



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

13th November, 2025.

Our Ref: November25 – 15/JC/AC

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the November meeting of the Council, the members passed the following resolution:

“That Clare County Council calls on the Government of Ireland not to support the European Commission’s proposal to establish a single common fund under the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028–2034, which would merge key EU policy instruments such as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), Cohesion Policy, and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund into one overarching funding mechanism.

This Council expresses concern that:

1. The proposed “common fund” risks undermining the integrity and transparency of longstanding EU policies that have delivered tangible benefits to Ireland’s regions, farmers, and coastal communities.
2. The Commission’s justification—that this structure would “simplify” the MFF—fails to recognise that simplification through centralisation can weaken the specific policy objectives and ring-fenced funding that underpin regional and rural development.
3. The proposal links the next MFF to the repayment of EU debt incurred under the NextGenerationEU recovery instrument, creating fiscal pressure that is already leading to an overall 20% reduction in key investment areas compared with the current period.
4. The Commission’s claim that the new MFF will be “the biggest EU budget ever” is misleading, as this increase is largely accounted for by debt repayments rather than by additional funding for future programmes or regional growth.

Accordingly, Clare County Council urges the Minister for Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, and the Minister for Finance, to:

- Reject any move towards a single aggregated fund that would erode the distinct purposes of the CAP, Cohesion, and Fisheries policies;
- Advocate instead for a transparent, policy-based MFF that maintains clear and separate funding streams for agriculture, regional development, and the blue economy; and
- Support an ambitious, adequately resourced EU budget that ensures balanced and sustainable growth across Ireland and the European Union’s regions.”

Yours sincerely,

John Corry,
A/Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services & Governance,
People & Culture, Corporate Services & Governance, ICT & Digital Services