

MOVIMENTO EUROPEO CONSIGLIO ITALIANO

IL PRESIDENTE

Your Excellency,

The European Movement in Italy has noted with great interest the initiative that the Italian Government, together with Romania, has promoted as leaders of the ‘*Friends of Cohesion*’ group ahead of the next stages of negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework from 2028.

We endorse the call for the next MFF to ‘*maintain the overall level of resources allocated to cohesion policy and the CAP*’ and the principle that the new European priorities – security and defence, competitiveness, connectivity, energy security and resilience – must not be funded through further cuts to these policies, as new ambitions require adequate additional resources.

In particular, we wish to express our full support for the willingness expressed by the Friends of Cohesion “*to work constructively on new own resources that can reduce the pressure on national budgets, provided that they are genuine, fair, simple and non-regressive.*”

This is precisely the approach the European Movement has been pursuing for years, through a working group dedicated to own resources established in 2019¹, and which we have developed as part of the research project “*The MFF 2028–2034: what new resources for public goods and sustainable, competitive growth of the economic system? A comparison of Italian and German proposals,*” conducted with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

We therefore take the liberty of submitting our proposals to you, which, in our view, precisely meet the four criteria set out by the Friends of Cohesion:

- **genuine resources:** our proposals aim to identify genuinely new tax bases – primarily European surcharges levied at source on gambling, tobacco and alcohol – which do not constitute a mere reallocation of revenue already existing at national level nor a simple transfer of burdens between Member States, but generate genuinely additional revenue for the Union’s budget;
- **fair resources:** the levies focus on sectors characterised by negative externalities and on cross-border phenomena that are difficult for individual states to regulate, and are accompanied by measures designed to ensure that the wealthiest contribute more, such as a tiered European VAT surcharge on luxury goods and services and a financial transaction tax;
- **simple resources:** for gambling, for example, we propose a linear surtax, at a uniform rate, which is added to national systems without altering their internal structure, applied as a withholding tax on winnings at the time of payment;
- **non-regressive resources:** the revenue would not derive from taxation of income, wealth or trade, and the entire package – which also includes resources from luxury goods and ‘statistical’ resources linked to the gender pay gap and food waste – is designed to distribute the burden evenly across Member States and sectors.

¹ The working group comprises Giampiero Auletta Armenise, Pier Virgilio Dastoli, Alberto Majocchi, Nicoletta Parisi, Paolo Ponzano, Olimpia Fontana, Luca Gasbarro, Giovanni Barone and Stefano Rossi.

Taken together, these proposals provide for additional own resources of around €150 billion per year, to be introduced over a five-year phased implementation period, thereby doubling the Union's annual budget from around €150 billion to €300 billion (excluding NGEU reimbursements) without increasing national contributions based on GNI. According to our estimates, the surtax on gambling winnings alone could generate around €68 billion per year, the surtax on tobacco around €19 billion and the surtax on alcohol around €26 billion, to which would be added around €15 billion from the financial transaction tax.

We also welcome the suggestion, contained in the letter from the Friends of Cohesion, for a more gradual repayment of NextGenerationEU and for European debt instruments targeted at clearly identified strategic priorities, which we consider a major step in the right direction.

In this context, the new own resources play a decisive role. By constituting a genuine European fiscal resource earmarked for investment in European public goods, they would make it possible to gradually move beyond the exceptional nature that still characterises European debt, making debt issuance structural and permanent without creating moral hazard: the common debt would, in fact, finance new investments rather than the replacement of existing national debt, and its servicing would be guaranteed by the Union's own revenue rather than by commitments from national budgets².

It should be noted that the European Parliament, too, in its resolution of 28 April 2026, called on the Council to reach an agreement swiftly on new and genuine own resources and indicated, amongst the options to be explored, a levy on online gambling and betting services: there is therefore, in this area, significant convergence between the institutions, which the Italian Government can capitalise on during the negotiations.

Ahead of the forthcoming meeting of the Leaders of the Friends of Cohesion, on the sidelines of the October European Council, we hope that these proposals may be of use to the Government and shared with the group's partners, so that the openness regarding new own resources may translate into concrete proposals in the next Negotiating Box. The European Movement remains at the disposal of the Presidency of the Council, the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Permanent Representation for an in-depth meeting with the members of our working group.

Yours sincerely,

Pier Virgilio Dastoli

Rome, 13 October 2026

² Together with a possible path towards the gradual mutualisation of a portion of existing national debts – through enhanced cooperation, Treaty amendments or ad hoc intergovernmental instruments – this would pave the way for the creation of a genuine European *safe asset*, with positive effects on the (rising) cost of debt for Member States, on reducing financial fragmentation within the euro area, the transmission of the ECB's monetary policy, the completion of the Capital Markets Union and the international role of the euro, whilst preserving fiscal discipline and democratic accountability at both national and supranational levels.