



Clean air funding in the next MFF

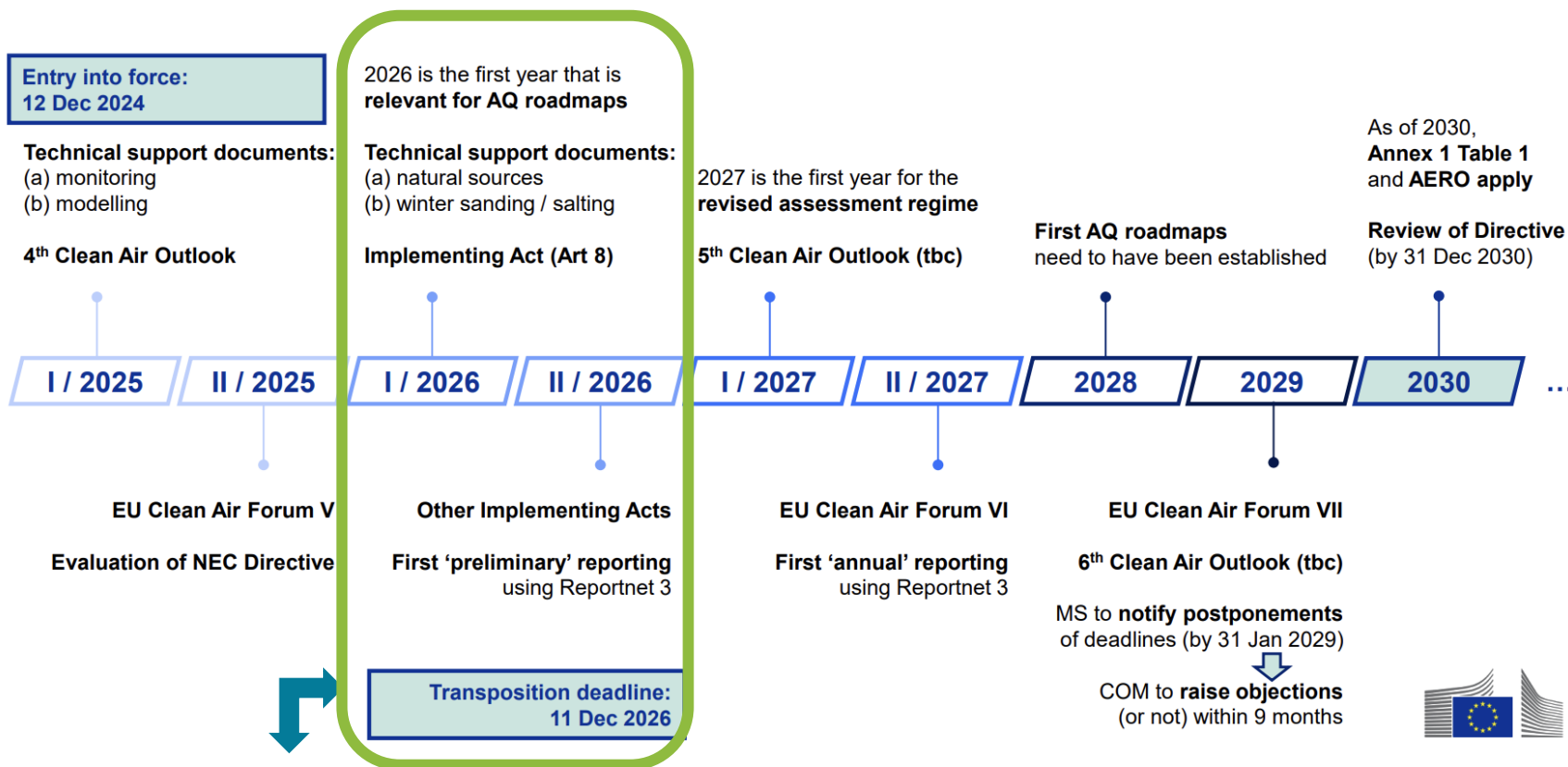
Ensuring financing for AAQD implementation

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Main messages

- 1. 2026 window for timely AAQD implementation & adequate funding**
- 2. Investing in clean air is proven net benefit for public health & the economy**
- 3. 2028-2035 EU budget is key for closing clean air investments gap**

1. 2026 key window to ensure timely AAQD implementation

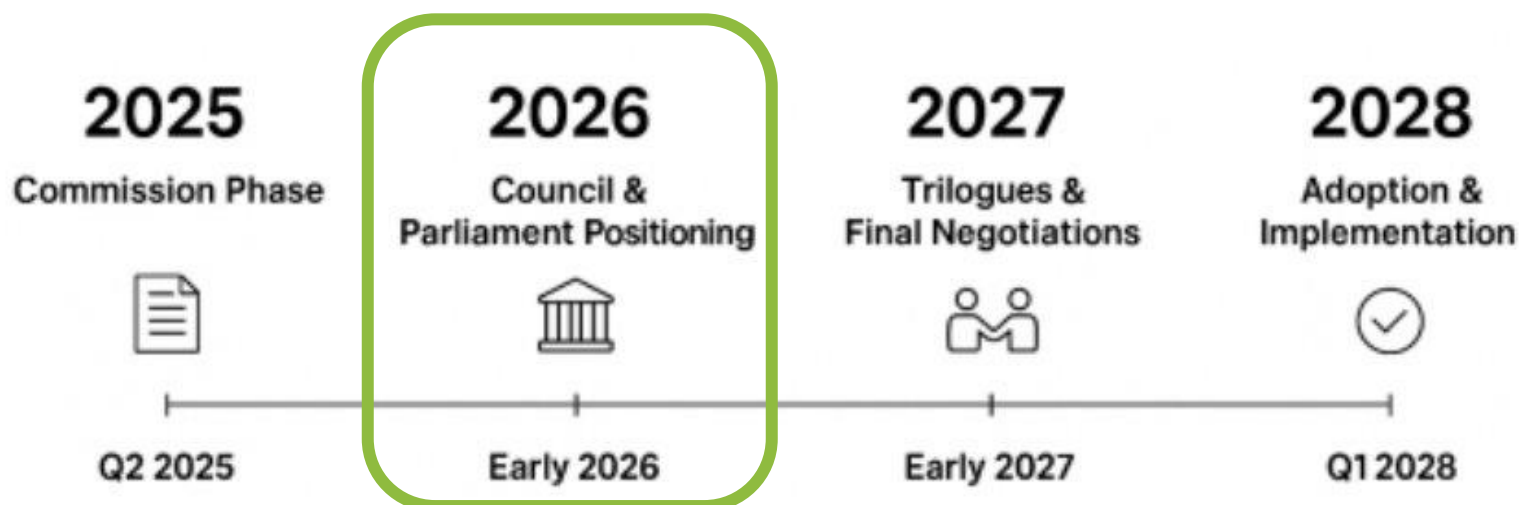


Key priority: Securing dedicated and sufficient funding for clean air in the next EU budget negotiations can ensure timely AAQD implementation



1. 2026 key window to secure adequate funding for cleaner air

Timeline: MFF 2028–2034 Negotiations



2. Investing in clean air is proven net health & economic benefit

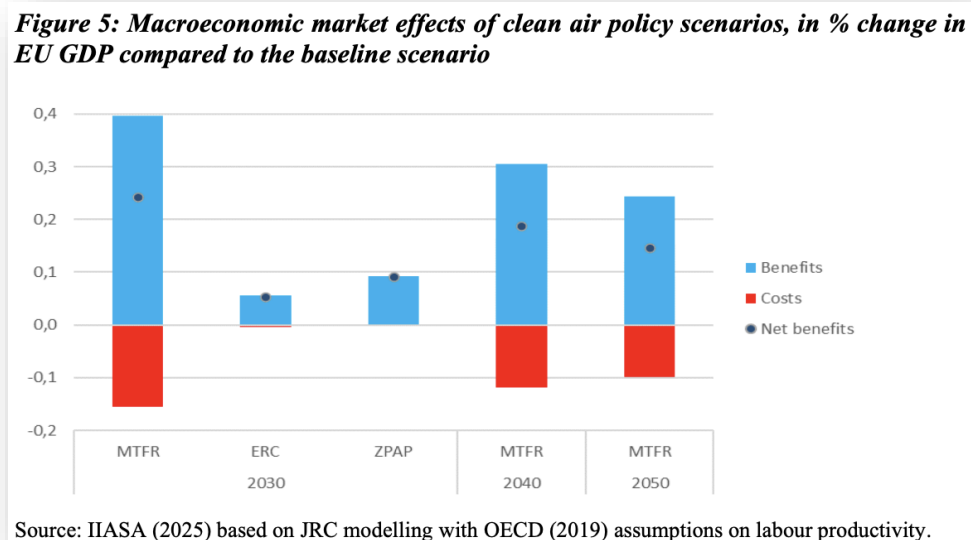
HARMFUL EVEN AT LOW LEVELS: there's no safe level of air pollution!

€290-950 billion per year by 2030 – estimated health damages due to air pollution for the EU, without greater intervention

€105-347 billion per year by 2030 – estimated health damages from air pollution exposure above WHO (2021) guidelines

€742 million in 2030 – estimated cost of damages to materials due to air pollution

(Source: [Clean Air Outlook, 2025](#))



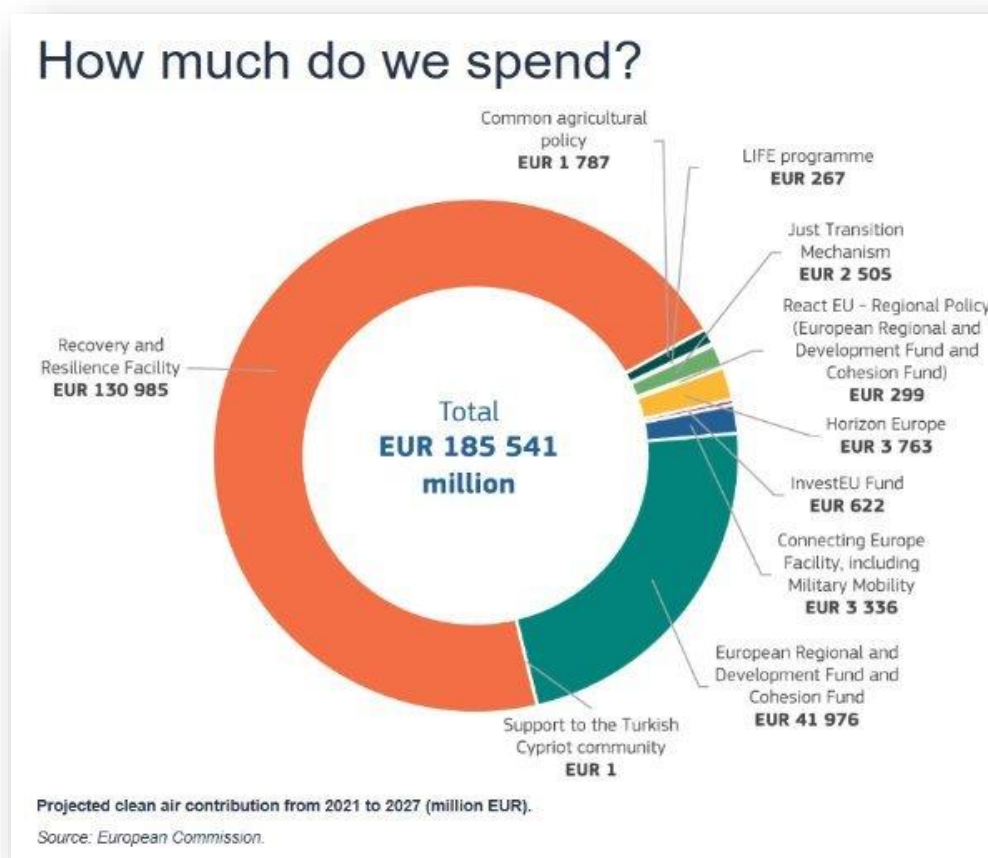
All scenarios leading to cleaner air would increase EU GDP in 2030

3. 2028-2035 EU budget key for closing clean air investments gap

SOME BASICS ON THE “MFF”

- **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)** is the EU's long-term budget
 - Provide an overarching (7-year) financial framework for EU annual budgets
 - Set up spending limits for spending programmes
 - Current 2021-27 MFF is **€ 2.07 trillions** (including **€ 806 billion** from post-Covid NextGenerationEU (NGEU))
- **Adopted via special legislative procedures:**
 - Commission proposes overall framework + regulations for each sectoral programmes;
 - the European Council adopts it unanimously
 - with ultimate consent of Parliament (veto powers only, no amendment powers)

3. 2028-2035 EU budget key for closing clean air investments gap



€ 185 541 million= 9.7% of the current MFF to the clean air policy objectives

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/air/funding-clean-air_en

https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/performance-and-reporting/horizontal-priorities/green-budgeting/clean-air-tracking_en

3. 2028-2035 EU budget key for closing clean air investments gap

CLEAN AIR INVESTMENTS GAP IN THE EU

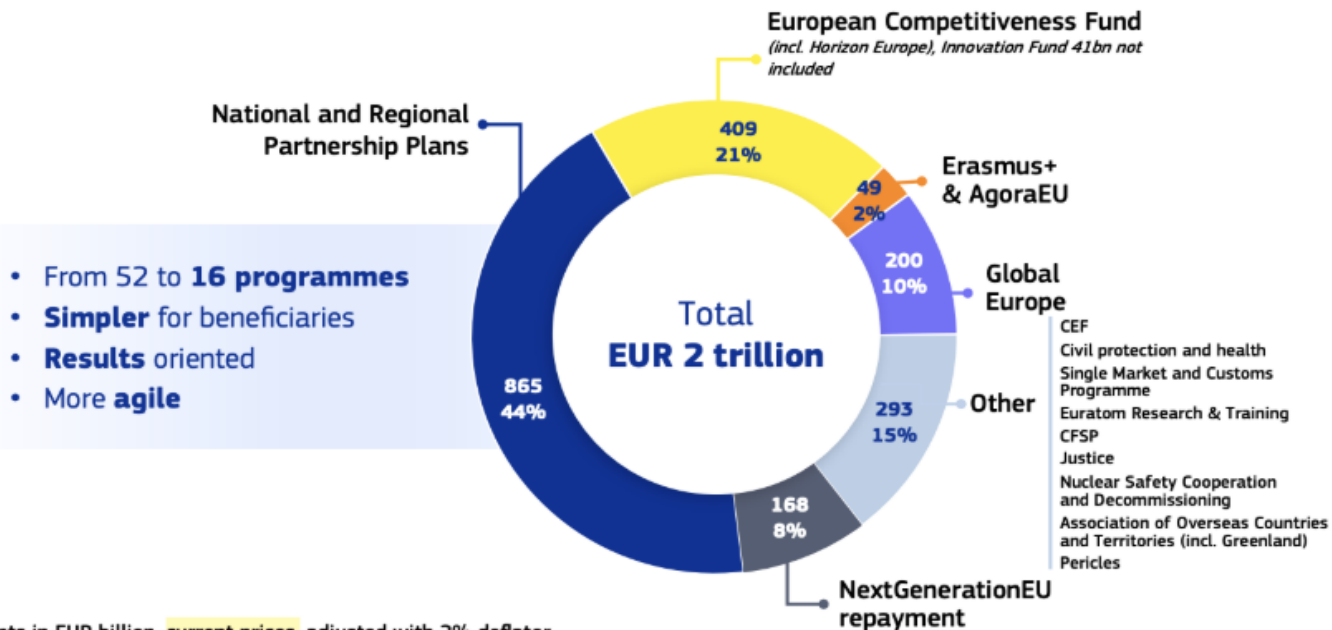
- Annual investment gap to achieve the EU's zero pollution goals by 2030:
 - €40.7 billion (EEA)
 - of which €32.6 billion every year for cleaner air
- Costs of inaction far exceeds investment costs:
 - **air pollution alone costs the EU €600 billion annually** in health expenses and lost productivity
 - failing to implement existing environmental laws costs €180 billion per year (SOER 2025)

2021-27 MFF – Current Budget

Breakdown of expenditures (in € billion)^[9]

	Spending area	% MFF	MFF	NGEU	Total area
1	Single market, innovation and digital	14,7	132,78	10,60	143,38
2	Cohesion, resilience and values	34,5	377,77	721,90	1099,67
3	Natural resources and the environment	29,7	356,37	17,50	373,87
4	Migration and border control	2,7	22,67		22,67
5	Security and defence	2,1	13,19		13,19
6	Neighbourhood and the world	9,6	98,42		98,42
7	European public administration	6,7	73,10		73,10
	Total expenditure	100,0	1074,30	750,00	1824,30

2028-34 MFF – EU COM's proposal



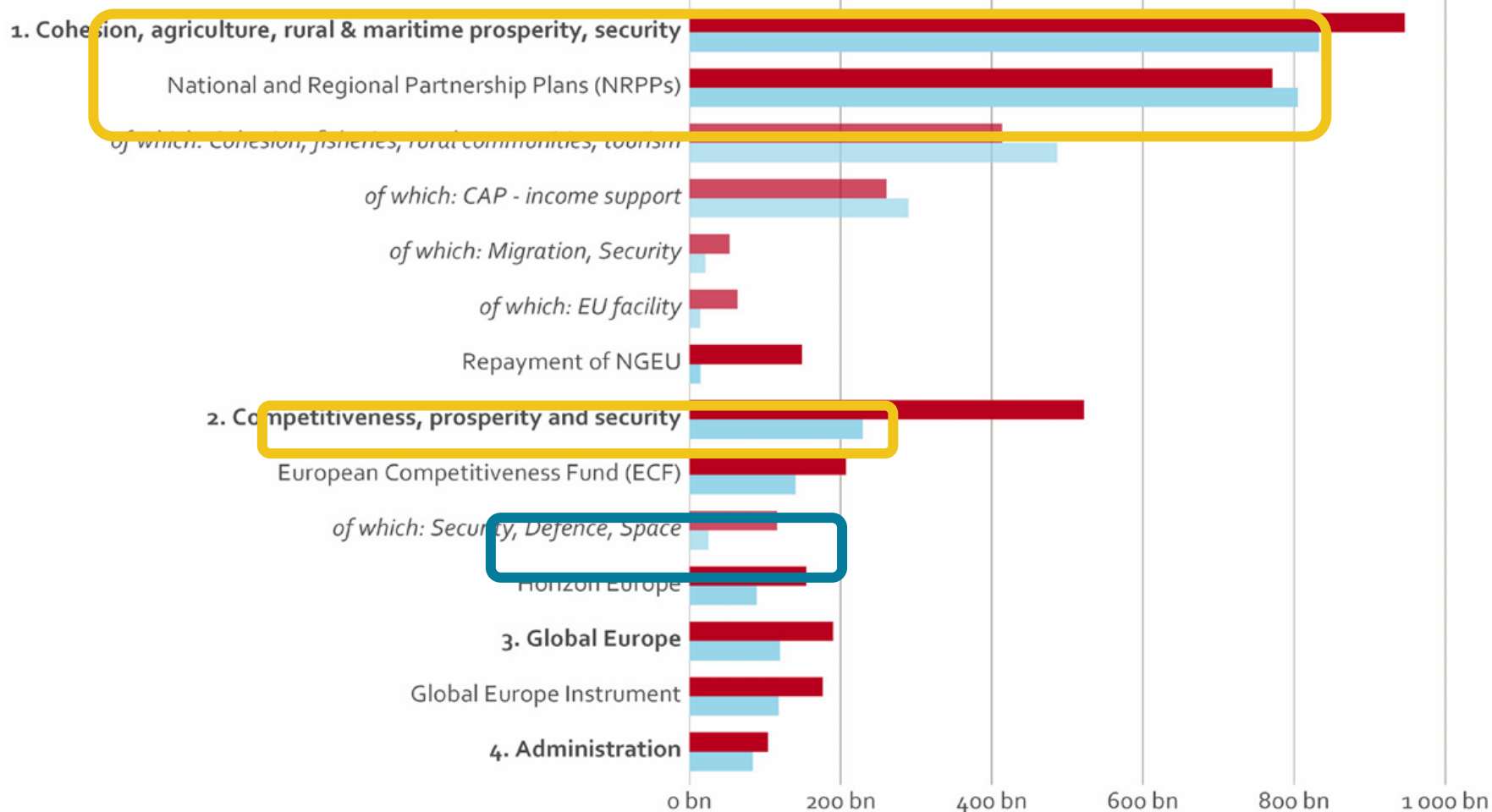
- From 52 to **16 programmes**
- **Simpler** for beneficiaries
- **Results** oriented
- More **agile**

All amounts in EUR billion, **current prices**, adjusted with 2% deflator

But...in real 2025 terms minus NGEU service costs is...€ 1614 billion

28-34 MFF: Shift in policy priorities

28-34 MFF headings and largest programmes in comparison
€ billion, 2025 prices



28-34 MFF: HEAL Advocacy Demands

1. Invest in better health, not pollution, while promote equity

- Introduce 10% spending target for zero pollution
- Protect dedicated budget line for clean air to urgently cut emissions of air pollutants from all sources

2. Setting strong conditions for healthy and zero pollution investments

- Mandatory health impact assessments
- Introduce an "at-source" tracking methodology for all air pollutants

3. Swift phase out of EU subsidies for fossil fuels

- Phase out direct and indirect environmentally harmful subsidies
- Phase out fossil fuel subsidies

Invest in better health

The EU budget (Multiannual Financial Framework) will shape EU spending across all policy areas for the next 7 years.

Health protection from the triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution should be at the core of the EU's spending and investment opportunities.

<p>Air pollution leads to hundreds of thousands of premature deaths each year.</p>	<p>Climate change led to 62,700 excess heat-related deaths across Europe in 2024.</p>	<p>Exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals cost €157 billion/year.</p>	<p>PFAS contamination could cost £16 trillion in clean-up across the UK and Europe.</p>	<p>Environmental degradation and climate inaction in the EU cost EUR 600 billion/year.</p>	<p>Fossil fuel subsidies from EU countries reached EUR 123 billion in 2023.</p>
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Science-based recommendations on investing in pollution prevention for better health

<p>Spend 50% of the next EU budget on climate and the environment, with 10% for cutting pollution.</p>	<p>Protect vulnerable people with special funding to cut climate and environmental inequalities.</p>
<p>End fossil fuel subsidies and phase out fossil fuels in the energy sector by 2027.</p>	<p>Make health impact checks mandatory to increase resilience and preparedness.</p>

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28-34 MFF: EU Healthy Air Coalition (EUHAC) Advocacy Demands

Air pollution is Europe's biggest environmental threat to health. It's time to cut pollutants at all sources:

POLLUTED AIR IS LINKED TO ALL MAJOR DISEASES



Cardiovascular diseases



Respiratory diseases



Diabetes



Dementia, mental and neurological impacts



Impaired child development



Cancer



UNEQUAL IN ITS IMPACT

Pregnant women, children, the elderly, people with pre-existing health conditions and socio-economic disadvantages face the greatest risks.



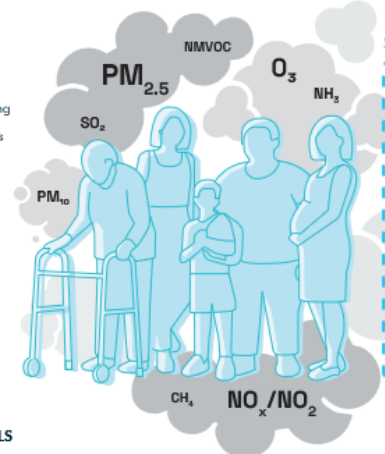
TOO EXPENSIVE

It costs Europe hundreds of billions of euros annually in health care, lost productivity, and reduced quality of life.



HARMFUL EVEN AT LOW LEVELS

There's no safe level of air pollution.



SOURCES OF POLLUTION



Agriculture



Buildings



Industry



Energy supply



Transport



Waste

Health voices are calling on EU and national decision makers to **URGENTLY CUT EMISSIONS OF AIR POLLUTANTS FROM ALL SOURCES**, protect health, and ensure sustainability of healthcare systems.



CLEAN AIR POLICIES MUST FOLLOW SCIENCE: MORE AMBITION, NO LOOPHOLE



Accelerate the binding pace of emissions reduction



End subsidies for fossil fuels and ammonia emitting practices



Introduce binding methane emissions reduction targets



Remove "renewable" label from biomass

Bonus: Performance Regulation

Zero pollution mainstreamed

- **At least 35% of all spending programmes** (€700 billion*) to finance climate and nature objectives, including zero pollution and clean air.

However

- No individual minimum target for zero pollution
- Continued (risk of) greenwashing of EU spending
- EU spending to security and defence objectives does not contribute to climate and nature objectives

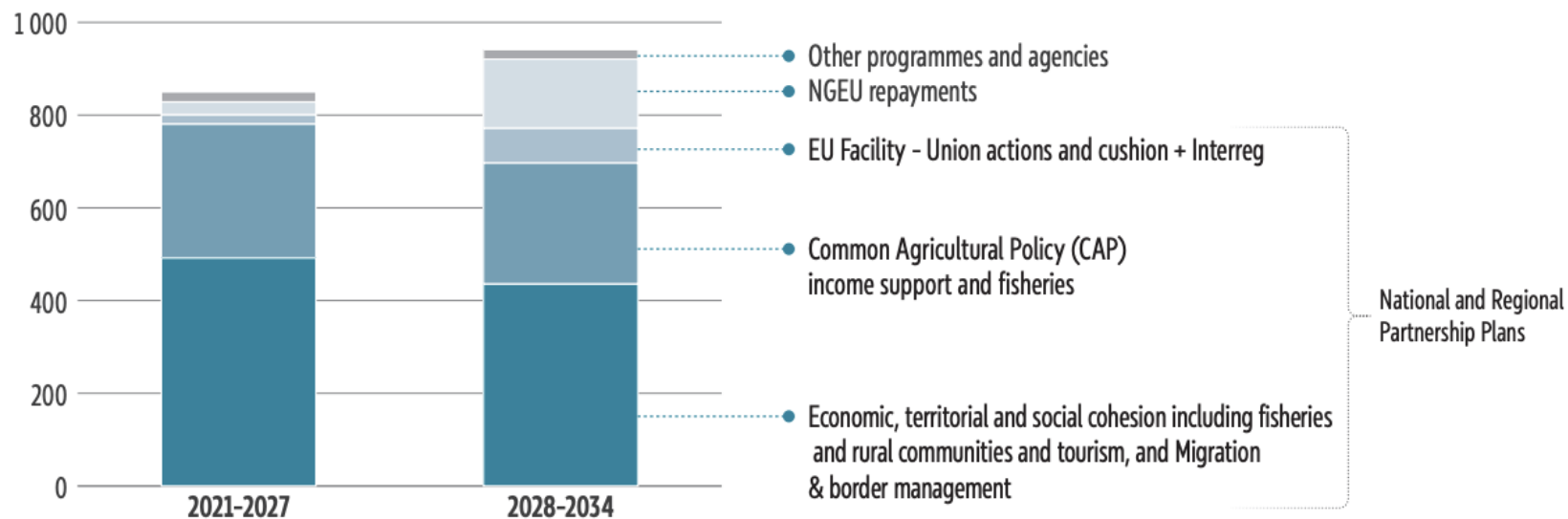
*Commission's estimates (source)

Programme	Tot. Spending € (billion)	Target
ECF	234 (minus defence & security)	43%
NRPPs	865	43%
Horizon	175	40%
CEF	81 (of which 51 to defence/dual use)	70%
Global Europe	200	30%

Heading 1: Greater EU countries discretion to disburse funds

Heading 1: Comparison 2021-2027 with 2028-2034 MFF

Commitments, € billion, 2025 prices

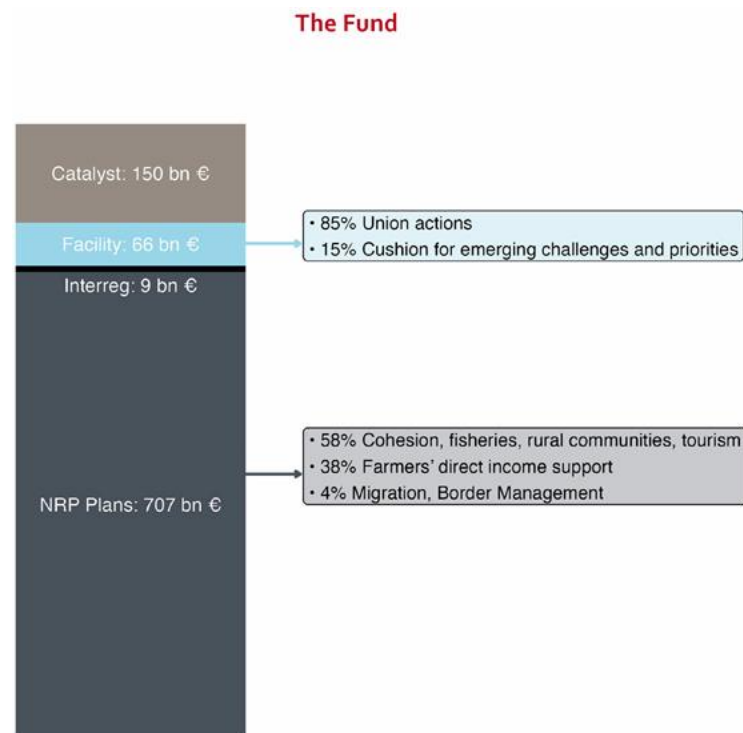


Heading 1: Greater uncertainty for clean air funding allocation

- NRPPs regulation includes clean air as one of the specific objectives that can be funded.

However

- No dedicated clean air budget line in NRPPs increases uncertainty
- No explicit mention of direct or indirect phaseout of fossil fuels subsidies
- No time for meaningful stakeholders' involvement (drafts ready by June 2027) risks sidelining environmental and health priorities

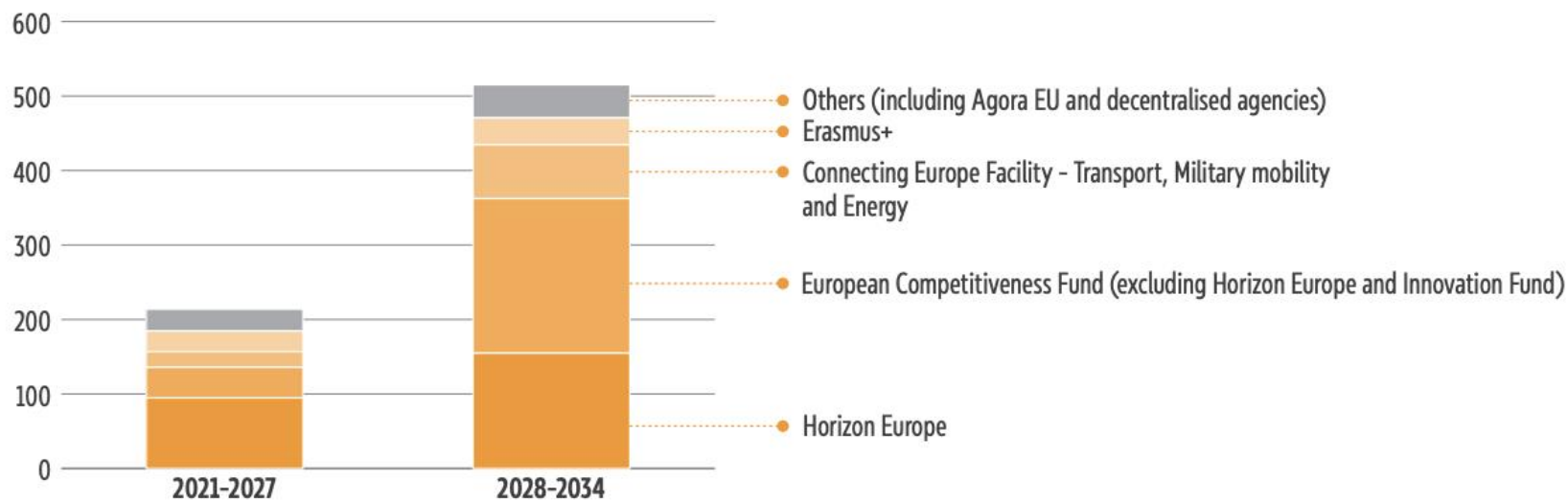


Heading 2: EU Competitiveness Fund

Direct managed

Heading 2: Comparison 2021-2027 with 2028-2034 MFF

Commitments, € billion, 2025 prices



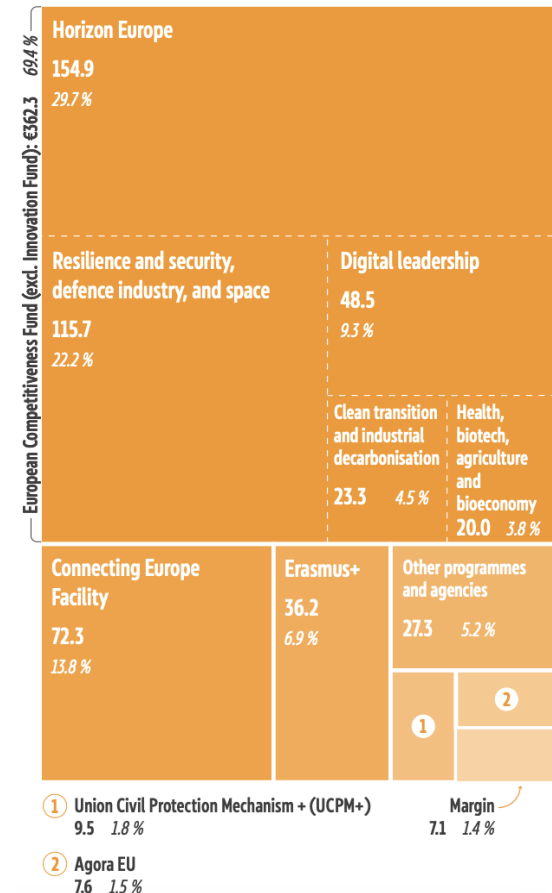
Heading 2: Narrow focus on few air pollutants (GHG emissions)

ECF includes specific objectives that ensure financing for pollution prevention, control remediation and clean air.

However

- Narrow focus on decarbonisation --> can lead to fewer resources to other sources of pollution.
- Allocation mechanism (work programmes) is opaque and at the discretion of the Commission.

Breakdown of the Competitiveness, prosperity and security heading by programme
Commitments, € billion, % share in heading, 2025 prices





Thank you

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