# AMSTERDAM MAP **Results of the Netherlands Presidency conference on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)**



This map provides an overview of the results of four workshops held during the Netherlands Presidency conference on the MFF in Amsterdam on the 28th of January 2016. Over 150 participants from across the European Union, divided over these four workshops, participated in an open conversation on the principles that could guide the future MFF.

The goal of these workshops was to have a free and open exchange of ideas, without necessarily reaching consensus. The principles do not reflect agreement on behalf of the participants, or the view of the Netherlands Presidency. The principles presented here may also be opposed to each other.

This map gives an overview of the combined results from the four workshops in four categories. The complete list of principles from each workshop, as they were shared during the workshops, can be found in the Annex to the conference report.

The Presidency conference was organized in order to start the discussion on the next MFF at an early stage. The principles in this map should be considered a first step, serving as a point of departure for future discussion on improving the next MFF.





- We should reduce subsidies and use financial instruments instead, such as loans and guarantees.
- ••• We should combine flexibility on the income side and flexibility on the spending side.
- ••• We should have a rich diversity of financial instruments, to be able to serve different goals.

- O We should not allocate all the budget into specific categories at the start of the MFF process to increase flexibility. ••• We need a minimum amount of reserves which will not be pre-allocated, with strict criteria for use.
- ••• We need bigger margins under annual ceilings, allowing flexibility throughout the year.

• We should have clear and easy triggers, agreed in advance, to release funds to respond to urgent priorities. 

We should make clear before negotiations what we are going to discuss when: duration, goals, budget.

••• We should be transparant on the starting position of Member States before entering negotiations.

🗝 We should start by negotiating the burden and benefit sharing formula first, solving 'juste-retour' negotiations directly. O We should agree on common goals first (expressed in European Added Value) before negotiating amounts and budgets. ••• We should divide the MFF in different parts and negotiate these parts on the basis of different principles.

• We should stimulate European citizens and representatives to participate in the negotiation process. ••• We should actively involve and engage national parliaments in the negotiation process.

• We should align the timing and duration of negotiations with the election cycle of the European Parliament and Commission. ••• We should limit the negotiation time, for instance cutting it in half by starting a few months before the deadline.



