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LIMITE

RECH

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MEETING DOCUMENT

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Danish EU Presidency Euro-HPC + Horizon Europe negotiation process: Rules for participation & Pillar 1 - PowerPoint presentation

Delegations will find attached a PowerPoint presentation on the above-mentioned subject made by the Presidency at the Research Working Party Meeting held on 27 October 2025.

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Danish EU Presidency

Euro-HPC
+
Horizon Europe negotiation process: Rules for participation & Pillar I

Agenda today

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- EuroHPC – primarily the key outstanding issues
- Horizon: Rules for Participation – the remaining Art. 30, 31, 32 (+ recital 28), 33

Lunch break

- Horizon: Pillar 1 Excellent science – 1st Presidency text

EuroHPC – 3rd compromise text

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Three key outstanding points for today:

1. Quantum
   - Budget transferred has been marked and for Quantum R&I
   - Flexibility in work programmes in terms of funding rates
2. Access time % equivalent to 17% CAPEX costs
   - To define the right runway to support sustainable business models
3. Deletions of paragraph 6, 7, 8 in Article
   - Concerns only the last two years of current MFF
   - Horizon transfers not an open ended blanko-check – prevented by Art. 5(1)
   - To be able to kick-start Union funding for AIGFs (to note, access time to be provided under both business models to the benefit of R&I stakeholders)

EuroHPC: Other points tackled by additions

- RRF related guarantees, incl. in terms of the hard deadline
- Agreement between MS and JU for managing transferred funds
- Distributed AIGF will be possible in duly justified cases, no need for specific reference in Regulation
- Reference to Union law is added in recital 1 as a reminder, therefore all relevant laws need to be respected (also the Energy Directive)
- Sustainability and energy efficiency is covered in selection criteria
- Any MS voluntary access time to be granted for JU will be used primarily for SMEs and their R&I activities – the EuroHPC GB is monitoring use of 'JU' access time
- Some key additions: Foundational models, a sentence about paving the way towards a fault-tolerant quantum computer, and references to SMES, start-ups and scale-ups added
- On quantum, free for MS to choose who they send to EuroHPC governance structure as long as there is access to quantum expertise behind

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EuroHPC: Other points – additional information

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- Voting on AIGF is only for those directly involved and putting money
- Synergies are mandatory for EuroHPC in general → Annex Art. 1(m)
- The EuroHPC seal is different from other seals and aims at connecting national computing infrastructures to the EuroHPC ecosystem and recognizing them by a brand
- As a private undertaking it remains the choice of the AIGF whether or not to connect to the EuroHPC network – but will always be welcomed
- Connection between EOSC and EuroHPC under development – i.e. federation of digital infrastructures

EuroHPC – 3rd compromise text

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Today's aim:

- To concentrate the discussions on the remaining key issues, in particular Art. 12b(4)
- To get your focused input in view of being able to
  - define consensus on most elements, and
  - identify any last remaining point(s)

- One round of MS comments; starting with additional input from COM

- The wrap-up will include next steps, incl. state-of-play in terms of the EP opinion

Short break



Horizon proposal: The six negotiation blocks

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1. General Provisions [Budget; connection to ECF]
2. Excellence Science: ERC, MSCA, JRC
3. 1.Competitiveness and Society: [ECF policy windows], Partnerships, Global Societal challenges, Missions, Bauhaus
4. Innovation: EIC and Innovation Ecosystems
5. 1.European Research Area: ERA, RI&TI, [Widening]
6. Rules for participation [Award criteria and selection; funding rates]

Horizon: Rules for participation

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- Art 30 Mutual Insurance Mechanism
  - Ref to Horizon instead of ECF
  - ***Flexibility of % to contribute asked for by EC due to market fluctuances***
  - Coverage also of indirect management
- Art 31 Ownership of results
  - In duly justified cases added for the last paragraph on transfer of ownership
  - Art 81 ECF for protection of results
- Art 32 valorisation and dissemination
  - Term results used
  - Background clarified
  - Recital 28: economic security, technological sovereignty and resilience added
  - One report including also the Data Management Plan
- Art 33 Precommercial procurement and public procurement

Deadline for written input 30 October; next RWP 10 November

Rules for participation and dissemination: Articles and recitals minus parts in red

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Framework programme

- Art 20 (ECF rules)
  - Recital 22
- Art 21 (Eligibility)
- Art 22 (Ethics and research integrity)
- Art 23 (Calls for proposals)
- Art 24 (Financial capacity of applications)
- Art 25 (Award criteria and selection)
- Art 26 (Time-to-grant)
- Art 27 (Funding rates)
- Art 28 (Indirect costs)
- Art 29 (Eligible costs)
  - Recital 27
- Art 30 (Mutual insurance mechanism)
- Art 31 (Ownership of results)
- Art 32 (Valorisation and dissemination)
  - Recital 28
- Art 33 (Pre-commercial procurement and public procurement of innovative solutions)

Other recitals 6

Lunch break



Horizon Pillar I: Excellent Science – main points

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Most of this pillar is dedicated to bottom-up fundamental research and contains well-known components with each their solid brand and reputation

ERC

- Respect for the ERC's autonomy
- Term of President: 4 years renewable once – duration of the renewal as best suited
- Idem for The Scientific Council members, ***up to*** 22 proposed due to naturally occurring rotations
- The President to devote 80% of his/her time and to get support has been added – no obligation of residence in Brussels due to flexibility
- Remuneration clause for The Scientific Council added
- Information from the ERC to MS/PC is regularly and timely conveyed via the EC

MSCA

- Deleted security considerations, as covered by Art. 20 for the whole programme – added in general part of recital 14 for MSCA
- Bottom-up nature amplified and targeted activities only if additional funds are provided
- Additional research staff included (MSCA not only for researchers)

JRC

- Support to MS added

Deadline for written input 3 November; next RWP 14 November

Reflection

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The different comments on work-life balance, European charter of Researchers, attractive career opportunities, diversity, inclusiveness, high standards for working conditions etc.

→ In principle covered by the overall objective of the FP to implement the ERA (Art. 3) and the reference in Recital 18 to **all** values and principles of the European Research Area and the Pact for Research and Innovation.

Pillar I: Excellent science - Articles and recitals

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Framework programme

Today's discussion: three blocks across FP/SP and relevant recitals

Specific Programme

Block 1

- Art 12 (European Research Council)
  - Recital 13

- Art 6 (European Research Council)
- Art 7 (ERC Scientific Council)
- Art 8 (ERC dedicated implementation structure)

Block 2

- Art 13 (Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions)
  - Recital 14

- Art 9 (Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions)

Block 3

- Art 14 (Joint Research Centre) [1 sentence]
  - Recital 17 [last sentence]

- Art 10 (Joint Research Centre)

“You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end, each of us must work for our own improvement and, at the same time, share a general responsibility for all humanity, our particular duty being to aid those to whom we think can be most useful.”

quote by Marie Skłodowska Curie

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