



Maintaining EU Investment and Local Impact: A Breakfast Dialogue on the future of the European Social Fund

Wednesday 22 April 2026

08h00 – 09h30

Co-hosted by **Gabriella Gerzsenyi MEP & Gabriele Bischoff MEP**

Breakfast Dialogue

 Room ASP 00 G Member Salons, European Parliament

Background

We are at a pivotal moment for the future of the European Social Fund (ESF), as the European Parliament and Council of the European Union finalise their positions on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034 following the publication of the European Commission's MFF proposal in July 2025.

This breakfast discussion will bring together city representatives, Members of the European Parliament, and European Commission officials for an open exchange on how the ESF can continue to deliver tangible results for people across Europe. With cities at the forefront of implementation, the conversation will highlight the need to safeguard and strengthen the local dimension of the ESF, ensuring it remains a key instrument for tackling homelessness, social exclusion and material deprivation, and for supporting employment, and skills development where it matters most. The event will be held under Chatham House rules to foster the open exchange of views.



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Agenda

07:30	<p>Meet for accreditation</p> <p>Participants who require accreditation will be met at Station Europe, Agora Simone Veil in front of the European Parliament.</p>
08:00 – 08:10	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • André Sobczak, Secretary General of Eurocities • Gabriella Gerzsenyi, Member of the European Parliament • Gabriele Bischoff, Member of the European Parliament
08:10-08:15	<p>European Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruth Paserman, Director for Funds: Programming and Implementation, DG EMPL
08:15 – 08:25	<p>ESF Rapporteurs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marit Majj, Member of the European Parliament • David Casa, Member of the European Parliament tbc
08:25– 09:25	<p>Roundtable discussion with representatives of cities</p> <p>Representatives of European cities and EU policymakers discuss how we can achieve a well-resourced and impactful European Social Fund in the next MFF.</p>
09:25–09:30	<p>Closing remarks</p>

