

Press release

ESIP reacts to the Commission's MFF and calls to secure and strengthen financial support for social and health priorities

The European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP), the voice of over 46 national social security institutions across Europe, acknowledges the presentation of the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) by the European Commission on 16 July.

Social security institutions play a crucial role in meeting the needs and safeguarding the wellbeing of people throughout Europe. Their responsibilities encompass a wide range of areas including cross-border mobility, access to social rights, health and long-term care, pensions, employment, disability, poverty alleviation, and family benefits. In full alignment with the objectives set out in the Porto Summit - particularly those concerning poverty reduction, employment, and skills development - ESIP members place the implementation of these priorities at the core of their daily missions at national level.

Given our frontline experience and expertise, ESIP and its members are uniquely positioned to support the implementation of the European Commission's ambitious strategies and initiatives. These include the Action Plan on the European Pillar of Social Rights, the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy, the Gender Equality Strategy, the Sustainable Mobility Package, the Housing Plan, the new EU Quality Jobs Roadmap as well as the Life Sciences Strategy and numerous initiatives in the field of pharmaceuticals. We are fully committed to translating these strategic goals into tangible improvements for all citizens and residents across the EU.

However, achieving these goals requires a strong financial foundation. While the pursuit of simplification and efficiency in the new MFF is welcome, it must not come at the cost of adequate funding and resources for the social and health policies of the Union. Delivering on the principles and objectives of a truly Social Europe and EU Health Union demands robust and sustained "social" investment.

In this context, and in light of the dilution of the ESF+ fund, ESIP calls on Member States and Members of the European Parliament to reinforce financial support for inclusive, fair, and socially driven priorities in the upcoming MFF. Ensuring a decent standard of living and a resilient social protection system must remain central to the European project. A strong and competitive Union cannot be sustained without an ambitious social agenda underpinned by appropriate funding and quality jobs.

Health must also remain a key pillar of the MFF. It is essential to maintain a dedicated budget line, comparable to the current EU4Health programme, beyond funding streams under the Competitiveness Fund and Horizon Europe. In view of demographic change and the likelihood of emerging health challenges, this funding should not only be maintained but also expanded to ensure preparedness and resilience.

ESIP and its members stand ready to contribute to the pursuit of these objectives and to strengthen the support for individuals living and working within the internal market and across borders.

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