



**Manifesto approved unanimously by the Plenary Assembly in a session held  
on July 2, 2025 in Brussels on the**

## **Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034**

### **Introduction, current EU framework and CALRE objectives**

Within the current European Union framework, negotiations are underway for the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034. The European Commission plans to present its legislative proposal around July 2025.

All the Regional Legislative Assemblies present here are aware that the European Union is going through a critical period. Globalization, the climate emergency, the trade crisis, geopolitical tensions, the migration crisis, reindustrialization, and the consolidation of a digital economy are just some of the challenges we face. These challenges are compounded by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic hardships arising from international conflicts, such as the war in Ukraine, as well as new needs in terms of security, energy, and defense.

Given this situation, it is essential that the European Union budget reflect a tangible commitment to the values of solidarity, cohesion, autonomy, and territorial equity.

Likewise, it is essential to value diversity and equality as one of the basic pillars of the European Union. Each territory has a unique idiosyncrasy, with specific needs to address and valuable contributions to offer to the whole. Territories and regions know their own reality and needs better than anyone else, so it is essential that regions continue to be active players in the design and implementation of the policies that apply to us, and not simply their executors.

The upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 represents a strategic opportunity to strengthen our role in the European context, promoting policies that effectively respond to current challenges.



We must leverage our status as the representative voice of the Legislative Regions to articulate a common and firm position vis-à-vis Europe. Our goal must be to transform this joint message into an effective tool for dialogue with the institutions, ensuring that the voice of our regions is heard and taken into account in decisions related to the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034.

By working together, we can bring this initiative to fruition and strengthen the position of our Regional Legislative Assemblies in Europe.

Only through unity will we ensure that Europe becomes not only a place of shared prosperity, but also a community where diversity becomes a source of strength.

For this reason, the Conference of Regional Legislative Assemblies of Europe (CALRE), unanimously, and in relation to the matters mentioned below, agrees to propose the following considerations to the European Commission:

#### **Economic, social, health and territorial cohesion policies**

- KEEP Appropriate policies for economic, social, health, and territorial cohesion and cooperation have significantly contributed to the advancement of our regions and, in addition, strengthen our citizens' sense of belonging to the European project, always supporting territorial identity.
- GUARANTEE that the regional allocation of future cohesion policy resources respects the leading role of the regions, especially those with legislative powers.
- ENSURE early and ongoing dialogue between the European Commission, national governments, and regional institutions, so that European strategic programming can be coherently translated into concrete territorial projects. The multilevel approach is not merely an exercise in democracy, but a necessary condition for generating lasting impacts on cohesion, employment, and sustainable development.
- STRENGTHEN valuation mechanisms to ensure that European financial funds effectively reach the target audience and promote projects with a lasting impact on social and territorial cohesion.
- DEVELOP Coordinated European health policies to address the most complex challenges facing healthcare services today, starting with the treatment of the



most serious and widespread diseases and moving towards the development of more efficient territorial healthcare models, also to combat growing health inequalities.

PROMOTE and ADOPT a sustainable and comprehensive approach to regional development, taking into account its unique characteristics, combining innovation, social inclusion, sustainability and wealth distribution, with emphasis on the fight against poverty, adequate water management and accessibility to housing, ensuring the qualification of resources and employment, and guaranteeing the social cohesion, among others, in the most remote and isolated regions, such as the Outermost Regions (ORs) and Euroregions, giving them greater freedom to design and implement their own territorial strategies.

- GUARANTEE the continuity and even improvement of Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps projects.
- HAVE taking into account the specificities provided for in Article 349 TFEU, in relation to the specific needs for cohesion, development and integration.
- DEFEND The European Union's commitment to the Regional Legislative Assemblies of Europe through a strengthened, modernized, simplified, and flexible cohesion policy, supported by solid funding for the period covered by this new Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034, but without losing its essential elements such as the partnership principle, multi-level governance, subsidiarity, shared management, and the territorial approach.
- KEEP The provision of structural funds such as the ERDF, the ESF+, the EAFRD, and the FSC; as well as other funds allocated to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) through the EAGF (European Agricultural Guarantee Fund).
- SUPPORT Programs dedicated to policies to combat depopulation, promoting initiatives to support birth rates, with actions aimed at reconciling work and family life.
- ENSURE investments in key areas such as health, youth, mobility, education, learning, training (through strengthened employment programs), active citizenship, gender equality and the fight against gender-based violence, among others, and implementing social and financial policies that benefit families, as



well as measures to counteract the decline in the birth rate, with the aim of preventing depopulation, especially in rural and remote areas.

- **BOOST** Co-governance formulas that integrate public administrations, the business sector, and academia as a way to develop sustainable territorial development strategies, especially in key sectors such as water management, promoting the exchange of good practices between regions.
- **IMPLEMENT** New policies at European level that are essential for a sustainable goal (environment, security, competitiveness and the defence of our values), while preserving the EU's "historical" policies, such as cohesion policy (reducing wealth disparities between European regions, ERDF, ESF+).

### **Agriculture and rural development**

- **GUIDE** The post-2027 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) seeks to provide greater income stability for farmers, safeguard European food security, and ensure adaptability to new climatic, geopolitical, and demographic challenges while cultivating and processing typical regional products. It is essential to reconcile environmental sustainability with the profitability of agricultural businesses. In this regard, the European Simplification Regulation is welcomed, but the need for clear, stable, and streamlined regulations is reiterated.
- **IMPLEMENT** New policies at European level that are essential for a sustainable objective, preserving the Common Agricultural Policy.
- **MANIFEST:** The CALRE takes into consideration the proposals of the Legislative Assemblies of the ORs regarding the rights of their inhabitants to engage in agricultural, livestock, and fishing activities on equal and competitive terms with other EU regions, as well as the need to fulfill the commitments regarding funding for these purposes, in accordance with the terms set forth in Article 349 of the TFEU.
- **INCREASE** as well as financial measures to address the growing territorial imbalances between the countryside and the city.
- **INTRODUCE** New measures to support wildlife and hunting management, traditional tools for protecting agriculture and, in general, the rural world, threatened by the increasing presence of large carnivores.
- **PRIORITIZE** in the European Union's agricultural and environmental development



strategy, administrative simplification.

- **GUARANTEE** The allocation of specific resources for mountainous areas, which account for 30 percent of the European Union's territory, thus supporting the territorial, social, economic, and cultural identity of these particularly delicate and fragile enclaves, where local economies exist that are valuable for the very existence of regional contexts.
- **SUPPORT** The modernization of irrigation systems as an essential tool for efficient and rational management of water resources, ensuring the sustainability of rural areas and the competitiveness of the agricultural sector.
- **SOLIDARITY** in the distribution of natural resources with measures aimed at maintaining agricultural activity in arid areas of Europe, to guarantee citizens the necessary food security.

#### **Maritime, fishing and aquaculture dimension**

- **ADAPT** The European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund is intended to address the challenges facing the sector, particularly with regard to ensuring a fair income for fishermen and shipowners, while also enabling fleet renewal, improving energy efficiency, and implementing appropriate compensation for vessel scrapping, which is essential for the restructuring of the sector, while combining environmental sustainability with the protection of jobs and competitiveness.
- **CONSIDER** The need for specific compensation for fishermen's lost income resulting from the creation of Marine Protected Areas, the purpose of which is to protect the sea and its resources, ensuring that these compensations fairly and proportionally reflect the socioeconomic impacts of these conservation measures.

#### **Connectivity and transportation**

- **TAKE INTO ACCOUNT**, Pursuant to Article 349 TFEU, the right of inhabitants of isolated and insular border territories to the transport of passengers and goods on an equal footing with other EU regions.
- **PROVIDE** European funding aimed at strengthening smaller ports, local airports, regional railways and digital networks, also in terms of climate resilience.



- PROMOTE the development of resilient infrastructure: improving connectivity and ensuring adaptation to climate change.

GUARANTEE that major transport and communications infrastructure, such as the TEN-T network, be inclusive, promoting effective connection of regions to the EU's main traffic arteries, particularly rail. This also takes into account the specific characteristics of the outermost regions, mountainous regions, and inland area.

### **Ecological and energy transicion**

- PROMOTE A sustainable European decarbonization policy based on two pillars: (1) the definition of a coordinated European industrial policy that prevents deindustrialization, supports advanced technologies, and strengthens strategic sectors such as manufacturing; (2) the development of resilient and sustainable energy infrastructure (smart grids, storage systems, and distributed renewable energy) that also has a positive social impact, generating local supply chains and vocational training. In this way, the green transition will become an opportunity for European industry.
- FAVOR Economic diversification: promoting investment in innovation, research, tourism and sustainable development, energy, climate and digital transition, strengthening transatlantic relations, security, defense and global competitiveness.
- ENSURE relevant investments in digitalization, renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure.
- SUPPORT A balanced green and digital transition model, promoting a shared approach involving stakeholders and regional authorities from the early stages of the EU policymaking process, to avoid potential negative effects on business activity, especially SMEs, and on employment, while also providing adequate resources for sustainable business innovation, low-emission mobility, energy-efficient buildings, and the digitalization of local public services.
- PROMOTE the use of innovative technologies, such as artificial intelligence, in integrated water management.

### **Immigration**



- **CONTRIBUTE** that the European Union show solidarity with all territories affected by the migration crisis.
- **INCREASE** The presence of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) at the European Union's external borders, as well as increasing human and technical resources to facilitate more effective surveillance and a faster response to situations of migratory pressure or security risks.

**INSIST** where migration control and collaboration between Member States and Frontex are essential to saving lives and ensuring effective migration management that respects human rights.

### **Financial management and response to emergency situations**

- **REVIEW** the European Union Solidarity Fund and other emergency mechanisms, so that they can be adequate in their financing, eligibility criteria, and definition of emergency situations.
- **SUPPORT** The creation of a performance-based budget, such as the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) model, with national and regional plans adaptable to the territorial, social, and economic specificities of the Member States and their regions. The regions must be involved in defining the allocation criteria through transparent dialogue with the State and the Commission, avoiding dispersion and excessive administrative burdens.
- **STRENGTHEN** and to strengthen the conditionality regarding respect for the rule of law, which must be observed without exception by EU Member States. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the mechanisms for protecting the EU budget in this regard.
- **ASSESS** systematically assess the results of public investments, with clear impact indicators, ensuring that resources are allocated strategically and effectively.
- **PLEAD** for the creation of a response fund for critical situations on the continent.
- **GUARANTEE** Simplification and flexibility in the management of European financial funds, allowing for rapid adaptation to new needs that may arise, and



without national centralization of management, which could be detrimental to the Regions and their capacity for action.

- NEGOTIATE in an open and transparent manner with the States and Regions, the regional allocation criteria, defined at Community level, guaranteeing the direct participation of the Regions in the governance of decisions and in their implementation, in close collaboration with their respective Member States, as well as respecting shared management between the European Union, the Member States and the Regions, attending to the Structural Funds in a coordinated manner and avoiding the dispersion of resources and the technical and administrative complexity of the procedures.
- CONSIDER in the allocation of European funds the structural situation of water scarcity suffered by certain regions of southern Europe, so that specific corrective measures can be applied to ensure their resilience, economic development and environmental sustainability.

## **Conclusion**

The unanimously adopted text reflects a strong commitment by the Regional Legislative Assemblies of Europe (CALRE) to actively participate in the process of defining the next Multiannual Financial Framework of the European Union for the period 2028-2034. Facing global challenges such as the geopolitical, migration, and economic crises, the Regional Legislative Assemblies consider it essential that cohesion policy funds and instruments remain open to all regions. To this end, the administrative burden must be eliminated and procedures simplified in order to improve access to funding for local and regional stakeholders.

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We also emphasize the need for a balanced and flexible approach to managing European funds, fostering innovation, sustainability, and economic cohesion. Concrete measures are





also proposed for key sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, transport, and the ecological and energy transition.

CALRE also highlights the importance of addressing issues such as equality, immigration, crisis management, and adequate financing to ensure optimal recovery from the effects of the pandemic and international conflicts.

In this context, unity and cooperation among Europe's Regional Legislative Assemblies is crucial to addressing the challenges facing the European Union, ensuring that our voice is heard in European strategic decisions. The CALRE thus demonstrates its determination to strengthen the role of the Regions in building a freer, more democratic, secure, and competitive future.

Europe's future depends on the ability to combine political vision with practical implementation. European regions, through their legislative assemblies, are ready to contribute truly citizen-led multilevel governance. The upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 represents a historic opportunity to build a fairer, more competitive and more united Europe.

Given in Brussels, on July 2, 2025.

Text approved by the Permanent Assembly of CALRE, at the place and date indicated.

Approval of the President of the Calre

Approval of the General Secretary of the  
Calre

Signed, Astrid Pérez Batista

Signed, Salvador Iglesias Machado