

Members' Mobilisation kit:

An EU budget 2028- 2034 for cities & municipalities

Disclaimer: This is a generic model. To have more impact, think about translating into your national language and including your own city examples and perspective.

Model of letter to your Ministry

Name
Mayor of XX

To the attention of
Minister
Address XXX

Place, [date]

Subject: Safeguarding cohesion and the role of cities in the future NRPP

Dear XXXX,

As Mayor of XXXX, I am writing to you with great concern regarding the proposals presented by the European Commission on 16 July for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

The current proposal is highly centralised and does not recognise the essential role of cities and local governments in delivering on the European Union's priorities. This is particularly alarming for [Country], where cohesion policy has been a cornerstone of territorial development and a vital source of investment for local authorities. Over the past decades, cohesion funds have enabled [Country adjective] cities to modernise infrastructure, invest in sustainable mobility, clean energy, support social inclusion, and foster innovation and competitiveness. Without a strong cohesion policy, many of these achievements would simply not have been possible.

We are especially worried about the Commission's proposal to merge cohesion into a broader financial instrument that combines very diverse priorities such as cohesion, agriculture, migration, and border management. Such an approach risks diluting the very essence of cohesion, undermining solidarity between regions, and weakening support for our citizens at the local level.

For [Country adjective] cities, it is imperative that the next MFF continues to uphold the European values of cohesion, democracy, and decentralisation. In concrete terms, we ask the [Country adjective] government to defend the following principles in the upcoming negotiations:

- **Mandatory regional, territorial urban chapters in national investment plans**, ensuring that the contribution of cities and municipalities is clearly recognised and strategically planned;
- **Dedicated earmarking of resources for territorial and urban development**, so that local authorities can directly access the EU funding needed to achieve the Union's goals, in particular the European Green Deal of which 75% must be implemented locally;
- **A binding commitment to multilevel governance, the Partnership Principle, and the Code of Conduct**, moving beyond symbolic references to ensure that programmes are designed and implemented in true partnership with regional and local authorities.
- **A clear budget for urban-related activities under the proposed EU Facility** to provide opportunities to finance the EU ambition when it comes to cities and help them build up capacity.
- **A sustained just transition support** for regions and local authorities that are in the middle of a shift towards a cleaner economy.

[Country] has historically been among the strongest advocates of cohesion in Europe. At a time when Europe needs to reinforce trust and solidarity, it is crucial that the Union continues to empower its territories and work hand in hand with local governments.

I therefore respectfully urge you to ensure, in the negotiations on the next MFF, that cohesion remains a robust and visible pillar of European integration, and that [Country] cities retain the means to contribute effectively to Europe's future.

With my highest consideration,

Name

Mayor of XX