

Communiqué de presse: La directive de l'UE de 2007 sur les inondations a, dans l'ensemble, produit des effets positifs, mais la planification et la mise en oeuvre doivent à présent être améliorées, avertissent les auditeurs

Roaming charges ended in the European Union on 15 June 2017. Europeans travelling within EU countries will 'Roam Like at Home' and pay domestic prices for roaming calls, SMS and data. ...

On 23 June 2016 citizens of the United Kingdom (UK) voted to leave the European Union (EU). On 29 March 2017 the UK formally notified the European Council of its intention to leave the EU by...

Over the past 20 years, the European Union has put in place some of the highest common asylum standards in the world. And in the past two years, European migration policy has advanced in leaps and...

'Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity.' Robert Schuman 9 May 1950 On 25 March 2017, ...

In response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and deliberate destabilisation of a neighbouring sovereign country, the EU has imposed restrictive measures against the Russian Federation. ...

Enlargement is the process whereby countries join the EU. Since it was founded in 1957, the EU has grown from 6 member countries to 28. Any European country that respects the principles of liberty, ...

Press Release: EU Floods Directive 2007 had positive effects overall, but

[planning and implementation now need improvements, warn auditors](#)

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On 19 November 2018, the Council and the European Parliament ended negotiations on the EU budget for 2019 without agreement.

The two arms of the budgetary authority concluded that they were not able to

bridge their differences by midnight – the legal deadline laid down in the treaties.

“The Council regrets that it was not possible to reach an agreement on the 2019 EU budget today,” said Hartwig Löger, Minister for Finance of Austria and chief Council negotiator for the 2019 EU budget. “Throughout the conciliation process the Council tried hard to find a solution that would equip the Union for the challenges ahead. But I am still confident that we will be able to agree on next year’s budget before the end of the year.”

While the Council made a constructive offer that would have gone beyond the initial proposal by the Commission, the Parliament preferred to use unspent funds from previous years related to research projects. The Council was however concerned that this would create a precedent, with unknown consequences for the future.

The Parliament would also have liked to have a smaller contribution from the EU budget to the funding of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey. Member states agreed in June to finance €1 billion of an additional €3 billion for the facility by contributions according to their share of the EU’s GNI. €2 billion of this amount would therefore need to come from the EU budget.

Next steps

The Commission now has to present a new draft budget.

If, at the beginning of next year, the EU budget has not yet been definitively adopted, the system of provisional twelves applies. This means that not more than one twelfth of the budget appropriations for the previous year may be spent each month.

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European Defence Fund: Council adopts its position

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The EU wants to **strengthen the global competitiveness and innovation capacity** of the Union's **defence technological and industrial base**. On 19 November 2018, the Council adopted its position (partial general approach) on the **European Defence Fund** proposed by the European Commission in the context of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-2027.

On 13 June 2018, the European Commission presented its proposal for a regulation of the European Defence Fund as part of the upcoming MFF with a proposed envelope of €13 billion. The European Defence Fund aims to **foster innovation** and **allow economies of scale in defence research** and in the **industrial development phase** by supporting collaborative projects.

In its partial general approach, the Council broadly agrees with the Commission proposal. In particular, it confirms the overall objectives and structure of the Fund, including the intention to **invest in disruptive technologies**. It mostly seeks to clarify a number of aspects in regards to the **eligibility of entities**, and **ownership of the results**. It also seeks to clarify the award procedures and criteria and the provisions concerning the share of the indirect costs that will be covered by the Fund, the latter being an important element **to make the Fund more attractive for industry players**. The Council further stresses that **special attention will be paid to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and mid-caps** in the Union.

The approach adopted today is labelled as “partial” as the financial and other horizontal aspects of the fund will depend on the overall agreement on the next multiannual financial framework.

Background

Earlier this year, the Council and the European Parliament established the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP), under the current MFF and with a total budget of €500 million. The EDIDP also has the objective to foster collaborative defence capability development and reinforce the competitiveness and innovation capacity of the Union's defence industry.

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