



**A conference with National Parliamentarians co-sponsored by
the Polish Presidency of the Council, the European Parliament
and the European Commission**

INVITATION

Dear Sir / Madam,

On behalf of the Polish Presidency of the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission, we are pleased to invite you to a High-Level Conference on the European Union's Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2014-20, to be held on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 October in Brussels.

The future scope and impact of EU policies will largely depend on the shape of the next MFF, the details of which are now under discussion, on the basis of the European Commission's proposals submitted in June. The conference in October would aim to explore how the Commission's proposals resonate with other EU institutions and with the Member States. It would also promote a common reflection on the type of added value which the EU can provide and the way in which the Union's policies should be funded in the future - taking into account the current and foreseeable state of public finances across Europe and potential synergies between national budgets and the EU's own budget.

We strongly believe that this event will provide new impetus to the discussion on the next Multiannual Financial Framework. This is also why the active participation and involvement of National Parliaments in the Conference is of huge importance and relevance. We would therefore be most grateful if you could designate two Members to represent your chamber on 20 and 21 October in Brussels. These two Members are invited to confirm their participation through an on-line registration process [<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fmi/scic/MFF11/start.php>] by 7 October 2011.

We very much look forward to welcoming your colleagues in Brussels next month.

José Manuel Barroso,
President of the European Commission

Donald Tusk,
President of the Council,
Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland

Jerzy Buzek,
President of the European Parliament



EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020
Conference
Brussels, 20-21 October 2011

EU MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK: 2014 - 2020

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20 - 21 October 2011

Brussels

PROGRAMME



Thursday 20 October

Morning: Public session - Broadcast on Internet

(Venue: Charlemagne building, rue de la Loi)

09.00 - 10.00: Registration and welcoming coffee

10.00 - 10.40: Opening of conference: Speeches by President Buzek, Prime Minister Tusk and President Barroso

10.40 - 13.00: First Plenary Session: The Big Issues in the next MFF

- **Panel:** European Parliament (to be determined), Polish Presidency (Minister Dowgiałewicz), European Commission (Commissioner Lewandowski), a representative of National Parliaments (to be determined).

- **Open debate**

12.30 - 13.00: Response from the panellists

13:00 - 14.15: Buffet lunch

14.30: Departure of buses for the European Parliament

Afternoon: Session for Parliamentarians and Institutional Representatives

(Venue: European Parliament, rue Wiertz)

14.30 -15.00: Arrival at European Parliament and transfer to meeting rooms

15.00 - 19.00: Three Parallel Working Sessions

(16.45 – 17.15: Coffee break)

Session 1: EU Revenue: The Future of Own Resources

Possible issues:

- Principles in the Lisbon Treaty and short presentation of the Commission proposal
- How to ensure better equity between Member States and financial autonomy for the Union Budget? The proposed new VAT resource and the new financial transaction tax
- Proposals for the reform of national correction mechanisms

Panel: one representative each from: the Trio Presidency, the European Parliament, a National Parliament, and the European Commission.

Session 2: EU Expenditure: Spending Priorities for the Future

Possible issues:

- Principles established in the Lisbon Treaty and short presentation of the Commission proposal
- The principle of solidarity. Competitiveness and Cohesion: two core challenges for the European territory.

- 'Investing beyond the crisis' - long-term economic perspectives and the need to invest in a post-crisis Europe that can reach its Europe 2020 goals
- Improving the management modes of EU programmes: pros and cons of direct management and shared management
- Simplification of financial rules

Panel: one representative each from: the Trio Presidency, the European Parliament, a National Parliament, and the European Commission.

Session 3: Adding Value: The EU Budget in Efficient Public Finances

- Principles in the Lisbon Treaty and short presentation of the Commission proposal
- Cases of duplication and synergy between national and EU spending
- Implementation of Europe 2020 strategy in national budgets
- Impact of the economic crisis on public finances
- 'Making every euro work' - focussing on new financial instruments and investment in areas that offer maximum benefit, and improving audit procedures to promote efficiency and reduce waste

Panel: one representative each from: the Trio Presidency, the European Parliament, a National Parliament, and the European Commission.

19.00: Drinks reception for participants

19.45: Dinner - Discussion hosted by the European Parliament

Open discussion with the participation of President Buzek, a representative of the Polish Presidency, President Barroso (tbc) and national and European parliamentarians.

Friday 21 October

(Venue: Charlemagne building, rue de la Loi)

08.45 - 09.15: Arrival of delegates

09.15 - 12.30: Second Plenary session:

Chair: to be determined

Reports from the three parallel working sessions

Open discussion

(10.45 -11.15: Coffee break)

12.30 - 13.00: Closing remarks by representatives of the three EU Institutions and National Parliaments – Broadcast on Internet