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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 on the adoption of the Research Programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel, on the multiannual technical guidelines for this programme, on the multiannual financial guidelines for managing the assets of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel, and repealing Decisions 2003/77/EC and 2008/376/EC - Adoption

1. On 10 December 2025, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Decision on the adoption of the Research Programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel, on the multiannual technical guidelines for this programme, on the multiannual financial guidelines for managing the assets of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel, and repealing Decisions 2003/77/EC and 2008/376/EC.
2. In accordance with 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, 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 lays down the technical guidelines for the Research Programme, with revised objectives and call conditions, aligns funding rates with the EU research funding programmes, and sets out the financial guidelines for managing the assets of the RFCS.
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. In accordance with the second paragraph of Article 2 of Protocol No 37, the European Parliament was consulted on the proposal. The European Parliament provided its opinion on 19 May 2026.
6. In the light of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to recommend to the Council, as an "A" item in one of its next sessions:
 - to adopt the Council Decision as revised by the lawyer-linguists and set out in document 9507/26.
 - to request publication of the Decision in the Official Journal of the European Union for information.
