

The Netherlands - Explanation of vote on the partial general approach regulation on the European Globalisation and Adjustment Fund (EGF)

The Dutch government and Parliament attach great importance to the current negotiations on the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-2027. This EGF regulation cannot be seen in isolation from these negotiations.

A new MFF requires us to critically review our spending. At the same time, a new MFF offers opportunities. Opportunities to modernise and improve our funds. Due to the broadening of the scope of the EGF, the new EGF and the European Social Fund overlap to a large extent. Therefore, the Netherlands is of the position that all social funds should be merged into the European Social Fund plus. One European fund to invest in people increases the efficiency and prevents overlap. Moreover, one European fund to invest in people will increase the visibility of the EU and subsequently the understanding of what the EU can do for its citizens.

Another aspect of the EGF that could have been improved is co-financing. To reflect the current favourable economic climate, a larger national contribution and thus lower co-financing rates would have been warranted. Larger national contributions also increase the ownership of projects.

Considering all of this, the Netherlands cannot support the partial general approach on the EGF regulation.