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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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Subject: Council Decision laying down the measures necessary for the implementation of Protocol No 37 on the financial consequences of the expiry of the ECSC Treaty and on the Research Fund for Coal and Steel
- Adoption

1. On 10 December 2025, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Decision laying down the measures necessary for the implementation of Protocol No 37 on the financial consequences of the expiry of the ECSC Treaty and on the Research Fund for Coal and Steel, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty for the Functioning of the European Union.
2. In accordance with Protocol No 37, the Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS) is an EU research programme, funded outside the Multiannual Financial Framework by the revenue of the assets of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in liquidation allocated to this fund. The RFCS finances exclusively research projects in the coal and steel sectors.

3. The proposed Decision is part of a package of proposals to revise the RFCS' legal framework to provide for research and innovation funding to support the decarbonisation, clean transition and competitiveness of the coal and steel sectors. This proposal aims to establish the measures necessary to use the remaining non-allocated assets of the ECSC in liquidation, as well as any remaining uncommitted funds from previous RFCS Research Programme calls.
4. Following the work since December 2025 within the Research Working Party, resulting to some amendments to the initial proposal, the Council (Competitiveness) at its meeting of 26-27 February 2026, reached a general approach on the text.
5. On 30 March 2026, the Council requested the consent of the European Parliament on the draft Council Decision, in accordance with the first paragraph of Article 2 of Protocol No 37 on the financial consequences of the expiry of the ECSC Treaty and on the Research Fund for Coal and Steel.
6. The European Parliament gave its consent on 16 June 2026.
7. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to recommend to the Council, as an "A" item in one of its next sessions:
 - to adopt the draft Council Decision laying down the measures necessary for the implementation of Protocol No 37 on the financial consequences of the expiry of the ECSC Treaty and on the Research Fund for Coal and Steel, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty for the Functioning of the European Union., as finalised by the lawyer-linguists and set out in doc. 6884/26;
 - to request publication of the Decision in the Official Journal of the European Union for information.
