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THE EUROPEAN UNION NEEDS A BUDGET FOR GROWTH AND JOBS

6 February 2013

Herman Van Rompuy will try again to get an agreement on the future budget of the EU during the European Budget Summit of 7 and 8 February 2013. The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) is concerned that the President of the European Council, following pressure from Member States, intends to further reduce the Commission's proposal, decreasing the budget from €1091 billion to €985 billion.

Unfortunately it seems easier for the European Council to adopt austerity plans than to adopt a satisfactory Multiannual Financial Framework for the period 2014-2020.

Like the European Parliament, ETUC insists that a Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) must be based on a compromise but also on a "fair deal". In times of crisis and high unemployment rates the EU budget should not be reduced.

In the new proposal the cohesion policy seems to be preserved; but this is a smokescreen since the previous Council's compromise had already substantially cut cohesion funds.

ETUC welcomes the President's proposal for "a new youth employment initiative with a substantial amount of money"; but this will not come through if it is not supported by an adequate EU budget.

The EU budget is an essential tool to contribute to economic recovery in the current crisis. MFF and structural funds are key to achieve higher economic and social standards.

The European Council has to give a positive signal and adopt a budget for the period 2014-2020 coherent with the ambitions fixed by Member States and the objectives

targeted in the 2020 Strategy.

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) exists to speak with a single voice, on behalf of the common interests of workers, at European level. Founded in 1973, it now represents 85 trade union organisations in 36 European countries, plus 10 industry-based federations. The ETUC is also on [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Flickr](#).

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