MEMBERS' MOBILISATION KIT

FOR AN EU BUDGET 2028- 2034 FOR CITIES & TOWNS

ENERGYCITIES

MAIN MESSAGES AND DEMANDS

- The **double centralisation** (EU and national levels) of the proposed MFF **is dangerous for our democracy**. If cities are deprived of their connection to Europe, so will be their citizens. This centralisation has proven ineffective (RRF plans were not highly spent).

- **Local governments are orchestras of competitiveness** in their territory. What they develop as services and infrastructures shape their territory and the possibility for businesses and industries to set up in Europe. For the EU to be competitive, it needs to trust and reinforce its local and regional levels.

- **The proposal for the EU budget is sidelining local authorities**, while together with regional authorities, they implement and apply approximately 70% of EU legislation.

1. REINFORCE THE TERRITORIAL APPROACH ACROSS THE MFF

1. By having **a mandatory regional, territorial or urban chapter** in each national and regional partnership plan, and a territorial approach in the sectoral chapters of these plans.
2. By having **a territorial approach in the clean transition and decarbonisation industry** window of the European Competitiveness Fund. “LIFE activities” and other activities of this window must fund LRAs' investments and capacities.
3. By having a **target in the budgets for the territorial tools**, such as the Integrated Territorial Investments.

2. IMPROVE THE RULES OF LAW MECHANISMS

To ensure that local authorities are not “hostages” of their national governments, breaching the rule of law, and ensure local authorities still have access to specific EU funds.

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MAIN MESSAGES AND DEMANDS

3. A 4 BILLION PROGRAMME FOR CITIES IN THE EU FACILITY

Have **a real programme of €4 billion for cities in the EU facility** to implement the key objectives of the EU agenda for cities.

4. MAINTAIN JUST TRANSITION SUPPORT

Maintain just transition support for regions and local authorities that are in the middle of a shift towards a cleaner economy;

5. MAKE THE PARTNERSHIPS AND MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE SOLID

Strengthen the principles of partnerships and multi-level governance to ensure local authorities and regions remain at the centre of the EU budget.

READ ALL OUR DEMANDS IN THE LOCAL ALLIANCE'S 10-POINT ACTION PLAN

MEMBERS' MOBILISATION KIT

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MAPPING OF KEY PLAYERS

Below is a **list of stakeholders** that you could contact to pass on the messages on the next MFF and how this will affect cities. **Energy Cities is ready to support you, please reach out!**

When should you contact them?
Negotiations will run until the end of 2026, with finalisation expected by March 2027 at the latest. Member States are moving very quickly to define their positions in the Council. The European Parliament is slightly behind schedule, as it will appoint its rapporteur only in December 2025.
👉 **This makes the first months of 2026 absolutely crucial for active engagement.**

AT NATIONAL LEVEL

- **Ministries working on the next EU budget**: These contacts are essential. They are typically found in the Ministry of Budget and Finance, the Ministry of European Affairs, the Ministry of Energy ...
  They shape your country's position in the Council negotiations. It is therefore **key to share our messages** - **adapted to your national context** - with them.

- **Managing Authorities for Cohesion Policy**: We should work together to shape the regional, territorial and urban chapters. **Get in touch and start building these synergies!**

- **National associations of cities and municipalities**: It is important to mobilise them. If you are a member, raise the issue internally and encourage them to **use their influence to shape your country's position**.

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MAPPING OF KEY PLAYERS

AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

- **MEPs from your constituency in the ITRE, BUDG and REGI committees :**
  - ITRE - Industry, Energy & Transport committee;
  - BUDG - Budget committee;
  - REGI - Regional Development committe.

  Reach out, request meetings (online or in person), and share our messages adapted to your national context—**highlighting how the MFF impacts your municipality** in particular.

- **Key influential MEPs**. These include rapporteurs and shadow rapporteurs for the main EU files (e.g., ECF, NRPP, ERDF), and the Rapporteur for the MFF regulation, MEP Mureșan & MEP Tavares.

  Energy Cities will also meet them, but if they are from your constituency or you have existing contacts, **joint meetings can be very effective.**

- **Your country's Permanent Representation in Brussels**: The energy attaché works on the Competitiveness Fund, while the budget, cohesion and agriculture attachés follow the national and regional Partnership Plan. Most representations also have a dedicated person for the MFF negotiations.

  Here again, it is essential to **share our messages tailored to your country.**

Let us know if you take action

If you mobilise, **please inform us**. It is essential for our advocacy work to understand what is happening in each country and how positions are evolving.

MEMBERS' MOBILISATION KIT

FOR AN EU BUDGET 2028- 2034 FOR CITIES & TOWNS

USEFUL RESOURCES / BACKGROUND INFORMATION

OUR MOBILISATION KIT

- **Model of Letter** for your **Ministries**;
- **Model of Letter** for your **ITRE MEPs**;
- **List of key influential MEPs**;
- List of ENC and Local Alliance **amendements to the NRPPs and to the ECF.**

MFF MONTHLY MEETING

Join our **monthly discussions on the MFF** in English & (soon) French.

OUR ANALYSES

- Q&A on the next MFF;
- Our analysis of the **proposal for the next MFF**;
- Our analysis of the **27 National and Regional Partnership Plan** in the next budget;
- Our analysis of the **Competitiveness Pillar** in the next budget;
- **Local Alliance paper** with the positions and demands for the next MFF.

OTHER SOURCES

- **Energy Cities' webpage** on the next MFF;
- European Commission **webpage** with factsheets and texts for the next MFF.

MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK (MFF)
THE LOCAL ALLIANCE ADVOCACY TIMELINE

LOCAL ALLIANCE

Council — **DK Presidency nego box negociations** 18 December

Parliament — **First EP reading of MFF proposals** (NRPP, ECF, etc.)

Council — **General Affairs Council** March, 17th

Parliament — **First EP reading of sectorial MFF proposals** (ERDF, CEF, etc.) May

Commission — **European Semester**

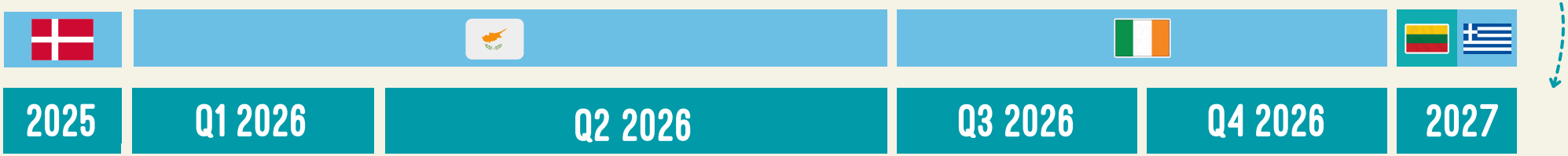
Parliament — **Plenary vote on MFF INI Report** May

Council — **CY Council conclusions** first figures end June

Parliament — **ECF** Vote ITRE - Sep Plenary - Oct

Council — **Ambition for a deal on MFF end December** 2026

1 January 2028: **New budget in force**



Note: dates are indicative and they could change as the negotiations go on