

EP long-term budget negotiators interrupt talks until Council presents new offer

Refusing to move at all is not negotiating. MEPs will come back to the table once there is a real will from Council's side to find an agreement.

“Shortly after the start of the seventh round of trilateral talks with the German Council Presidency and the Commission this Thursday, we had no other choice but to interrupt the meeting. We are waiting for the Council to update its negotiating mandate and finally come back with a proposal that takes into account Parliament's key demand to improve [15 flagship EU programmes](#), with genuine reinforcements, for the benefit of the citizens”, said the members of the Parliament's [negotiating team on the Multiannual Financial Framework \(MFF\) and Own Resources \(OR\)](#).

“Progress has been made - with concessions from both sides - on new Own Resources, the role of the budgetary authority and horizontal issues, although some key political points still need to be resolved there”, the MEPs added.

“But on the top-ups, we have already lost a lot of time. No compromise is possible on this point as long as the Council rules out raising the MFF ceilings or excluding certain expenditure items like the interest for the recovery debt from their calculation. We need a truly sustainable proposal that neither sells out the small margins we have, nor misuses much-needed flexibility for regular programme expenditure”.

“The citizens expect from us an urgent European response. We trust that the Council presidency will actively look for room for manoeuvre in the coming days”, EP's negotiators concluded.

[Listen to the press conference by the negotiating team following the sixth round of talks \(05.10.2020\)](#)

The EP's negotiating team for the next long-term EU budget and Own Resources reform

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Follow them on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/i/lists/1205126942384676866?s=20>

Background

As the current long-term EU budget is running out on 31 December 2020, the EU needs a new budgetary planning horizon for the next seven years. The EU Commission has thus presented plans for the next multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027 in May 2018. The European Parliament has adopted its position in November 2018, and re-confirmed it in October 2019. The European Council has [reached a political compromise on 21 July 2020](#), to which Parliament reacted [immediately](#). Trilateral negotiations between Parliament, Council and Commission have [started on 27 August](#).

Ongoing negotiations are structured around the following topics:

- [Reinforcing flagship programmes](#) to preserve EU's capacity to invest besides and beyond the recovery.
- A legally binding commitment to introduce new own resources to repay the common debt from the recovery instrument without burdening citizens and in line with the European Union's political ambitions.
- Increased legitimacy and accountability to citizens in the budgetary decision-making process - a stronger role for the EP in how the recovery money is raised and spent.
- Horizontal issues (climate, biodiversity, gender) and other provisions

Parliament has also conditioned its agreement to the setting-up of a strong mechanism to ensure respect for the Rule of Law, which is to be negotiated separately according to the codecision/ordinary legislative procedure, where Parliament and Council are on an equal footing.

Further information

[Committee on Budgets](#)

["EU long-term budget: EP still waiting for Council proposals"](#) (EP press release, 28.09.2020)

["EU long-term budget deal must be improved for Parliament to accept it"](#) (EP press release, 23 July)

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