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European Union

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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Specialised Committee on Participation in Union Programmes - Council and Commission Statement

COUNCIL AND COMMISSION STATEMENT

The Council and the Commission welcome that an agreement in principle has been found on the participation of the United Kingdom in the Horizon Europe¹ and Copernicus² programmes from the fourth year of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2021-2027 onwards and support it. The Council and the Commission appreciate the mutual benefits for the research and space communities in the United Kingdom and the European Union that will derive from this participation and are looking forward to the deepening of the relationship in these areas of shared interest.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013; and Council Decision (EU) 2021/764 of 10 May 2021 establishing the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, and repealing Decision 2013/743/EU.

² Regulation (EU) 2021/696 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Union Space Programme and the European Union Agency for the Space Programme and repealing Regulations (EU) No 912/2010, (EU) No 1285/2013 and (EU) No 377/2014 and Decision No 541/2014/EU.

The Council and the Commission also recall that at the time of the Joint Declaration on Participation in Union Programmes and Access to Programme Services, agreed between the Union and the United Kingdom at the time of the signature and provisional application of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) in December 2020³, a draft Protocol I was agreed in principle. In that draft Protocol it was foreseen that the United Kingdom would participate in another two measures, the EURATOM Research and Training programme⁴ and the European Joint Undertaking for ITER⁵.

The Council and the Commission note with regret that the United Kingdom has decided not to participate in these two measures.

The position of the Union being expressed in this decision shall be without prejudice to any decision of the Council regarding the United Kingdom's participation in future programmes under a subsequent Multiannual Financial Framework, should the applicable EU rules allow for such a participation and the Council and the Commission will consider the United Kingdom's participation in future programmes in the light of its willingness to participate in the programmes foreseen in the Joint Declaration.

³ Joint Declaration on participation in Union Programmes and access to programme services (OJ L 444, 31.12.2020, p. 1479).

⁴ Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/765 of 10 May 2021 establishing the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2021-2025 complementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and repealing Regulation (Euratom) 2018/1563.

⁵ Council Decision 2007/198/Euratom establishing the European Joint Undertaking for ITER ('F4E') and the Development of Fusion Energy and conferring advantages upon it ('F4E Council Decision').