity of the EU budget set in the Treaties (Article 310(1) TFEU), the proposal incorporates the European Development Fund in the EU budget, but other funds and programmes remain outside the MFF ceiling, including the existing flexibility instruments and a proposed European Investment Stabilisation Fund and European Peace Facility.

## Policy priorities and distribution of the 2021-2027 MFF

The distribution of funds across the proposed 2021-2027 MFF, compared to its predecessor, is set out in graph 2.<sup>4</sup> As before, the largest share of the commitment appropriations falls under the headings Cohesion and Values, Natural Resources and Environment, and Single Market, Innovation and Digital. This demonstrates continuity in the strong policy commitment to these areas, even though there will be cuts in certain programmes, especially some included in the Natural Resources and Environment heading.



The proposal includes a significant increase in the share of security-related expenditure, namely in the Migration and Border Management heading, which includes the Integrated Border Management Fund and the Security and Defence heading, which includes the European Defence Fund. Compared to the current Global Europe heading, there is also increased emphasis on the Neighbourhood and the World heading, which is strongly influenced by the incorporation of the EDF in the MFF under this heading.

#### **ENDNOTES**

- <sup>1</sup> See more on the expectations regarding the 2021-2027 MFF in the EPRS briefing, <u>Post-2020 MFF and own resources:</u> <u>Ahead of the Commission's proposal</u>, by Matthew Parry and Magdalena Sapala.
- <sup>2</sup> Data on the EDF are available <u>Commission document Multiannual financial framework 2014–2020 and EU budget 2014</u>. Prices are recalculated to 2018 prices.
- <sup>3</sup> For further discussion of the own resources proposal, see the upcoming EPRS briefing on this topic.
- <sup>4</sup> The 2014-2020 MFF also included €29 million under heading 6, Compensation, for 2014.

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### **ANNEXES**

Table 1: Headings and programmes, 2021-2027 MFF

Table 1: Headings and programmes, 2021-2027 MF	F
I. SINGLE MARKET, INNOVATION & DIGITAL	IV. MIGRATION & BORDER MANAGEMENT
1 Research & Innovation	10 Migration
Horizon Europe	Asylum & Migration Fund
Euratom Research & Training Programme	11 Border Management
International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER)	Integrated Border Management Fund
2 European Strategic Investments	
InvestEU Fund	V. SECURITY & DEFENCE
Connecting Europe Facility	12 Security
Digital Europe Programme (including Cybersecurity)	Internal Security Fund
3 Single Market	Nuclear Decommissioning (Lithuania)
Single Market Programme (including Competitiveness and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises - COSME, Food Safety, Statistics, Competition and Administrative Cooperation)	Nuclear Safety and Decommissioning (including for Bulgaria and Slovakia)
EU Anti-Fraud Programme	13 Defence
Cooperation in the Field of Taxation (FISCALIS)	European Defence Fund
Cooperation in the Field of Customs (CUSTOMS)	Connecting Europe Facility – Military Mobility
4 Space	14 Crisis Response
European Space Programme	Union Civil Protection Mechanism (rescEU)
II. COHESION & VALUES	VI. NEIGHBOURHOOD & THE WORLD
5 Regional Development & Cohesion	15 External Action
European Regional Development Fund	Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (including external aspects of migration)
Cohesion Fund	Humanitarian Aid
Support to the Turkish-Cypriot Community	Common Foreign & Security Policy
6 Economic & Monetary Union	Overseas Countries & Territories (including Greenland)
Reform Support Programme including the Reform Delivery Tool and the Convergence Facility	16 Pre-Accession Assistance
Protection of the Euro Against Counterfeiting	Pre-Accession Assistance
7 Investing in People, Social Cohesion & Values	
European Social Fund + (including Integration of Migrants and Health)	VII. EUROPEAN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Erasmus+	17 European Public Administration
European Solidarity Corps	Administrative Expenditure, Pensions and European Schools
Justice, Rights & Values	
Creative Europe (including MEDIA)	
III. NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT	INSTRUMENTS OUTSIDE THE MFF CEILINGS
8 Agriculture & Maritime Policy	Emergency Aid Reserve
European Agricultural Guarantee Fund	EU Solidarity Fund
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development	European Globalisation Adjustment Fund
European Maritime & Fisheries Fund	Flexibility Instrument
9 Environment & Climate Action	European Investment Stabilisation Function
Programme for Environment & Climate Action (LIFE)	

Table 2: Multiannual financial framework (EU-27) 2021-2027 (EUR million - 2018 prices)

Commitment appropriations	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total 2021- 2027
1. Single Market, Innovation and Digital	23 955	23 918	24 203	23 624	23 505	23 644	23 454	166 303
2. Cohesion and Values	51 444	54 171	56 062	56 600	57 148	59 200	57 349	391 974
Of which: Economic, social and territorial cohesion	45 597	46 091	46 650	47 212	47 776	48 348	48 968	330 642
3. Natural Resources and Environment	50 323	49 580	48 886	48 097	47 326	46 575	45 836	336 623
Of which: Market related expenditure and direct payments	37 976	37 441	36 946	36 346	35 756	35 176	34 606	254 247
4. Migration and Border Management	3 076	4 2 1 9	4 414	4 647	4719	4 846	4 908	30 829
5. Security and Defence	3 154	3 229	3 183	3 281	3 517	3 743	4 2 1 6	24 323
6. Neighbourhood and the World	14 765	14831	15 002	15 290	15 711	16 298	17 032	108 929
7. European Public Administration	10 388	10 518	10 705	10 864	10 910	11 052	11 165	75 602
Of which: Administrative expenditure of the institutions	8 128	8 201	8 330	8 432	8 412	8 493	8 551	58 547
TOTAL COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS	157 105	160 466	162 455	162 403	162 836	165 358	163 960	1 134 583
as a percentage of GNI	1.12%	1.13%	1.13%	1.12%	1.11%	1.11%	1.09%	1.11%
TOTAL PAYMENT APPROPRIATIONS	150 168	151 482	160 631	160 631	160 631	160 631	160 631	1 104 805
as a percentage of GNI	1.07%	1.07%	1.12%	1.10%	1.09%	1.08%	1.07%	1.08%
Margin available	0.22%	0.22%	0.17%	0.19%	0.20%	0.21%	0.22%	0.21%
Own Resources ceiling as a percentage of GNI	1.29%	1.29%	1.29%	1.29%	1.29%	1.29%	1.29%	1.29%
OUTSIDE THE MFF CEILINGS		,			,		,	
Special Instruments:								
Emergency aid reserve	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	4 200
European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF)	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	1 400
European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF)	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	4 200
Flexibility instrument	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	7 000
European Investment Stabilisation Function	p.m.							
European Peace Facility	753	970	1 177	1 376	1 567	1 707	1 673	9 223
TOTAL OUTSIDE THE MFF	3 153	3 370	3 577	3 776	3 967	4 107	4 073	26 023
TOTAL MFF + OUTSIDE THE MFF	160 258	163 836	166 032	166 179	166 803	169 465	168 033	1 160 606
as a percentage of GNI	1.14%	1.15%	1.16%	1.14%	1.13%	1.14%	1.11%	1.14%

Table 3: Multiannual financial framework (EU-27) 2021-2027 (EUR million - current prices)

Commitment appropriations	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total 2021-2027
1. Single Market, Innovation and Digital	25 421	25 890	26 722	26 604	27 000	27 703	28 030	187 370
2. Cohesion and Values	54 593	58 636	61 897	63 741	65 645	69 362	68 537	442 412
Of which: Economic, social and territorial cohesion	48 388	49 890	51 505	53 168	54 880	56 647	58 521	373 000
3. Natural Resources and Environment	53 403	53 667	53 974	54 165	54 363	54 570	54 778	378 920
Of which: Market related expenditure and direct payments	40 300	40 527	40 791	40 931	41 072	41 214	41 357	286 195
4. Migration and Border Management	3 264	4 567	4 873	5 233	5 421	5 678	5 866	34 902
5. Security and Defence	3 347	3 495	3 514	3 695	4 040	4 386	5 039	27 515
6. Neighbourhood and the World	15 669	16 054	16 563	17 219	18 047	19 096	20 355	123 002
7. European Public Administration	11 024	11 385	11 819	12 235	12 532	12 949	13 343	85 287
Of which: Administrative expenditure of the institutions	8 625	8 877	9 197	9 496	9 663	9 951	10 219	66 028
TOTAL COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS	166 721	173 694	179 363	182 892	187 047	193 743	195 947	1 279 408
as a percentage of GNI	1.12%	1.13%	1.13%	1.12%	1.11%	1.11%	1.09%	1.11%
TOTAL PAYMENT APPROPRIATIONS	159 359	163 969	177 350	180 897	184 515	188 205	191 969	1 246 263
as a percentage of GNI	1.07%	1.07%	1.12%	1.10%	1.09%	1.08%	1.07%	1.08%
Margin available	0.22%	0.22%	0.17%	0.19%	0.20%	0.21%	0.22%	0.21%
Own Resources ceiling as a percentage of GNI	1.29%	1.29%	1.29%	1.29%	1.29%	1.29%	1.29%	1.29%
OUTSIDE THE MFF CEILINGS								
Special Instruments:								
Emergency aid reserve	637	649	662	676	689	703	717	4 734
European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF)	212	216	221	225	230	234	239	1 578
European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF)	637	649	662	676	689	703	717	4 734
Flexibility instrument	1 061	1 082	1 104	1 126	1 149	1 172	1 195	7 889
European Investment Stabilisation Function	p.m.							
European Peace Facility	800	1 050	1 300	1 550	1 800	2 000	2 000	10 500
TOTAL OUTSIDE THE MFF	3 347	3 648	3 950	4 253	4 557	4812	4 868	29 434
TOTAL MFF + OUTSIDE THE MFF	170 068	177 341	183 313	187 145	191 604	198 555	200 816	1 308 843
as a percentage of GNI	1.14%	1.15%	1.16%	1.14%	1.13%	1.14%	1.11%	1.14%

Table 4: Multiannual financial framework (EU-28) 2014-2020 (EUR million - 2018 prices)

COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total 2014-20	Total 2014-20 + EDF
1. Smart and Inclusive Growth	57 105	82 759	72 104	74 982	76 420	78 357	80 412	522 139	522 139
1a: Competitiveness for growth and jobs	17 925	18 747	19 213	20 324	21 239	22 629	24 213	144 290	144 290
1b: Economic, social and territorial cohesion	39 180	64 012	52 891	54 659	55 181	<i>55 727</i>	56 200	377 849	377 849
2. Sustainable Growth: Natural Resources	53 967	68 652	66 858	61 395	60 267	59 161	58 075	428 374	428 374
of which: Market related expenditure and direct payments	47 388	46 895	45 727	45 029	44 163	43 374	42 545	315 120	315 120
3. Security and citizenship	1 880	2 606	2 649	2 630	2 656	2 746	2 836	18 003	18 003
4. Global Europe	9 022	9 285	9 512	9 621	9 825	10 067	10 102	67 433	98 429
5. Administration	9 440	9 632	9 866	10 116	10 346	10 575	10 817	70 791	70 791
of which: Administrative expenditure of the institutions	7 638	7 801	7 989	8 167	8 360	8 529	8 719	57 203	57 203
6. Compensations	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	31
TOTAL COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS	131 445	172 933	160 989	158 744	159 514	160 905	162 242	1 106 773	1 137 769
TOTAL PAYMENT APPROPRIATIONS	146 953	149 332	135 974	145 764	154 565	156 113	156 100	1 044 801	

Table 5: Multiannual financial framework (EU-28) 2014-2020 (EUR million - current prices)

COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total 2014-20	Total 2014-20 + EDF
1. Smart and Inclusive Growth	52 756	77 986	69 304	73 512	76 420	79 924	83 661	513 563	513 563
1a: Competitiveness for growth and jobs	16 560	17 666	18 467	19 925	21 239	23 082	25 191	142 130	142 130
1b: Economic, social and territorial cohesion	36 196	60 320	50 837	53 587	55 181	56 842	58 470	371 433	371 433
2. Sustainable Growth: Natural Resources	49 857	64 692	64 262	60 191	60 267	60 344	60 421	420 034	420 034
of which: Market related expenditure and direct payments	43 779	44 190	43 951	44 146	44 163	44 241	44 264	308 734	308 734
3. Security and citizenship	1 737	2 456	2 546	2 578	2 656	2 801	2 951	17 725	17 725
4. Global Europe	8 335	8 749	9 143	9 432	9 825	10 268	10 510	66 262	96 768
5. Administration	8 721	9 076	9 483	9 918	10 346	10 786	11 254	69 584	69 584
of which: Administrative expenditure of the institutions	7 056	7 351	7 679	8 007	8 360	8 700	9 071	56 224	56 224
6. Compensations	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	29
TOTAL COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS	121 435	162 959	154 738	155 631	159 514	164 123	168 797	1 087 197	1 117 703
as a percentage of GNI	0.90%	1.17%	1.05%	1.04%	1.02%	1.01%	1.01%	1.03%	
TOTAL PAYMENT APPROPRIATIONS	135 762	140 719	130 694	142 906	154 565	159 235	162 406	1 026 287	
as a percentage of GNI	1.01%	1.02%	0.98%	0.95%	0.98%	0.98%	0.97%	0.98%	
Margin available	0.22%	0.21%	0.25%	0.28%	0.22%	0.22%	0.23%	0.24%	
Own Resources Ceiling as a percentage of GNI	1.23%	1.23%	1.23%	1.23%	1.20%	1.20%	1.20%	1.22%	

Table 6: Multiannual financial framework (EU-28) 2014-2020 – Shares

COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total 2014-20	Total 2014-20 +EDF
1. Smart and Inclusive Growth	43.44%	47.86%	44.79%	47.23%	47.91%	48.70%	49.56%	47.18%	45.89%
1a: Competitiveness for growth and jobs	13.64%	10.84%	11.93%	12.80%	13.31%	14.06%	14.92%	13.04%	12.68%
1b: Economic, social and territorial cohesion	29.81%	37.02%	32.85%	34.43%	34.59%	34.63%	34.64%	34.14%	33.21%
2. Sustainable Growth: Natural Resources	41.06%	39.70%	41.53%	38.68%	37.78%	36.77%	35.80%	38.70%	37.65%
of which: Market related expenditure and direct payments	36.05%	27.12%	28.40%	28.37%	27.69%	26.96%	26.22%	28.47%	27.70%
3. Security and citizenship	1.43%	1.51%	1.65%	1.66%	1.67%	1.71%	1.75%	1.63%	1.58%
4. Global Europe	6.86%	5.37%	5.91%	6.06%	6.16%	6.26%	6.23%	6.09%	8.65%
5. Administration	7.18%	5.57%	6.13%	6.37%	6.49%	6.57%	6.67%	6.40%	6.22%
of which: Administrative expenditure of the institutions	5.81%	4.51%	4.96%	5.14%	5.24%	5.30%	5.37%	5.17%	5.03%
6. Compensations	0.02%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
TOTAL COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Table 7: Multiannual financial framework (EU-27) 2021-2027- Shares

Commitment appropriations	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total 2021-27
1. Single Market, Innovation and Digital	15.25%	14.91%	14.90%	14.55%	14.43%	14.30%	14.30%	14.66%
2. Cohesion and Values	32.74%	33.76%	34.51%	34.85%	35.10%	35.80%	34.98%	34.55%
Of which: Economic, social and territorial cohesion	29.02%	28.72%	28.72%	29.07%	29.34%	29.24%	29.87%	29.14%
3. Natural Resources and Environment	32.03%	30.90%	30.09%	29.62%	29.06%	28.17%	27.96%	29.67%
Of which: Market related expenditure and direct payments	24.17%	23.33%	22.74%	22.38%	21.96%	21.27%	21.11%	22.41%
4. Migration and Border Management	1.96%	2.63%	2.72%	2.86%	2.90%	2.93%	2.99%	2.72%
5. Security and Defence	2.01%	2.01%	1.96%	2.02%	2.16%	2.26%	2.57%	2.14%
6. Neighbourhood and the World	9.40%	9.24%	9.23%	9.41%	9.65%	9.86%	10.39%	9.60%
7. European Public Administration	6.61%	6.55%	6.59%	6.69%	6.70%	6.68%	6.81%	6.66%
Of which: Administrative expenditure of the institutions	5.17%	5.11%	5.13%	5.19%	5.17%	5.14%	5.22%	5.16%
TOTAL COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%