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## ROMANIAN MEP SIEGFRIED MURESAN TO NEGOTIATE THE 2018 EU BUDGET

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25.11.2016

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24.11.2016

Romania Insider

The European Parliaments Budget Committee has appointed Romanian MEP Siegfried Muresan (EPP/PMP) as the Parliaments rapporteur for the 2018 general budget of the European Union (EU).

Muresan is the first Romanian elected the European Parliaments chief negotiator for the EUs annual budget.

Negotiating the EU annual budget, which amounted to 155-160 billion EUR in the past years, is a very important mission and it comes with a great degree of responsibility. It is essential to continue financing EUs priorities of economic growth through investments in infrastructure, research, innovation and youth employment, but also on strengthening the security of the European citizens, Siegfried Muresan said.

On a personal note, Muresan would like Romania to absorb more EU funds in 2018. In this sense, Muresan says he will make sure that the necessary money exists in the EU budget to make payments on time to invest in important areas of Romania, such as cohesion, infrastructure projects, and construction of highways.

But the Government also has to do its job and absorb this money, he said.

Romanian center-right MEP Siegfried Muresan is the vice-president of the European Parliaments Committee on Budgets, and already has experience in EU budget negotiations. This year, he has worked as a shadow rapporteur from the European Peoples Party (EPP) at the 2017 EU budget, and was part of the European Parliaments delegation to the budgetary conciliation with the EU Council, during which next years budget of EUR 158 billion was approved.

The European Parliaments rapporteur (also called chief-negotiator) for EUs annual budget sets the Parliaments political priorities for the European budget and negotiates, in behalf of the European Parliament, the final form of the annual budget. This year, the EUs budget amounted to EUR 155 billion, while the 2017 budget will amount to EUR 158 billion.

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Irina Popescu

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