
THE NON-GEEK'S GUIDE TO THE BRUSSELS BUDGET FIGHT

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As Europe teeters on the edge of a full-blown trade war with the United States, the EU's 27 commissioners will gather on Wednesday to settle one of the thorniest issues in Brussels: its own finances.

Farmers, startups, filmmakers and defense lobbies — all have a stake in the EU's seven-year cash pot, which is currently worth €1 trillion. And everyone's fighting tooth and nail to protect their share of the pie from European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's likely cuts.

You'll be forgiven for dismissing this as a subject for geeks. But reforming the EU's mammoth budget might instead be remembered as one of von der Leyen's legacy achievements — or a fiasco.

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