



Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
European and International  
Affairs

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Vienna, 09. February 2024

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Director  
Lukas Wank  
Global Responsibility  
Austrian Platform for Development  
and Humanitarian Aid  
Apollogasse 4/9  
1070 Vienna  
E-Mail: [lukas.wank\[at\]globaleverantwortung.at](mailto:lukas.wank[at]globaleverantwortung.at)

Dear Mr. Wank,

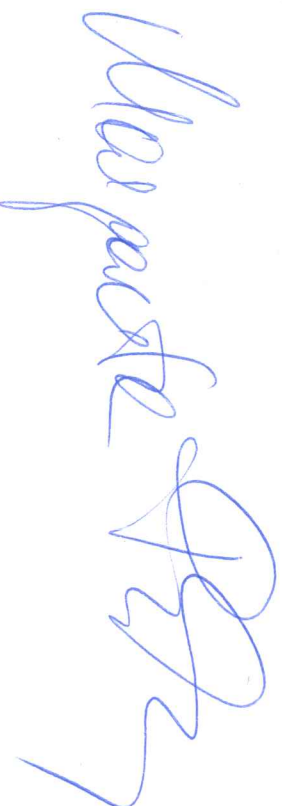
Thank you for your letter of 23 January 2024 to Federal Minister Alexander Schallenberg in which you share your concerns about the preliminary negotiating text for the mid-term review of the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework supported by 26 EU Member States. This document was the basis for the agreement reached at the special meeting of the European Council on 1 February 2024.

From an Austrian perspective, this agreement is welcome. The EU will now be able to use new resources to respond appropriately to the consequences of Russia's war of aggression and support Ukraine with EUR 50 billion. Heading 4 Migration will be reinforced by EUR 2 billion and Heading 6 Neighbourhood and the World by EUR 7.6 billion, including EUR 2 billion for the Western Balkans. Also the Flexibility Instrument and the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve will be increased by EUR 2 billion and EUR 1.5 billion respectively, which will allow for a stronger response to unforeseen challenges, to natural disasters and humanitarian crisis situations within the EU or in third countries.

While EUR 10.6 billion out of the total EUR 64.6 billion will be financed from redeployments, EUR 21 billion will be 'fresh money' made available by the Member States. EUR 33 billion will be loans to Ukraine as part of the new Facility.

Overall, we agree with the Presidents of the European Parliament, the European Council and the Commission in their assessments that this first ever revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework's ceilings achieved a very good and balanced result.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Harpster', written in a cursive style.