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Subject: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing Horizon Europe, the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, for the period 2028-2034 laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulation (EU) 2021/695

Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on establishing the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation for the period 2028-2034, laying down the rules for participation and dissemination under that Programme, and repealing Decision (EU) 2021/764

- Third Presidency compromise text on the Competitiveness and Society Pillar including European Partnerships

Delegations will find attached a third Presidency compromise text on Block III (Competitiveness and Society Pillar including European Partnerships): Framework Programme (Art. 11 and 15) and Specific Programme (Art. 5 and 11) Changes in comparison to the second compromise text (ST 14587/25) are marked in **bold underline**.

Changes with respect to the Commission proposals (ST 12007/25 and ST 12005/25) introduced in previous versions are marked in **bold**.

PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ESTABLISHING HORIZON EUROPE, THE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION, FOR THE PERIOD 2028-2034 LAYING DOWN ITS RULES FOR PARTICIPATION AND DISSEMINATION, AND REPEALING REGULATION (EU) 2021/695

Article 11

European Partnerships

1. Where necessary to achieve the objectives set out in Article 3, activities under this Regulation may be implemented through European Partnerships, ~~by default~~ **in particular** through the work programmes. **A strategic and coherent portfolio of a limited number of European Partnerships shall be ensured.**
2. European Partnerships shall be based on a Memorandum of Understanding, **or a contractual arrangement**, agreed and signed between the partners, stipulating:
 - (-a) the objectives to be achieved;**
 - (a) the results to be delivered, which shall be clear, measurable, time-bound;
 - (b) **a single set of** reporting requirements;
 - (c) the related **financial and/or in-kind** commitments from all partners;
 - (d) governance arrangements with a **standard** mechanism for **all** partners to discuss and agree on the partnerships' programming and activities.

3. ~~In duly justified cases~~ **Where appropriate for achieving their objectives,** European Partnerships will be implemented by entrusting budget implementation tasks from **one or** various Union funding programmes to bodies established pursuant to Articles 185 and 187 TFEU, in accordance with Article 62(1), point (c), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. **Joint Undertakings shall be established through a single establishing act ensuring harmonised rules.**
- 3a. European Partnerships shall be based on a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) agreed between the partners, detailing the thematic priorities and desired scientific and socio-economic results, as well as a roadmap of planned activities during the duration of the partnership.**
4. For European Partnerships established pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article, support from the Programme shall be conditional upon efficient use of Union financing, **and a commensurate funding from both the Union and other partners proportional to the ambitions from the partnership** ~~a proportionate financial contribution from other partners at least matching the Union contribution~~ and voting rights for the Union **and other partners** in the governing bodies ~~ensuring protection of the interests of the Union in the partnership~~. For that purpose, ~~Joint Undertakings shall be established through a single establishing act ensuring harmonised rules.~~
5. European Partnerships shall:
- (-a) be identified and selected in close cooperation with Member States.**
- ~~(a) be established only in cases where Union action alone or other forms of support under the Programme cannot achieve the desired objectives.~~
- (b) be established for the purpose of addressing challenges that require a critical mass of resources and a unified and coordinated approach, both in terms of programming and implementation, across actors.

(ba) be established only in cases where Union action alone or other forms of support under the Programme cannot achieve the desired objectives.

(c) align with **Union strategic priorities** and assist in the implementation of major Union policies and policy initiatives.

(d) be selected in a **transparent, open and** competitive ~~manner~~ **process** based on a set of quantifiable lifecycle criteria and a strong portfolio approach, resulting in a coherent **and complementary** set of initiatives.

(e) be based on ex ante, long-term and formal commitments from all partners to contribute financially **or where appropriate in-kind** to the resources of the European Partnership, ~~which shall be centrally managed, except in duly justified cases.~~

(f) require a clear lifecycle approach, including an upfront plan for the implementation of the initiative with a strategy for gradually or fully phasing out from Union funding.

(fa) be aligned with other Union funding instruments, in order to avoid overlaps and duplications and instead ensure added value and maximise impact.

6. Contributions from Partners other than the Union shall take the following forms:

(a) financial contributions to the operational budget of the initiative;

(b) **in-kind contributions through** co-financing by the Partners of their own participation, or that of their members, in projects funded through the initiative.

7. All Partners other than the Union shall ~~provide~~ **make public** information on the structure, membership and activities developed within the partnership. In cases where partnerships are concluded with representative organisations and associations, this shall include regular information on their membership.

Recitals

- (9) It should be possible to implement parts of the budget through European Partnerships together with ~~other public~~ **private** and/or ~~private public entities~~ **partners**, where this is the most effective implementation form to achieve the policy objectives. European Partnerships should be established where a close involvement of the Union is required and should ensure appropriate voting rights for the Union **and other partners** as well as sufficient co-investment by other partners to leverage Union funding. In view of fostering synergies and efficiencies, it is necessary to ensure harmonised rules. Therefore, a strategic, and coherent **and complementary** portfolio of a limited number of European Partnerships should be established **in close cooperation with Member States**.
- (10) [The European Partnerships, including in the form of Joint Undertakings, as an essential tool to deliver on industrial involvement and investment in collaborative research and innovation, should contribute to the specific policy objectives of the policy windows of the European Competitiveness Fund, and be supported through it, where necessary, to complete these objectives.]
- (34) [Where Union support under the Programme is to be provided in the form of a budgetary guarantee or a financial instrument, including where combined with non-repayable support in a blending operation, with the exception of financial instruments under the EIC, such support should be provided exclusively through the ECF InvestEU Instrument in accordance with the applicable rules of the ECF InvestEU Instrument.]

Chapter III

Competitiveness and Society

Article 15

Collaborative research and innovation

1. Collaborative research **and innovation** shall support the creation of **excellent** transnational research and innovation activities ~~cooperation networks~~, bringing together entities of **across** different **sectors and** disciplines, **including SSH**, to support the **discovery, the** development and swift diffusion of high-quality results in favour of the Union's **strategic priorities and values**. ~~industrial competitiveness, space, security, clean transition, preparedness and resilience, and addressing societal challenges, including culture and creativity, and to strengthen the impact of research in developing and supporting Union policies.~~
2. **Collaborative research and innovation** ~~A~~activities shall be carried out in a balanced manner between lower and higher Technology Readiness Levels (**up to 8**), thereby covering ~~the~~ **whole the relevant parts of the research and innovation** value chain **complementary to the deployment activities under the ECF**.
3. **Under the 'competitiveness' component of pillar II, t**~~This~~ Programme shall include supports ~~the~~ collaborative research and innovation activities **of the ECF policy windows aiming at strengthening the Union's competitiveness** ~~in a specific dedicated part of the work programmes adopted under (~~ Chapters IV to VII of the Regulation (EU) XXX European Competitiveness Fund ~~)~~. **and set out in a dedicated part of the** ~~These~~ work programmes shall be adopted in accordance with Article 15 of the Regulation (EU) XXX [European Competitiveness Fund Regulation].

4. **Under the ‘society’ component, t**This Programme shall support **collaborative research and innovation** activities to ~~tackle global societal challenges and socioeconomic transformations in the areas of strengthening democratic values and tackling disinformation, including rule of law and fundamental rights; promoting socio-economic transformations that contribute to inclusion and growth, addressing demographic and intergenerational challenges, including from a youth perspective and including migration management and integration of migrants.~~ **aiming at delivering innovative solutions and strengthening the evidence base to enable society to transform in line with the Union’s aims and values, including the rule of law and fundamental rights.**
- 4a. **The two components shall be developed in a coherent manner to ensure mutual reinforcement and seamless coverage of the research and innovation landscape for a strong and resilient Union.**
5. ~~The Programme shall contribute to support EU Missions notably through the identification of priority actions for R&I funding for the development of new knowledge, technologies, services, and products in view of their goals. Funding for the EU Missions established under Article 8 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/695 shall be awarded on the basis of work programmes covering up to the budgetary year 2030.~~
6. The Programme shall **may** support the R&I **research and innovation** component **activities** of the **EU Missions established under Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2021/695 and of the New European Bauhaus Facility.**

Recitals

- (11) ~~EU Missions as set up in the Regulation 2021/695 should enable a transformative and systemic impact for society, by fostering cross-disciplinary, cross-sectoral, cross-policy and cross-border collaboration. They should rely on research and innovation to develop the breakthrough technologies, services, products, and social innovations needed to achieve their ambitious objectives. In turn, EU Missions should accelerate the development, scaling, and deployment of innovative solutions and help create lead markets for new products and services. The Framework Programme should finance the research and innovation activities of the Missions, while the deployment and scaling up should be delivered through other EU programmes and national funding.~~
- (12) ~~Anchored in the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027¹, the New European Bauhaus (NEB) Facility is a multi-annual funding tool designed to accelerate the transformation of neighbourhoods through sustainable and inclusive design. Its R&I component should be funded by Horizon Europe while its roll-out component should be delivered through other EU programmes and national funding.~~

¹ Commission Decision C(2024)1741 of 20.03.2024.

Recitals 11 and 12 replaced by this new Recital 12a:

12a EU Missions set up under Regulation 2021/695 have been established in the areas of climate change, cancer, ocean restoration, soil health, and the development of climate-neutral and smart cities, with the ambition to address these challenges with clear, time-bound goals. The EU Missions should accelerate the development, scaling, and deployment of innovative solutions and help create lead markets for new products and services. After years of investments in research and innovation to develop breakthrough technologies, services, products, and social innovations needed, it is timely to ensure deployment and uptake of the best solutions. The ECF policy windows represent a unique possibility to ensure the coverage of the full value chain and the achievement of the Missions' objectives. While outstanding research and innovation needs should still be integrated in the future work programmes on collaborative research and innovation to be supported by this Programme, active deployment at higher TRL levels should be supported with ECF instruments. Likewise, the New European Bauhaus (NEB) Facility anchored in the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027, should benefit from the deployment possibilities of the ECF to valorise past research and innovation investments, while future research and innovation needs may be covered by the work programmes on collaborative research and innovation.

**PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DECISION ON ESTABLISHING THE SPECIFIC
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE - THE FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FOR THE PERIOD 2028-2034,
LAYING DOWN THE RULES FOR PARTICIPATION AND DISSEMINATION UNDER
THAT PROGRAMME, AND REPEALING DECISION (EU) 2021/764**

Article 5

European Partnerships

1. European Partnerships shall follow a clear lifecycle approach, including their **identification in close cooperation with Member States**, selection, implementation and monitoring, and transitioning out of Regulation XXX [*reference to the Horizon Europe Regulation*] on the basis of the following **of the provisions laid down in this Article**.
 - 1a.** (a) European Partnerships shall be selected following a competitive, open, non-discriminatory, and transparent procedure, ~~on the basis of areas proposed by the Commission.~~ In addition the requirements set out in Article 11 of Regulation (EU) Regulation XXX [*reference to the Horizon Europe Regulation*], candidate partnerships shall comply with the following selection criteria:
 - (a) ~~i-~~ portfolio relevance: overall consistency and coherence of the partnership portfolio shall be ensured, provided that candidates meet all selection criteria and demonstrate relevance as part of a strategic, **coherent and complementary** portfolio of actions;
 - (b) ~~ii-~~ critical mass: the partnerships' budget (Union and partners' contributions) shall match their duration, ensuring sufficient resources to fund at least one substantial call per year, ~~each comparable in size to an average Horizon Europe call in the relevant thematic area;~~
 - (c) ~~iii-~~ partners' composition: unless duly justified, the participation of public entities from at least ~~five~~ **ten** Member States and, **where appropriate**, private entities representing substantial segments of their respective ecosystems is required, ensuring a broad and balanced involvement of key stakeholders;

- (d) ~~iv.~~** pan-European relevance: partnerships shall have pan-European relevance, reflected in a balanced geographic distribution of partners among Member States;
- (e) ~~v.~~** mission-oriented **data approach**: partnerships shall formulate clear, measurable, time-bound objectives within **their** duration of Horizon Europe that will inform monitoring, assessment, and evaluation exercises;
- (f) ~~vi.~~** **implementation** business plan: partners shall develop **an implementation** business plan ex-ante, including a set of key performance indicators to track progress, **dissemination and valorisation activities** and a forward-looking transition strategy, including actions for phasing out from Horizon Europe funding;
- (fa) ~~vii.~~** **data strategy: a data strategy shall include stipulations to the use of data created during the partnership and ensure availability of data at least 10 years after its end, in line with the FAIR data principles;**
- (g) ~~viii.~~** openness and transparency: partnerships shall demonstrate openness and transparency regarding the identification of priorities and objectives – including expected results and impacts – and the engagement of partners and stakeholders across the entire value chain and from diverse sectors, backgrounds, and disciplines, including relevant international ones **with due regard to** ~~without affecting~~ **economic and research security** ~~European competitiveness;~~
- (ga) ~~viii.~~** **SME and scale-up integration: where relevant, partnerships shall formulate clear strategies to promote the inclusion of SMEs and scale-ups in the innovation cycle, taking into account their specific needs and challenges;**
- (h) ~~viii.~~** legacy: in cases where candidate partnerships build on predecessor initiatives, the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of previous partnerships shall be demonstrated;

1b. ~~ix.~~ ~~€~~ Throughout their implementation, European Partnerships shall ensure:

- (a)** ~~x.~~ ~~internal~~ transparent governance arrangements and ~~internal~~ rules, **based on common guidelines**, including codes of conduct, that ensure their functioning in an open and transparent manner;
- (b)** ~~xi.~~ continuous openness of the initiative through clear and transparent accession and exit criteria, including through open calls to potential new partner organisations;
- (c)** ~~xii.~~ flexibility through timely revisions of key documents such as the Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas (SRIAs) and transition strategies, adapted as necessary to ensure relevance and feasibility;
- (d)** ~~xiii.~~ continuous monitoring, ~~shall include~~**ing** tracking progress towards a set of partnership-specific common indicators, **such as** ~~including~~ partner contributions, cost efficiency, and openness to new partners. ~~Partnership-specific common indicators shall build on the common indicators as defined under Regulation XXX [reference to Performance Regulation] and set out in~~ **on** the biennial monitoring reports on the performance of European partnerships under Horizon Europe 2021-2027;
- (da)** ~~xiii.a.~~ **detailed information on the evaluation process and results from all calls for proposals within European Partnerships, to be made available to Union bodies and to Member States in a timely manner.**

Partnership-specific common indicators, as referred to in Article 5(1b), fourth subparagraph, shall build on the common indicators as defined under Regulation XXX [reference to Performance Regulation] and on the biennial monitoring reports on the performance of European partnerships under Horizon Europe 2021-2027.

1c. ~~xiv.~~ European Partnerships shall launch their final calls before 31 December 2034. European Partnerships shall determine and implement the best mode of transition. Taking into account the transition strategies prepared ex-ante, partnerships shall undergo an independent assessment determining whether their objectives have been met, the suitability of the partnership approach, and their continued relevance for the Union's policy priorities. This assessment should include a recommendation for the most effective policy intervention mode for any future actions.

1d. ~~xivb.~~ (b) In the absence of renewal, European Partnerships shall implement appropriate measures based on their phasing-out actions identified in their transition strategies.

1e. ~~(ab)~~ **In case of non-compliance with the above requirements, the Commission may reduce, suspend, or terminate Union funding, or take other appropriate measures. Member States shall be informed in due time of such measures.**

Chapter III

Competitiveness and Society

Article 11

Collaborative research and innovation

- 1.** Collaborative research **and innovation** activities referred to in **Title I Chapter III** of Regulation XXX [*reference to the Horizon Europe Regulation*] shall cover, ~~in particular,~~ the following research and innovation activities:
 - (a) under 'Competitiveness', research and innovation activities of the policy windows described in Chapters IV to VII of the European Competitiveness Fund, **in accordance with the rules of Regulation XXX [reference to the Horizon Europe Regulation]**;

(b) under ‘Society’, research and innovation activities such as **targeted at guiding societal transformation and supporting evidence-based policy making for future-ready, resilient societies:**

(i) ~~activities aimed at accomplishing priorities for global societal challenges:~~
understanding the impacts of geopolitical situations, new technologies, environmental and demographic changes and developing actions needed to ensure a sustainable and resilient society with well managed territories catering for the well-being of citizens;

~~—strengthening democratic values and foundations, civic engagement, the rule of law and fundamental rights, by fostering civic engagement, resilient, pluralistic societies, and upholding the integrity of the information and media space and countering foreign interference, polarisation, disinformation, hate speech, discrimination, and xenophobia, and supporting peace and security in a rapidly evolving world of geopolitical shifts;~~

~~—promoting social inclusion, social and economic transformations, inclusive societies, fair and just working conditions and social cohesion and tackling inequalities to create opportunities for all, taking into consideration rural areas’ specificities, addressing demographic change and intergenerational fairness, including well-managed migration and mobility, supporting mental health and societal well-being for all, including for young people;~~

~~—fostering a value-based and competitive Europe by advancing future-ready skills, and driving inclusive innovation that empowers people, facilitates societal acceptance of technologies and digital transitions, promotes trust in science and participatory research to foster societal relevance and acceptance, and supports sustainable growth that benefits all.~~

(ia) fostering democratic, culturally diverse, socially just, secure and peaceful societies and driving democratic governance and innovation in public services;

(ib) sustaining European cultures and cultural heritage and strengthening cultural and creative industries.

~~(ii) EU Missions: activities supporting EU Missions referred to in Article 15(5) of Regulation XXX [reference to the Horizon Europe Regulation].~~

~~(iii) activities in the context of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) Facility, established with the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027², shall deliver on the objectives of the New European Bauhaus, in particular supporting activities to foster the development and scaling up of innovative research solutions for the transformation of neighbourhoods into sustainable, inclusive and beautiful places.~~

~~(iii) activities in the context of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) Facility, established with the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027³, shall deliver on the objectives of the New European Bauhaus, in particular supporting activities to foster the development and scaling up of innovative research solutions for the transformation of neighbourhoods into sustainable, inclusive and beautiful places.~~

1a. The activities defined under 1(b) shall be further specified in the work programme.

1b. Under this Article support to the research and innovation activities of EU Missions and the New European Bauhaus may be provided.

² Commission Implementing Decision C(2024)1741 of 20 March 2024 on adopting the 2025-2027 strategic research and innovation plan under the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

³ Commission Implementing Decision C(2024)1741 of 20 March 2024 on adopting the 2025-2027 strategic research and innovation plan under the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.