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**WORKING PAPER**

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From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
N° Cion doc.:	ST 10589/17 + ADD 1
Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Defence Industrial Development Programme - Revised Presidency compromise proposal

With a view to the EDIDP FoP meeting on 30 October 2017, Delegations will find attached the revised Presidency compromise proposal on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Defence Industrial Development Programme.

Presidency text

Proposal for a

**REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**  
**establishing the European Defence Industrial Development Programme aiming at**  
**supporting the competitiveness and innovative capacity of the EU defence industry**

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 173 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee<sup>1</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions<sup>2</sup>,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

Whereas:

- (1) In the European Defence Action Plan, adopted on 30 November 2016, the Commission committed to complement, leverage and consolidate collaborative efforts by Member States in developing defence capabilities to respond to security challenges, as well as to foster a competitive and innovative European defence industry. It proposed in particular to launch a European Defence Fund to support investment in joint research and the joint development of defence equipment and technologies, and to incentivise joint procurement and maintenance. The Fund would support cooperation during the whole cycle of defence product and technology development, thus fostering synergies and cost effectiveness. The objective is to deliver capabilities, ensure a competitive, innovative and balanced basis for Europe's defence industry across the EU, including by cross border cooperation and participation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)<sup>3</sup>, and to contribute to greater European defence cooperation, by exploiting synergies and mobilising EU support in addition to Member States' financing.
- (2) In order to contribute to the enhancement of the competitiveness and innovation capacity of the Union's defence industry, a European Defence Industrial Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as the Programme) should be established. The Programme should aim at enhancing the competitiveness of the Union's defence industry inter alia cyber defence by supporting the cooperation between Member States and undertakings in the development phase of defence products and

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C [...], [...], p. [...].

<sup>2</sup> OJ C [...], [...], p. [...].

<sup>3</sup> **Commission Recommendation of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (*Official Journal L 124 , 20/05/2003 P. 0036 – 0041*)**

technologies. The development phase, which follows the research and technology phase, entails significant risks and costs that hamper the further exploitation of the results of research and adversely impact the competitiveness of the Union's defence industry. By supporting the development phase, the Programme would contribute to a better exploitation of the results of defence research and it would help to cover the gap between research and production as well as to promote all forms of innovation. The Programme should complement activities carried out in accordance with Article 182 TFEU and it does not cover the production nor the procurement of defence products and technologies.

- (3) To better exploit economies of scale in the defence industry, the Programme should support the cooperation between undertakings in the development of defence products and technologies. To achieve more innovative solutions and an open internal market, the Programme supports the cross-border **participation of SMEs inclusion**.
- (4) The Programme should cover a two year period from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2020 whereas the amount for the implementation of the Programme should be determined for this period.
- (5) The Programme should be implemented in full compliance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>4</sup>. Funding may take in particular the form of grants, **and public procurement where appropriate. The experience of this Programme will be used to assess the possibility of using financial instruments in the future.**
- (6) The Commission may entrust part of the implementation of the programme to entities referred to in Article 58(1) (c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. In view of its expertise, the Commission may entrust the European Defence Agency with such a role.
- (7) After having defined common defence capability priorities at Union level through the Capability Development Plan and with a view to fulfilling the EU's Level of Ambition as agreed by the Council in its conclusions of 14 November 2016 and endorsed by the European Council on 15 December 2016, Member States identify and consolidate military requirements and define the technical specifications of the project. They may also appoint a project manager in charge of leading the work related to the development of a collaborative project.
- (8) In case an action supported by the Programme is managed by a project manager, including an international project management organisation such as the Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation (OCCAR), appointed by Member States, the Commission should consult the project manager prior to executing the payment to the beneficiary of the eligible action so that the project manager can ensure that the time-frames are respected by the beneficiaries.
- (9) The Union financial support should not affect the export of products, equipment or technologies, and it should not affect the discretion of Member States regarding policy on the export of defence related products.
- (10) As the objective of the Programme is to support the competitiveness of the Union defence industry by de-risking the development phase of cooperative projects, actions

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<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 (OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1).

related to the development of a defence product or technology, namely definition of common technical specifications, design, prototyping, testing, qualification, certification as well as feasibility studies, life-cycle management efficiency and other supporting measures, should be eligible to benefit from it. This will also apply to the upgrade of existing defence products and technologies.

- (11) Given that the Programme aims particularly at enhancing cooperation between undertakings across Member States, an action should be eligible for funding under the Programme only if it is undertaken by a cooperation of at least three undertakings based in at least two different Member States.
- (12) Cross-border collaboration **between undertakings based in different Member States** in the development of defence products and technologies has often been hampered by the difficulty to agree on common technical specifications. The absence or limited level of common technical specifications have led to increased complexity, delays and inflated costs in the development phase. The agreement on common technical specifications should be a condition in order to benefit from the Union's support under this Programme. Actions aiming at supporting the creation of a common definition of technical specifications should also be eligible for support under the Programme.
- (13) As the Programme aims at enhancing the competitiveness of the Union's defence industry, only entities established in the Union should be eligible for support. Additionally, in order to ensure the protection of essential security interests of the Union and its Member States, the infrastructure, facilities, assets and resources used by the beneficiaries and subcontractors in actions funded under the Programme, should not be located on the territory of non-EU ~~Member~~ States. ~~The use of such infrastructure, facilities, assets and resources~~ **beneficiaries and their subcontractors** should not be subject to control ~~or restrictions~~ by ~~third countries~~ **non-EU States or non-EU entities. For the purpose of this Regulation, a non-EU entity should mean a legal entity "established outside the EU or having its executive management structures outside the EU" or a legal entity which is under the effective control of a non-EU State, a non-EU national or of another such non-EU entity. The effective control should be defined as the ability to exercise a decisive influence on an undertaking (by means of, for example, disposing its assets or having a decisive influence on the composition, voting or decisions of the bodies of an undertaking or otherwise confer a decisive influence on the running of the business of the undertaking).** Beneficiaries should identify before the signature of the funding agreement all relevant elements and infrastructure to be used in the action. Beneficiaries should also take into account Member States' concerns regarding security of supply.
- (14) The beneficiaries may use ~~such~~ infrastructure, facilities assets and resources located on the territory of non-EU ~~Member~~ States if there are no readily accessible substitutes available in the EU, if this usage would not contravene the security and defence interests of the Union and its Member States and where their lack of delivery does not lead to failure of the entire action.
- (15) Eligible actions developed in the context of Permanent Structured Cooperation in the institutional framework of the Union would ensure enhanced cooperation between undertakings in the different Member States on a continuous basis and thus directly contribute to the aims of the Programme. Such projects should thus be eligible for an increased funding rate. Eligible actions developed with a considerable participation of

cross-border SMEs, that support the opening up of the supply chains, directly contribute to the aims of the programme. Such projects should thus be eligible for an increased funding rate, **including to offset increased risk and administrative costs.**

- (16) If a consortium wishes to participate in an eligible action under the Programme and financial assistance of the Union is to take the form of a grant, the consortium should appoint one of its members as a coordinator who will be the principal point of contact with the Commission.
- (17) The promotion of innovation and technological development in the Union defence industry should take place in a manner coherent with the security interests of the Union. Accordingly, the action's contribution to those interests and to the defence capability priorities commonly agreed by Member States should serve as an award criterion. Within the Union, common defence capability priorities are identified notably through the Capability Development Plan. Other Union processes such as the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) and the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) will support the implementation of relevant priorities through enhanced cooperation. Where appropriate regional or international ~~cooperative initiatives~~ **capability priorities**, such as in the NATO context, not excluding the participation of any EU Member State and serving the Union security and defence interests, may also be taken into account.
- (18) The Member States' commitment to effectively contribute to the financing of the action should be demonstrated e.g. by a letter of intent, in order to ensure that the funded actions are viable.
- (19) In order to ensure that the funded actions will contribute to the competitiveness and efficiency of the European defence industry, they should be market-oriented, ~~and demand driven~~ **and commercially viable in the medium to long term.** Therefore, the fact that Member States already intend to jointly produce and to procure the final product or **use the** technology, possibly in a coordinated way, should be taken into account in the eligibility criteria. In order to support an open internal market, a credible participation of cross-border SMEs, either as members of consortia or as subcontractors, should also be taken into account.
- (20) The financial assistance of the Union under the Programme should not exceed 20% of the total eligible cost of the action, within the meaning of Article 126 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, ~~when~~ **where** it relates to system prototyping which is often the most costly action in the development phase. The totality of the eligible costs could however be covered for other actions in the development phase.
- (21) As the Union support aims at enhancing the competitiveness of the sector and concerns only the specific development phase, **except where the Union's financial assistance is provided through public procurement**, the Union should not have ownership or intellectual property rights (IPRs) over the products or technologies resulting from the funded actions. The applicable intellectual property rights regime will be defined contractually by the beneficiaries.
- (22) The Commission should establish a multiannual work programme in line with the objectives of the Programme. With a view to ensuring the effective distribution of funding, the work programme should set out the categories of projects to be funded under the Programme, the type of financing and the allocated budget, and the desired categories of eligible actions, **including possible third country participation and**

**where appropriate the evaluation methods including minimum thresholds for the fulfillment of the cumulative award criteria.**

- (23) The Commission should be assisted in the establishment of the work programme by a committee of Member States ("Committee"). In light of the Union policy on SMEs as key to ensuring economic growth, innovation, job creation, and social integration in the Union and the fact that the supported actions will typically require trans-national collaboration, it is of importance that the work programme will reflect and enable open, fair and transparent cross-border access and participation of SMEs, and that therefore a proportion of the overall budget will benefit such actions.
- (24) In order to benefit from its expertise in the defence sector, **and in accordance with the competences attributed to it by the Treaty on European Union**, the European Defence Agency should be invited as observer in the committee of Member States. The European External Action Service should also ~~assist in~~**attend** the committee of Member States.
- (25) A ~~Group of Defence Experts~~ should also be established. It should be chaired by the Commission and be composed of one ~~government~~-representative of each Member State. The Commission should take its opinions, ~~ideally~~ to be adopted **as far as possible** by consensus, fully into account. **The Commission should endeavor to maintain dialogue with industry to ensure the success of the Programme.**
- (26) For the selection of actions to be funded by the Programme, the Commission or the entities referred to in Article 58(1)(c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 should organise competitive calls as provided for by Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and ensure that the administrative procedures are kept as simple as possible and incur a minimum amount of additional expenses. After evaluation of the received proposals with the help of independent experts validated by Member States, the Commission will select the actions to be funded under the Programme. In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission as regards the adoption and the implementation of the work programme, as well as for awarding the funding to selected actions. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>5</sup>.
- (27) The examination procedure should be used for the adoption of the above-mentioned implementing acts taking into account their substantial implications for the implementation of the basic act.
- (28) The Commission should draw up an implementation report at the end of the Programme, examining the financial activities in terms of financial implementation results and where possible, impact. This report should also analyse the cross border participation of SMEs and Middle Capitalisation Companies (Mid-caps) in projects under the Programme as well as the participation of SMEs to the global value chain.

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<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by the Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

#### *Article 1*

A European Defence Industrial Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as the Programme) for Union action covering the period from 1st January 2019 to 31 December 2020 is hereby established.

#### *Article 2*

##### Objectives

The Programme shall have the following objectives:

- (a) to foster the competitiveness and innovation capacity of the ~~Union~~ defence industry **throughout the Union** which contributes to European strategic autonomy by supporting actions in their development phase;
- (b) to support and leverage collaboration between Member States and cross-border cooperation between undertakings **throughout the Union**, including small and medium-sized enterprises, in the development of technologies or products in line with defence capability priorities commonly agreed by Member States within the Union, while improving the agility of supply chains. Where appropriate, regional and international ~~cooperative initiatives~~ **capability priorities, when they serve the Union's security and defence interests and taking into account that unnecessary duplication should be avoided, may also be considered. Any such capability priorities in the NATO context may also be considered whenever they do not exclude the participation of any Member State such as in the NATO context, when they serve the Union's security and defence interests and taking into account that unnecessary duplication should be avoided, may also be taken into account;**
- (c) to foster better exploitation of the results of defence research and contribute to development after the research phase and thus, to support the competitiveness of the European defence industry on the internal market and the global marketplace, including by consolidation where appropriate.

#### *Article 3*

##### Budget

The amount for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2019-2020 is set at EUR 500 million in current prices.

#### *Article 4*

##### General financing provisions

1. The Union's financial assistance may be provided through the types of financing envisaged by Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, in particular grants and where appropriate ~~financial instruments and public procurement~~.
2. The types of financing referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article and the methods of implementation, shall be chosen on the basis of their ability to achieve the specific

objectives of the actions and to deliver results, taking into account, in particular, the costs of controls, the administrative burden and the risk of conflict of interests.

3. The Union's financial assistance shall be implemented by the Commission as provided for by Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 directly or indirectly by entrusting budget implementation tasks to the entities listed in Article 58(1) (c) of that Regulation.
4. In case a project manager is appointed by Member States, the Commission shall consult the project manager on progress in the project before executing the payment to the eligible beneficiaries.

#### *Article 5*

##### Eligible actions

1. The Programme shall provide support for actions by beneficiaries in the development phase covering both new and the upgrade of existing products and technologies. An eligible action may relate to one or more of the following items:
  - (a) studies such as feasibility studies and other accompanying measures;
  - (b) the design of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology as well as the technical specifications on which such design has been developed which may include partial tests for risk reduction in an industrial or representative environment;
  - (c) the system prototyping of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology. A system prototype is a model of a product or technology that can demonstrate the element's performance in an operational environment;
  - (d) the testing of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology;
  - (e) the qualification of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology; qualification is the entire process of demonstrating that the design of a product/component/technology meets the specified requirements. This process provides objective evidence by which particular requirements of a design are demonstrated to have been achieved;
  - (f) the certification of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology. Certification is the process according to which a national authority certifies that the product/component/technology complies with the applicable regulations;
  - (g) development of technologies or assets increasing efficiency across the life cycle of defence products and technologies.
2. The action shall be undertaken in a cooperation of **undertakings within a consortium of** at least three ~~undertakings~~ **eligible entities** which are established in at least two different Member States. ~~At least three of the cooperating undertakings of these eligible entities established in at least two different Member States~~ shall not ~~effectively~~ be **effectively** controlled, directly or indirectly, by the same entity, or shall not control each other.
3. For the purposes of paragraph 2, 'effective control' means a relationship constituted by rights, contracts or any other means which, either separately or jointly and having



regard to the considerations of fact or law involved, confer the possibility of directly or indirectly exercising a decisive influence on an undertaking, in particular by:

- (a) the right to use all or part of the assets of an undertaking;
  - (b) rights or contracts which confer a decisive influence on the composition, voting or decisions of the bodies of an undertaking or otherwise confer a decisive influence on the running of the business of the undertaking.
45. Consortia as defined in Article 8(1) shall offer proof of viability via a demonstration that the remaining costs of the eligible action which are not covered by the EU support will be covered by other means of financing such as Member States' contributions.
56. For actions described in points (c) to (f) of Article 5(1), consortia shall prove their contribution to the competitiveness of the European defence industry through the demonstration that Member States intend to jointly produce and to procure the final product or use the technology in a coordinated way, including joint procurement where applicable.
6. When it relates to actions defined under point (b) of the first paragraph, the action must be based on common requirements jointly agreed by the Member States ~~that will co-finance or intend to jointly produce and to procure the final product or technology, as referred to in Articles 5(6) and 5(7).~~ When it relates to actions under points (c) to (f) of the first paragraph, the action must be based on common technical specifications jointly agreed by the Member States that will co-finance or intend to jointly produce and to procure the final product or use the technology, as referred to in **paragraphs 4 and 5** ~~Articles 5(6) and 5(7).~~

## *Article 6*

### Eligible entities

1. Beneficiaries shall be public or private undertakings established in the Union.
2. The beneficiaries' **and their subcontractors'** infrastructure, facilities, assets and resources used for the purposes of the actions funded under the Programme shall be located on the territory of the Union during the entire duration of the action, and their executive management structures shall be established in the EU. The beneficiaries<sup>2</sup> and their subcontractors<sup>2</sup> ~~assets, infrastructure, facilities or resources shall not be subject to control or restrictions in the sense of Article 11(2) by non-EU States or by non-EU entities. Beneficiaries shall provide before the signature of the funding agreement all relevant information necessary for the assessment of the eligibility criteria.~~
3. If there are no readily accessible substitutes available in the EU and if this usage would not contravene the security and defence interests of the Union and its Member States, beneficiaries may use assets, infrastructure, facilities and resources located or held outside the territory of EU Member States or controlled by third countries.
4. Beneficiaries may cooperate with undertakings established outside the territory of EU Member States when developing an eligible actions if this cooperation does not contravene the security and defence interests of the Union and its Member States.

Such undertakings ~~established outside of the Union~~ shall not be eligible for funding under the Programme.

- 5. Beneficiaries shall provide before the signature of the funding agreement all relevant information necessary for the assessment of the eligibility criteria.**

#### *Article 7*

##### Declaration by **consortia** applicants

Each consortium wishing to participate in an action shall declare, by written statement, that it is fully aware of and compliant with applicable national and Union legislation and regulations relating to activities in the domain of defence.

#### *Article 8*

##### Consortium

1. A consortium for the purpose of the Regulation is a group of undertakings as defined in Article 5(32) wishing to participate in an action under the Programme and that meet the eligibility criteria laid down in this Regulation as well as the beneficiaries that will receive funding pursuant to the award procedure in Article 14.
2. Where the Union's financial assistance is provided through a grant, the members of any consortium wishing to participate in an action shall appoint one of them to act as coordinator, which shall be identified in the grant agreement. The coordinator shall be the principal point of contact between the members of the consortium in relations with the Commission or the relevant funding body, unless specified otherwise in the grant agreement or in the event of non-compliance with its obligations under the grant agreement.
3. The members of a consortium participating in an action shall conclude an internal agreement establishing their rights and obligations with respect to the implementation of the action (in compliance with the grant agreement), except in duly justified cases provided for in the work programme or call for proposals.

#### *Article 9*

##### Award criteria

Actions proposed for funding under the Programme shall be evaluated on the basis of the following cumulative criteria:

- (a) contribution to excellence in particular by showing that the proposed work goes beyond the state of the art by showing significant advantages over existing products or technologies;
- (b) contribution to innovation in particular by showing that the proposed actions include ground-breaking or novel concepts and approaches, new promising future technological improvements or the application of technologies or concepts previously not applied in defence sector;
- (c) contribution to the competitiveness of the European defence industry, in particular by creating new market opportunities and accelerating the growth of companies;

- (d) contribution to the industrial autonomy of the European defence industry and to the security and defence interests of the Union in line with defence capability priorities commonly agreed by Member States within the Union and, where appropriate, regional and international cooperative agreements;
- (e) ~~commitment that part~~ **the proportion** of the overall budget of the action ~~will to~~ be allocated in a manner enabling the ~~cross-border~~ participation of SMEs established in the European Union, either as members of the consortium or as subcontractors, **and in particular** ~~Such SMEs shall which are not be~~ established in the Member States where the undertakings in the consortium which are not SMEs are established.

Under points (a) to (c) of this Article, where relevant, contribution to increasing efficiency across the life cycle of defence products and technologies, including cost-effectiveness and the potential for synergies in the procurement and maintenance process, shall be taken into consideration.

**Non-fulfilment of any of these criteria shall not be considered eliminatory unless otherwise specified in the work programme.**

### *Article 10*

#### Funding rates

1. The financial assistance of the Union provided under the Programme ~~may~~ **shall** not exceed 20% of the total eligible cost of the action where it relates to system prototyping. In all the other cases, the assistance may cover up to the total cost of the action.
2. If a consortium is developing an action as defined in Article 5(1), in the context of Permanent Structured Cooperation, it may benefit from a funding rate increased by an additional 10 percentage points;
3. If a consortium is developing an action as defined in Article 5(1) and commits to allocate at least 20% of the total cost of the action to SMEs not established in the Member States where the undertakings in the consortium which are not SMEs are established ("**cross-border participation of SMEs**"), it may benefit from a funding rate increased by an additional 20 percentage points.

### *Article 11*

#### Ownership and Intellectual Property Rights

1. The Union shall not own the products or technologies resulting from the action nor shall it have any IPR claim pertaining to the action, **except where the Union's financial assistance is provided through public procurement.**
2. Final results of actions receiving support from the Programme, including in terms of technology transfer, shall not be subject to control or restriction by non-EU states or non-EU entities.

### *Article 12*

#### Committee

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee. That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011. The European

Defence Agency shall be invited to **provide its views on the European defence capability priorities** ~~contribute as observer~~. The EEAS shall also be invited to **attend the Programme Committee**.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply. Where the committee delivers no opinion, the Commission shall not adopt the draft implementing act and the third subparagraph of Article 5(4) of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.
3. The Commission shall regularly consult a ~~G~~**group of Defence Experts as a subcommittee to the Programme Committee to prepare the work programme, including its technical aspects, prior to the vote on the work programme**. This group shall ~~elaborate its rules of procedure in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011~~, be chaired by the Commission and be composed of one government representative of each Member State. The Commission shall take its opinions, ideally to be adopted **as far as possible** by consensus, fully into account. ~~Consultation of the group of defence experts shall take place before the start of the examination procedure referred to in paragraph 2~~. The European Defence Agency shall be invited as observer **and provide its views on the European defence capability priorities**. **The EEAS shall also be invited to attend the Group of Defence Experts**.

#### *Article 13*

##### Work programme

1. The Commission, by means of an implementing act, shall adopt a multiannual work programme for the duration of the Programme. This implementing act shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 126(2). This work programme shall be in line with the objectives set out in Article 2.
2. The work programme shall set out in detail the categories of projects to be funded under the Programme, the type of financing and the allocated budget, and the desired categories of eligible actions as defined in Article 5(1), including possible third country participation and where appropriate **the evaluation methods** including minimum thresholds for the fulfillment of the cumulative award criteria.
3. The work programme shall ensure that at least 10% of the overall budget will benefit ~~actions enabling~~ the cross-border participation of SMEs; in addition, a specific category of projects dedicated to SMEs shall be established by the work programme.
4. The work programme shall lay down further details of the application of the award criteria laid down in Article 9, and specify weightings and thresholds.

#### *Article 14*

##### Evaluation and award procedure

1. In the implementation of the Programme, Union funding shall be granted following competitive calls issued in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/12<sup>6</sup>.
2. The proposals submitted following the call for proposals shall be evaluated by the Commission, assisted by independent experts to be validated by Member States **upon request**, on the basis of the eligibility and award criteria set out in Articles 5, 6, 7 and 9.
3. The Commission shall award, after each call, the funding for selected actions, by means of an implementing act. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 12(2).

#### *Article 15*

##### Annual instalments

The Commission may divide budgetary commitments into annual instalments.

#### *Article 16*

##### Monitoring and reporting

1. The Commission shall regularly monitor the implementation of the programme and annually report on the progress made in accordance with Article 38(3)(e) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. To this end, the Commission shall put in place necessary monitoring arrangements.
2. To support greater efficiency and effectiveness of future Union policy actions, the Commission shall draw up a retrospective evaluation report and send it to the European Parliament and to the Council. The report - building on relevant consultations of Member States and key stakeholders - shall notably assess the progress made towards the achievement of objectives set out in Article 2. It shall also analyse cross border participation, including of SMEs, in projects implemented under the programme as well as the participation of SMEs to the global value chain. In addition the report should include information on the origin of beneficiaries and, **where possible**, the distribution of the generated IPRs.
3. The Commission shall provide an interim report that will include an assessment of the governance of the Programme, implementation rates, project award results including SME involvement and the degree of their cross-border participation by 30 July 2019.

#### *Article 17*

##### Protection of Union financial interests

1. The Commission shall take appropriate measures to ensure that, when actions financed under this Regulation are implemented, the financial interests of the Union are protected by the application of preventive measures against fraud, corruption and

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<sup>6</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

any other illegal activities, by effective checks and, if irregularities are detected, by the recovery or, where appropriate, the restitution of the amounts wrongly paid and, where appropriate, by effective, proportionate and dissuasive administrative and financial penalties.

2. The Commission and the Court of Auditors shall have the power of audit or, in the case of international organisations, the power of verification in accordance with agreements reached with them, on the basis of documents and on the spot, over all grant beneficiaries, contractors and subcontractors who have received Union funds under this Regulation.
3. The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) may carry out investigations, including on-the-spot checks and inspections, in accordance with the provisions and procedures laid down in Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>7</sup> and Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96<sup>8</sup>, with a view to establishing whether there has been fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity affecting the financial interests of the Union in connection with a grant agreement or grant decision or a contract funded under this Regulation.

#### *Article 18*

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation is binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

*For the European Parliament*  
*The President*

*For the Council*  
*The President*

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<sup>7</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18.9.2013, p. 1).

<sup>8</sup> Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 2).