



**Mr Charles Michel**  
President of the  
European Council

Brussels, 13 February 2020

Dear President,

Ahead of the special meeting of the European Council on the Multiannual Financial Framework on 20 February 2020, we, leaders of 4 political groups in the European Parliament, would like to convey to you the following key political messages:

Parliament is united and firm on its position. President Sassoli will defend this position at the next EU summit.

We defend a strong and credible MFF that meets the expectations of our citizens, matches the political ambitions and commitments with the necessary financial means, and fully complies with the Paris Agreement. The decision on the MFF will actually determine the kind of Union we want to have.

Parliament has two main objectives in the MFF negotiations: first, to establish the right level of funding for the Union's political ambitions, policies and programmes; second, to create new EU own resources.

We strongly urge you not to conclude any agreement on the MFF / own resources that disregards our position and prevents the Union from achieving its objectives, as we would be rejecting it. This will inevitably lead to further delays.

We strongly defend the necessary funding for flagship EU programmes in the areas of youth, research and innovation, the environment and climate transition, infrastructure, digitalisation, social rights, migration, external action, security and defence. We reaffirm our position to maintain the same level of funding for agriculture, fisheries and cohesion policies in real terms.

We also stress that the MFF must finance the new political agenda and the strategic headline ambitions of the of the Union, including the *European Green Deal, the Digital transition, the Stronger / geopolitical Europe*, for which fresh appropriations need to be secured. We are convinced that the new agenda will be impossible to implement with the Finnish presidency proposal.

The Parliament will not give its consent to the MFF without an agreement on the reform of the EU own resources system, including the introduction of a basket of new own resources from the very first day of the entry into force of the next MFF. We also expect a clear commitment to further introduce other new own resources in addition to this first basket in the course of the next MFF. We reaffirm our list of potential candidates for new own resources and insist on the abolition of all rebates.

On this occasion, we also reconfirm the necessity to put in place a new mechanism to protect the EU budget where the rule of law is not respected or where there is a systemic threat to the European values.

Parliament will conduct negotiations on all elements of the MFF package and EU sectorial legislation, in line with its rights and prerogatives as co-legislator, laid down in the EU Treaties. We don't accept to be confronted with a "fait accompli" by the Council on any aspect of these negotiations.

We are fully committed to a timely adoption of the next MFF and have been ready to negotiate since November 2018. Nevertheless, we will not accept a bad agreement due to time pressure. We request the immediate intensification of interinstitutional negotiations on the MFF and own resources.

We trust that you will take due account of these positions and bring them to the attention of EU heads of state and government during the negotiations.

***Manfred Weber***, *President of the Group of the European People's Party in the European Parliament*

***Iratxe García Pérez***, *President of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament*

***Dacian Cioloș***, *President of the Group ReNew Europe in the European Parliament*

***Ska Keller and Philippe Lamberts***, *Co-presidents of the Greens/EFA in the European Parliament*