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Press release | 02.05.2018

It is time to reform the EU budget

Multiannual Financial Framework

The Greens/EFA group has welcomed the European Commission's proposals to reform the income side of the EU budget. The European Commission has today published its proposals for the post 2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), including plans to introduce new Own Resources.

Jordi Solé, Greens/EFA shadow rapporteur for the MFF, comments:

"We need a budget that meets the needs of Europe's citizens. The big boost to research programmes and Erasmus+ will give young people a good start and create the jobs they'll need for the future. The EU has often proved ill-prepared to respond to the crises facing its citizens. The Commission has built greater flexibility into its plans so that the EU will be better able to respond to the next crisis.

"We are disappointed the Commission has not shown the same ambition on the overall size of the budget. If we want to tackle our common problems together, then we need a budget that is equal to the task."

Helga Trüpel, Greens/EFA shadow rapporteur on own resources, adds:

"We are pleased that the European Commission is ready to reform the income side of the EU budget. It is time to get rid of the outdated rebates and exceptions and give the EU its own sustainable revenue streams. Not only would this bring an end to the endless haggling over who will pay for what, it would also allow us to align the way we raise revenue with our policy goals.

"The new environmental taxes are especially welcome. This would help the EU meet its climate ambitions while raising much needed funds for climate action.

"It is a shame the Commission has not embraced the Parliament's proposals for taxing digital giants like Google and Facebook. A digital tax would make sure they pay their fair share and bring in fresh revenue."

Background

The Greens/EFA group has published its own proposals for the MFF, which can be viewed here: http://extranet.greens-efa-service.eu/public/media/file/1/5590

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