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COVER NOTE

From: The European Affairs Committee of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

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To: The President of the Council of the European Union

Subject: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security for the period 2028-2034 and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 and Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 [11815/25 - COM(2025) 565 final] - Opinion on the application of the Principles of Subsidiarity and Proportionality

Delegations will find enclosed the opinion¹ of the European Affairs Committee of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on the above.

¹ The translation(s) of the opinion may be available on the Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange website (IPEX) at the following address: <https://secure.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/document/COM-2025-0565>



SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

OPINION

ON THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ESTABLISHING THE
EUROPEAN FUND FOR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION,
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL, FISHERIES AND MARITIME, PROSPERITY AND
SECURITY FOR THE PERIOD 2028–2034 AND AMENDING REGULATION (EU)
2023/955 AND REGULATION (EU, EURATOM) 2024/2509

27 May 2026 No 100-P- 46, No S -2026 -2410
Vilnius

The Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,
having regard to the European Commission Proposal for a Regulation of the European
Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Fund for economic, social and
territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security for
the period 2028–2034 and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 and Regulation (EU, Euratom)
2024/2509 (COM/2025/565 final);

having regard to the information provided by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic
of Lithuania on the progress of negotiations on the Regulation on National and Regional
Partnership Plans (hereinafter: the ‘NRPPs’) in the EU Council’s *Ad hoc* Working Party on the
Multiannual Financial Framework for 2028–2034;

having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the European
Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of
the Regions on the EU’s eastern regions bordering Russia, Belarus and Ukraine (COM(2026)
82 final), which recognises the need to strengthen the resilience, competitiveness and
investment attractiveness of these regions;

noting the importance of ensuring that the EU’s main priorities, namely defence,
security, competitiveness, cohesion, agriculture, climate change adaptation, investment in a
sustainable economy and the enlargement of the European Union, are duly taken into account
in the new long-term budget of the European Union;

having regard to Opinion No 100-P-99 of the Seimas Committee on European Affairs
of 17 December 2025 on the Financial Framework of the European Union for 2028–2034;

notes that, due to the worsening security situation in Europe, Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, increasing hybrid threats and attacks, energy and economic security challenges and the growing need to strengthen the resilience of the European Union, the EU budget in the 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework must become more flexible and better adapted to the changing geopolitical realities facing the European Union;

stresses that the Eastern border Member States of the European Union, including Lithuania, bordering the aggressor states Russia and Belarus, are facing exceptional and long-term security, social, economic resilience and connectivity challenges that have a direct impact on the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the regions and their long-term development. Due to their geopolitical situation, these regions face difficulties in attracting investment, competitiveness challenges and demographic change, as well as a growing need to strengthen resilience to hybrid threats. At the same time, they play a strategic role in strengthening the security and resilience of the European Union as a whole, and therefore

recommends that the Government of the Republic of Lithuania seek, in further negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework, that support at EU level for Eastern border regions be explicitly embedded in horizontal EU budget programmes, including cohesion policy, common agricultural policy and programmes managed directly by the European Commission. This should be ensured through appropriate allocation of funds, additional incentives and increased access to funding. The specific challenges of the Eastern border regions should be more clearly reflected in the draft NRPP Regulation and directly incorporated into its objectives;

notes that the NRPP Regulation establishes an instrument at European Union level (hereinafter: the 'EU facility') aimed at enhancing flexibility which will provide additional opportunities for faster and more effective adaptation to new priorities and respond to unforeseen crises;

stresses that the EU Facility funds allocated for Union actions should be mobilised first and function as the primary crisis response mechanism, while the unprogrammed national allocations could be used as a complementary measure, if necessary;

emphasises that crisis payments to farmers affected by natural disasters, adverse climatic events, or catastrophic events should be financed from the EU facility funds, regardless of whether these events have led to market disturbances;

notes that the NRP plan should allocate a maximum share of investment (in percentage terms) to the implementation of reforms;

points out that the proposed 25 % reserve (flexibility amount) constitutes a significantly excessive share of unprogrammed funds, jeopardising the implementation of the

NRP plan, and **calls** for the reduction of this share to 15 % or for the possibility of introducing greater flexibility in terms of its use, with the possibility of using funds before 30 June 2033;

stresses that a substantial part of the funding for the Special Transit Scheme is allocated to operational costs, and therefore the use of a performance-based implementation model in this area is not appropriate, as such a model may not ensure the stability and continuity of funding, and **suggests** that the Government assess this aspect thoroughly during the negotiations.

Chair of the Committee



Rasa Budbergytė