



Council of the European Union  
General Secretariat

**Brussels, 07 November 2025**

**WK 15122/2025 INIT**

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## **CONTRIBUTION**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Working Party on Research

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N° prev. doc.: 13792/25  
N° Cion doc.: ST 11765 2025 REV 1; ST 11749 2025 INIT

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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

- Member States comments on the Excellent Science Pillar (block 2)

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Delegations will find attached a table with the Member States comments on the above-mentioned subject.

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WK 15122/2025 INIT

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**Guidelines to be followed**

*Please kindly provide your contributions in the table below.*

**Drafting suggestions:** you may use 'track changes'\* or formatting (for example bold-underline for additions and ~~strike-through~~ for deletions, where necessary, in a different colour). \*Track changes can only be connected once the cursor is placed in editable areas (Drafting or Comments columns).

To make it feasible to consolidate all contributions, the structure of the table must not be changed, so **no rows can be added or deleted**.

New provisions may only be added in any of the '**existing cells**'.

**Name of document:** please add the **two initials** of your delegation's country followed by a space (to the MS Word document name), followed by any optional text, for example, for Austria: **AT comments on ... .docx**

Thank you for your cooperation!

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
<b>General Comments</b>	FR <b>(Comments):</b> The excellence principle is at the core of the Framework Programme, and is especially relevant for Pillar I. Any attempt to undermine this principle will be a red line for us.  IE <b>(Comments):</b> Ireland welcomes the first Presidency compromise text.  We provide some initial comments and drafting suggestions for consideration.  Ireland maintains a general scrutiny reservation as the text evolves – in particular given the interlinkages between the FP negotiating blocks and

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p>between the FP and other related MFF proposals being negotiated elsewhere – nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.</p> <p>MT                      (Comments):                      Malta reiterates its stance that actions related to “Choose Europe Initiative” should not decrease the available European Research Council and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions funding but receive additional budgetary allocation.</p>
<p align="center"><b><u>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</u></b></p>	
<p align="center"><b>Chapter II</b></p>	
<p align="center"><b>Excellent Science</b></p>	<p>IE                      (Comments):                      Excellence must remain the sole criterion for the award of ERC funding. Producing excellent science is essential to optimise the contribution that R&amp;I make to achieving wider EU priorities and to maintain and enhance Europe’s global leadership position.</p> <p>Ireland strongly supports the Presidency amendments to maintain the independence of the ERC, which is critically important for its success.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 12</i> <i>European Research Council</i></p>	<p>HU (Comments):</p> <p>Hungary acknowledges and warmly welcomes the essential role that the ERC plays in advancing Europe’s scientific landscape and global competitiveness, while maintaining the focus on scientific excellence.</p> <p>At the same time, Hungary fully supports Slovakia's position that the ERC needs reform to become more inclusive, embracing innovative approaches that level the playing field and elevate collective excellence across the Union. We emphasize the critical importance of inclusiveness, broad geographical representation, and the removal of structural barriers to widen participation and ensure equitable benefits for all Member States.</p> <p>While we strongly uphold the primacy of scientific excellence, Hungary is firmly convinced that excellence and inclusiveness, alongside the provision of equal opportunities, are mutually reinforcing rather than mutually exclusive principles.</p> <p>SK (Comments):</p> <p>SK would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the essential role that the European Research Council (ERC) plays in sustaining Europe’s competitiveness and global leadership in research and innovation.</p> <p>While we continue to strongly support the focus on scientific excellence, SK wishes to express its regret that the Member States’ proposals, particularly those aimed at strengthening inclusiveness, have not been duly reflected in the current version of the text.</p> <p>These contributions were made in a constructive spirit and with the shared objective of ensuring that the ERC’s success is representative of the full breadth of European research talent.</p> <p>Our proposals were designed to advance equitable development across the Union by broadening participation and fostering balanced growth within the</p>
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	<p>European Research Area (ERA). Specifically, we had suggested the inclusion of provisions that would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reaffirm our common commitment to <b>broad geographical representation, gender balance, and equity in access to funding and opportunities</b>;</li> <li>• Encourage the ERC to <b>actively remove structural barriers and engage underrepresented research communities</b> through tailored outreach; and</li> <li>• Strengthen mechanisms for <b>monitoring participation</b> from less research-intensive regions to ensure that excellence is nurtured across all parts of the Union.</li> </ul> <p>SK fully subscribes to the view expressed by several delegations that an innovative approach may be required to move beyond the <i>status quo</i>, raise the level playing field, and enhance collective excellence across Europe. Strengthening participation from less research-intensive regions is key not only to fostering scientific excellence, but also to reinforcing cohesion and solidarity across the European Research Area.</p> <p>To that end, SK reiterates its call for the inclusion of the following elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>An Annex or Mechanism</b> that:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tracks participation from Widening Countries;</li> <li>○ Ensures greater transparency in the evaluation process, including enhanced blind-evaluation procedures;</li> <li>○ Publishes diversity and participation metrics in ERC calls and evaluations; and</li> <li>○ Sets informal participation benchmarks or targets, without compromising excellence.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b>Monitoring and Reporting Requirements</b>, mandating regular reporting on geographical diversity, inclusiveness, and participation by</li> </ol>

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	<p>career stage, to be submitted to the Council and the European Parliament.</p> <p>By promoting inclusiveness and balanced participation, we ensure that scientific excellence within the ERC truly reflects Europe’s diversity and collective potential.</p> <p>SK remains fully committed to working constructively towards this goal, and we hope that our proposals — and those of other Member States — can be duly taken into account in the spirit of shared ownership and partnership.</p>
<p>1. The European Research Council shall provide attractive and flexible funding to enable talented and creative individual researchers, <del>with an emphasis on</del> <b>including</b> early-stage <b>career</b> researchers, and their teams to pursue the most promising avenues at the frontier of science, regardless of their nationality and country of origin and on the basis of competition based solely on the criterion of excellence.</p>	<p>AT  <b>(Comments):</b>                      AT <b>welcomes</b> the text as it stands now.</p> <p>BE  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                      1. The European Research Council shall provide attractive and flexible funding to enable talented and creative individual researchers, <del>with an emphasis on</del> <b>including</b> early-stage <b>career</b> researchers, and their teams to pursue the most promising avenues at the frontier of science, regardless of their nationality and country of origin, <b>or scientific discipline</b>, and on the basis of competition based solely on the criterion of excellence.</p> <p>ES  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                      1. The European Research Council shall provide attractive and flexible funding to enable talented and creative individual researchers, <b>with an emphasis on including</b> early-stage <b>career</b> researchers, and their teams to pursue the most promising avenues at the frontier of science, regardless of</p>

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	<p>their nationality and country of origin and on the basis of competition based solely on the criterion of excellence.</p> <p>ES                      (Comments):</p> <p>We prefer the previous version, that is aligned with current text on FP9 (annex 1- EU Regulation 2021-695), keeping the focus in early-career researchers, so the support given so far is maintained.</p> <p>HU                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>1. The European Research Council shall provide attractive and flexible funding to enable talented and creative individual researchers, <del>with an emphasis on</del> <b>including early-stage career researchers with a special focus on researchers from underrepresented regions or backgrounds</b>, and their teams to pursue the most promising avenues at the frontier of science, regardless of their nationality, <b>institutional affiliation and or</b> country of origin <b>in a nonbiased manner</b> and on the basis of competition based solely on the criterion of <b>scientific</b> excellence.</p> <p>HU                      (Comments):</p> <p>HU agrees with SK, that we need a more inclusiveness language here, without a shift from excellence, but rather an expansion of access to competition.</p> <p>IT                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>The European Research Council shall provide attractive and flexible funding to enable talented and creative individual researchers, <del>with an emphasis on</del> <b>including supporting and nurturing early-stage career</b> researchers, and their teams to pursue the most promising avenues at the frontier of science,</p>

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	<p>regardless of their nationality and country of origin and on the basis of competition based solely on the criterion of excellence.</p> <p>IT                      (Comments):                      "Including" is weak and passive. "Supporting and nurturing", in line with Recital (13), clarifies the proactive intention to develop the next generation of excellent researchers.</p> <p>SK                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>1. The European Research Council shall provide attractive and flexible funding to enable talented and creative individual researchers, <del>with an emphasis on</del> <b>including</b> early-stage <del>career</del> researchers <b>and those from underrepresented regions or backgrounds</b>, and their teams to pursue the most promising avenues at the frontier of science, regardless of their nationality, <b>institutional affiliation</b> <del>and or</del> country of origin <b>in a nonbiased manner</b> and on the basis of competition based solely on the criterion of <b>scientific</b> excellence.</p> <p>SK                      (Comments):                      SK would like to add a more inclusiveness language, so as not to suggest a shift from excellence, but rather an expansion of access to competition. "Underrepresented regions or backgrounds" provides a concrete opening to address geographic and socio-economic imbalances in ERC success rates.</p> <p>SK also proposes to harmonize Regulation with the official classification of research career stages as defined in the Council Recommendation.</p>

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<p>2. The ERC shall attract the most talented researchers from all over the world <b>and thus contribute</b> to establish the Union as a world-leading centre for research and innovation.</p>	<p>BE  <b>(Comments):</b>                  Welcome addition.</p> <p>HU  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                  2. The ERC shall attract the most talented researchers from all over the world <b>and thus contribute</b> to establish the Union as a world-leading centre for research and innovation. <b><u>In doing so, the ERC shall also seek to ensure a broad geographic and institutional diversity among grantees, promoting greater inclusiveness without compromising on excellence.</u></b></p> <p>HU  <b>(Comments):</b>                  HU fully supports SK’s proposals and reasoning here.</p> <p>LT  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                  2. The ERC shall attract the most talented researchers from all over <b>the Union and</b> the world, <b>ensuring broad geographical and institutional diversity among beneficiaries, while upholding the principle of excellence, and thus contributeing</b> to <del>establish</del> the Union as a world-leading centre for research and innovation.</p> <p>LT  <b>(Comments):</b>                  Lithuania believes that it is important to give clear guidance to the ERC that efforts to ensure inclusiveness and avoiding any possible conscious or subconscious biases are of crucial importance if we want to sustain the attractiveness of ERC for the best talents with the most breakthrough ideas independent of their residence/nationality/affiliation as stated in para 1. This</p>

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	<p>is in no way in contradiction with the “excellence” criteria (or “method of excellence” as stated by some other delegations).</p> <p>SK                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>The ERC shall attract the most talented researchers from all over the world <b>and thus contribute</b> to establish the Union as a world-leading centre for research and innovation. <b><u>In doing so, the ERC shall also seek to ensure a broad geographic and institutional diversity among grantees, promoting greater inclusiveness without compromising on excellence.</u></b></p> <p>SK                      (Comments):</p> <p>The same comment as above.</p>
	<p>MT                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p><b><u>New paragraphs 3 and 4</u></b></p> <p><b><u>3. The ERC shall ensure broad geographic and institutional diversity among beneficiaries, while upholding the principle of excellence.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>4. Dedicated calls for applicants originating from [Widening and Transition countries] shall be introduced to increase funding uptake in these countries.</u></b></p> <p>MT                      (Comments):</p> <p>Malta calls for greater availability of the European Research Council funding to the applicants from less-R&amp;I-intense countries through ensuring broad geographic and institutional diversity among grantees, while not compromising on scientific excellence. Additionally, dedicated calls for</p>

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	Widening and Transition countries shall be issued to increase their ERC funding uptake.
<b><u>Recital</u></b>	
<p>(13) The European Research Council (ERC) should provide attractive and flexible funding, thereby enabling talented and creative individual researchers—<del>with a deliberate emphasis on</del> <b>including</b> nurturing early-stage <b>career</b> researchers—to pursue the most promising avenues at the frontier of science <b>across all fields</b>. This commitment to <b>bottom-up</b>, investigator-driven research, selected through Union-wide competition based solely on the criterion of excellence and open to talent regardless of nationality or origin, is fundamental to attracting the world's brightest minds and further establishing Europe as a world-leading centre for research and innovation.</p>	<p>AT  <b>(Comments):</b>                      AT <b>welcomes</b> the changes made by the Presidency, in particular also the explicit mention of the ERC’s commitment to „<b>bottom-up</b>“ research.</p> <p>BE  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                      The European Research Council (ERC) should provide attractive and flexible funding, thereby enabling talented and creative individual researchers—<del>with a deliberate emphasis on</del> <b>including</b> nurturing early-stage <b>career</b> researchers—to pursue the most promising avenues at the frontier of science <b>across all fields</b>. This commitment to <b>bottom-up</b>, investigator-driven research, selected through <del>Union-wide</del> <b>open</b> competition based solely on the criterion of excellence and open to talent regardless of nationality or origin, is fundamental to attracting the world's brightest minds and further establishing Europe as a world-leading centre for research and innovation.</p> <p>BE  <b>(Comments):</b>                      The scope of the competition is broader than Union-wide, as the ERC welcomes applications from international researchers.</p> <p>Welcome additions.</p> <p>DE  <b>(Comments):</b>                      DE: welcome the changes</p>

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	<p>ES                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>(13) The European Research Council (ERC) should provide attractive and flexible funding, thereby enabling talented and creative individual researchers—<b>with emphasis on including</b> nurturing early-stage <b>career</b> researchers—to pursue the most promising avenues at the frontier of science <b>across all fields</b>.</p> <p>ES                      (Comments):</p> <p>Same argument, for prioritizing early stages, as it is referred in the current text on FP9 (recital 22- EU Regulation 2021-695),</p> <p>FR                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>(13) The European Research Council (ERC) should provide attractive and flexible funding, thereby enabling talented and creative individual researchers—<del>with a deliberate emphasis on</del> <b>including</b> nurturing early-stage <b>career</b> researchers—to pursue the most promising avenues at the frontier of science <b>across all fields</b>. This commitment to <b>bottom-up</b>, investigator-driven research, selected through Union-wide competition based solely on the criterion of excellence and open to talent regardless of nationality or origin, is fundamental to <del>attracting the world's brightest minds and further establishing-strengthening</del> Europe as a world-leading centre for research and innovation <u>and further attracting the world's brightest mind</u>.</p> <p>FR                      (Comments):</p> <p>The current wording suggests that Europe can only become a world-leading centre for research and innovation by attracting talent from outside Europe to the EU.</p>

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	<p>HU                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>(13) The European Research Council (ERC) should provide attractive and flexible funding, thereby enabling talented and creative individual researchers—with a deliberate emphasis on <b>including</b> nurturing early-stage <b>career</b> researchers <b>and applicants from underrepresented Member States and regions</b>—to pursue the most promising avenues at the frontier of science <b>across all fields</b>. This commitment to <b>bottom-up</b>, investigator-driven research, selected through Union-wide competition based solely on the criterion of excellence and open to talent regardless of nationality or origin, is fundamental to attracting the world's brightest minds and further establishing Europe as a world-leading centre for research and innovation. <b><u>The ERC should develop outreach, mentoring, and capacity-building activities to ensure a level playing field for all applicants across the Union. Such measures are key to broadening the talent base, enhancing inclusiveness, and reinforcing Europe’s position as a world-leading centre of scientific excellence and innovation.</u></b></p> <p>HU                      (Comments):</p> <p>HU fully supports SK’s proposals and reasoning here.</p> <p>IE                      (Comments):</p> <p>We support the amendments.</p> <p>LT                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>(13) The European Research Council (ERC) should provide attractive and flexible funding, thereby enabling talented and creative individual researchers—with a deliberate emphasis on <b>including</b> nurturing early-stage <b>career</b> researchers—to pursue the most promising avenues at the</p>

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	<p>frontier of science <b>across all fields</b>. This commitment to <b>bottom-up</b>, investigator-driven research, selected through Union-wide competition based solely on the criterion of excellence and open to talent regardless of nationality or origin, is fundamental to attracting the world's brightest minds and further establishing Europe as a world-leading centre for research and innovation. <b>Aiming to strengthen, promote and take advantage of the excellence throughout the Union, the ERC might create/introduce measures to increase geographical diversity.</b></p> <p>LT  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>We want to reiterate our previous suggestion. With all the respect to the ERC autonomy, we still believe that it is important to mention that special measures to overcome any possible structural biases and unintended effects of “closed clubs” might be discussed and introduced by ERC. This is not an obligation, but a guidance.</p> <p>MT  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>(13) The European Research Council (ERC) should provide attractive and flexible funding, thereby enabling talented and creative individual researchers with a deliberate emphasis on <b>including</b> nurturing early-stage <b>career</b> researchers <b>and applicants from underrepresented Member States and regions</b> —to pursue the most promising avenues at the frontier of science <b>across all fields</b>. This commitment to <b>bottom-up</b>, investigator-driven research, selected through Union-wide competition based solely on the criterion of excellence and open to talent regardless of nationality or origin, is fundamental to attracting the world's brightest minds, <del>and further establishing Europe as a world leading centre for research and innovation.</del> <b>The ERC should develop outreach, mentoring, and capacity-building activities to ensure a level playing field for all applicants across the Union. Such measures are key to broadening the talent base, enhancing inclusiveness.</b></p>

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	<p><b><u>and reinforcing Europe’s position as a world-leading centre of scientific excellence and innovation.</u></b></p> <p>MT                      (Comments):</p> <p>Malta calls for inclusion in the text references to broad geographic and institutional diversity among beneficiaries of the European Research Council funding, as well as developing outreach, mentoring, and capacity-building activities to ensure a level playing field for all applicants across the Union.</p> <p>SK                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>(13) The European Research Council (ERC) should provide attractive and flexible funding, thereby enabling talented and creative individual researchers—<del>with a deliberate emphasis on</del> <b>including</b> nurturing early-stage <del>career</del> researchers <b><u>and applicants from underrepresented Member States and regions</u></b>—to pursue the most promising avenues at the frontier of science <b><u>across all fields</u></b>. This commitment to <b><u>bottom-up</u></b>, investigator-driven research, selected through Union-wide competition based solely on the criterion of excellence and open to talent regardless of nationality or origin, is fundamental to attracting the world's brightest minds and further establishing Europe as a world-leading centre for research and innovation. <b><u>The ERC should develop outreach, mentoring, and capacity-building activities to ensure a level playing field for all applicants across the Union. Such measures are key to broadening the talent base, enhancing inclusiveness, and reinforcing Europe’s position as a world-leading centre of scientific excellence and innovation.</u></b></p> <p>SK                      (Comments):</p> <p>The same comment as above.</p>

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	Additionally, the addition of capacity-building and mentoring reflects ongoing concerns that excellent researchers in some Member States are not well-positioned to succeed in ERC calls.
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 13</i> <b>Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions</b></p>	<p>HU <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>HU agrees with SK that inclusiveness needs to be further strengthened in the programme and encourage the inclusion of elements to align the MSCA with broader Union objectives on excellence, territorial cohesion, and equal opportunity.</p> <p>SK <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>SK reaffirms its strong support for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions as a key pillar of researcher development in Europe.</p> <p>We would like to underline the need to further strengthen inclusiveness within the programme and encourage the inclusion of elements to align the MSCA with broader Union objectives on excellence, territorial cohesion, and equal opportunity.</p> <p>SK also proposes to harmonize Regulation with the official classification of research career stages as defined in the Council Recommendation.</p>
<p>1. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions shall support the career at all stages, skills development, and mobility of researchers <b>and research-related staff</b> from all over the world <del>subject to security considerations</del>. MSCA shall foster research excellence, attract and retain excellent research talents, and support sustainable <b>and attractive</b> research careers in the Union with the aim</p>	<p>AT <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions shall support the <b>research</b> career at all stages, <b>with particular emphasis on early-career researchers as well as</b></p>

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<p>to increase the Union’s <b><u>scientific excellence, thus contributing to</u></b> competitiveness in research and innovation.</p>	<p>skills development, and mobility of researchers <del>and research-related staff</del> from all over the world.</p> <p>AT  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>AT would like to highlight the importance of MSCA support for early-career researchers.</p> <p>The term “research-related staff” is too broad. Reference should be made either to “researchers” or to “research staff”.</p> <p>AT welcomes the deletion of the reference to “security considerations”.</p> <p>We would <b>not</b> be in favour of adding references to brain circulation or “underrepresented countries” to this Article, as we regard this aspect sufficiently covered by the Widening part of the programme.</p> <p>BE  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions shall support the career at all stages, skills development, and mobility of researchers, <b><u>with an emphasis on early career researchers and research-related staff</u></b> from all over the world <b><u>subject to security considerations</u></b>. MSCA shall foster research excellence, attract <del>and retain</del> excellent research talents, and support sustainable <b><u>and attractive</u></b> research careers in the Union with the aim to increase the Union’s <b><u>scientific excellence, thus contributing to</u></b> competitiveness in research and innovation.</p> <p>BE  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>Suggested addition: mobility of researchers, <b><u>with an emphasis on early career researchers</u></b>.</p>

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	<p>The focus of MSCA must remain on early-career researchers, in line with the well established mission of the program.</p> <p>Suggestion to delete the ‘research-related staff’ amendment, as it implies a level of detail that is not suitable for the Regulation. Suggestion to add this reference to “research related staff” in the underlying Specific Program. R&amp;I staff is also already addressed in para (2).</p> <p>Question: why is MSCA the only instrument in which “attracting and retaining” researchers is explicitly mentioned, given that the ERC (as well as other instruments under the Framework Programme) also play a key role in this regard? In FP9, “attracting, training and retaining talent in the ERA” was formulated as a FP-wide operational objective (Specific Programme,, Article 2.i). Can this be incorporated as a horizontal objective?</p> <p>Support to keep ‘subject to security considerations’.</p> <p>Support for adding ‘scientific excellence, thus contributing to’ as this highlights the scientific value of MSCA.</p> <p>DE  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>1. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions shall support the career at all stages, skills development, and mobility of researchers <del>subject to security considerations</del> <b>and research-related staff</b> from all over the world <del>subject to security considerations</del>. MSCA shall foster research excellence, attract and retain excellent research talents, and support sustainable <b>and attractive</b> research careers in the Union with the aim to increase the Union’s <b>scientific excellence, thus contributing to</b> competitiveness in research and innovation.</p> <p>DE  <b>(Comments):</b></p>

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	<p>DE: Additional research-related staff can only be funded in the MSCA Staff Exchanges and make up only a fraction of the funded persons. This addition suggests equality; the focus of the MSCA should remain on the researchers.</p> <p>EE                      (Comments):                      We welcome reference to research-related staff</p> <p>ES                      (Drafting suggestions):                      1. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions shall support the career at all stages, skills development, and mobility of researchers <b>and other research-related staff</b> from all over the world <del>subject to security considerations</del>. MSCA shall foster research excellence, attract and retain excellent research talents, and support sustainable <b>and attractive</b> research careers in the Union with the aim to increase the Union’s <b>scientific excellence, thus contributing to</b> competitiveness in research and innovation.</p> <p>ES                      (Comments):                      The 2023 Recommendation of scientific careers, includes as other research careers Research management or Research technician careers (recommendation 3 and 4).</p> <p>FR                      (Drafting suggestions):                      1. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions shall support the career at all stages, skills development, and mobility of researchers <b>and research-related staff</b> from all over the world <del>subject to security considerations</del> <del>subject to security considerations</del>. MSCA shall foster research excellence, attract and</p>

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	<p>retain excellent research talents, and support sustainable <b><u>and attractive</u></b> research careers in the Union with the aim to increase the Union’s <b><u>scientific excellence, thus contributing to</u></b> competitiveness in research and innovation.</p> <p>FR  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>We oppose the withdrawal of security-related considerations. It is not sufficient to mention it in a recital, since those considerations must be enshrined in MSCA strategic approach.</p> <p>HU  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>1. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions shall support the career at all stages, skills development, and mobility of researchers <b><u>and research-related staff</u></b> from all <b>countries worldwide</b> <del>over the world</del> subject to security considerations. MSCA shall foster research excellence, attract and retain excellent research talents, <b><u>ensure balanced brain circulation as well as avoiding brain drain</u></b> and support sustainable <b><u>and attractive</u></b> research careers in the Union with the aim to increase the Union’s <b><u>scientific excellence, thus contributing to</u></b> competitiveness in research and innovation.</p> <p>HU  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>We prefer to use the phrase "all countries worldwide" rather than "from all over the world," to underline diversity and global reach.</p> <p>It is also vital to ensure brain circulation across the whole Union, while avoiding brain drain.</p> <p>IE  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions shall support the career at all stages, skills development, and mobility of researchers <b><u>and research-related staff</u></b></p>

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	<p>from all over the world <del>subject to security considerations</del>. MSCA shall foster research excellence, attract and retain excellent research talents, and support sustainable <b>and attractive</b> research careers in the Union with the aim to increase the Union’s <b>scientific excellence and impact, thus contributing to</b> competitiveness in research and innovation.</p> <p>IE  <b>(Comments):</b>                      Ireland supports the amendments to this paragraph.</p> <p>We suggest adding ‘and impact’ given our focus on the need to make better use of our excellent research.</p> <p>LT  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                      1. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions shall support the career at all stages, skills development, and mobility of researchers <b>and research-related staff</b> from all over <b>the Union and</b> the world <del>subject to security considerations</del>. MSCA shall foster research excellence, attract and retain excellent research talents, and support sustainable <b>and attractive</b> research careers in the Union with the aim to increase the Union’s <b>scientific excellence, thus contributing to</b> competitiveness in research and innovation.</p> <p>LT  <b>(Comments):</b>                      We want to stress that MSCA, first of all is a Union instrument.</p> <p>MT  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                      1. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions shall support the career at all stages, skills development, and mobility of researchers <b>and research-related staff</b> from all over the world <del>subject to security considerations</del>. MSCA shall foster research excellence, attract and retain excellent research talents, <b>ensure</b></p>

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	<p><b><u>brain circulation and counter brain drain</u></b>, and support sustainable <b><u>and attractive</u></b> research careers in the Union with the aim to increase the Union’s <b><u>scientific excellence, thus contributing to</u></b> competitiveness in research and innovation.</p> <p>MT  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>MT argues that attracting talent to Europe is crucial for increasing Europe’s technological and scientific attractiveness and competitiveness; however, appropriate mechanisms should be put in place to ensure the geographical distribution of absorbed talent in order to prevent increasing disparities between Member States and deepening the internal innovation divide.</p> <p>NL  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>1. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions shall support the career at all stages, skills development, and mobility of researchers <b><u>and research-related staff</u></b> from all over the world <del>subject to security considerations</del>. MSCA shall foster research excellence, attract and retain excellent research talents, and support sustainable <b><u>and attractive</u></b> research careers in the Union with the aim to increase the Union’s <b><u>scientific excellence, thus contributing to</u></b> competitiveness in research and innovation <b><u>and global cooperation in R&amp;I</u></b>.</p> <p>NL  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>MSCA contributes to competitiveness in R&amp;I, but also fosters global cooperation as an important aim, which seems unclear in this paragraph, hence mentioning the international dimension of MSCA as something positive is important.</p> <p>NL would like to keep ‘subject to security considerations’ in this article due to international developments, however it would be best to arrange these kind</p>

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	<p>of provisions in a separate research security related article for the entire programme, since these consideration also apply to other programme parts.</p> <p>PT                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>1. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions shall support the career at all stages, skills development, and mobility of researchers <del>and research-related staff</del> from all over the world <del>subject to security considerations,</del> <b>and should be open to international and inter-sectoral staff exchanges of research related profiles</b>. MSCA shall foster <b>bottom-up</b> research excellence, attract and retain excellent research talents, and support sustainable <b>and attractive</b> research careers in the Union with the aim to increase the Union’s <b>scientific excellence, thus contributing to</b> competitiveness in research and innovation.</p> <p>PT                      (Comments):</p> <p>The legal text has to be clear that MSCA is for researchers and to the generation of new knowledge and research career development. Actions for Research Managers and Administrators or other research related staff are part of the ERA Pillar. The exception are staff exchanges, as the current MSCA funding instrument states: “short-term international and inter-sectoral exchanges of staff members involved in research and innovation activities”. Thus, the legal text has to be clearer in this specific aspect. Research related staff are not the direct beneficiaries of Doctoral Networks or Postdoctoral Fellowships. In addition, in no other part of the text “Research related staff” is mentioned.</p> <p>SE                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions shall support the career at all stages, <b>with particular emphasis on early-career researchers, as well as</b> skills development, and mobility of researchers <del>and research-related staff</del> from</p>

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	<p>all over the world <del>subject to security considerations</del>. MSCA shall foster research excellence, attract and retain excellent research talents, and support sustainable <b>and attractive</b> research careers in the Union with the aim to increase the Union’s <b><u>scientific excellence, thus contributing to competitiveness in research and innovation.</u></b></p> <p>SE  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>MSCA has an important function in supporting researchers early in their careers, and SE proposes to maintain this feature.</p> <p>SI  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>1. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions shall <b>promote and</b> support the career at all stages, <b><u>with particular emphasis on early-career researchers, as well as skills development,</u></b> and mobility of researchers and research-related staff from all over the world <del>subject to security considerations</del>. MSCA shall foster research excellence, attract and retain excellent research talents, <b><u>ensure balanced brain circulation</u></b> and support sustainable and attractive research careers in the Union with the aim to increase the Union’s scientific excellence, thus contributing to competitiveness in research and innovation.</p> <p>SI  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>Support alone is not enough — promotion is also essential to foster careers at all stages.</p> <p>MSCA has traditionally been the EU’s main instrument to support early-career stage researchers.</p>

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	<p>Continue to include balance brain circ. --&gt; Without it, EU mobility schemes risk reinforcing existing inequalities (drain)</p> <p>SK                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>1. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions shall support <b>researchers' the</b> career at all stages, skills development, and mobility of researchers <b>and research-related staff</b> from <b>all over the world all regions and countries worldwide</b> subject to security considerations. MSCA shall foster research excellence, attract and retain <b>excellent outstanding</b> research talents <b>globally, ensure balanced brain circulation</b> and support sustainable <b>and attractive</b> research careers <b>inthrough</b> the Union with the aim to increase the Union's <b>scientific excellence, thus contributing to</b> competitiveness in research and innovation, <b>including by strengthening the competitiveness and research capacity of less developed regions and widening countries within the Union.</b></p> <p>SK                      (Comments):</p> <p>We would like to emphasize inclusiveness by explicitly mentioning "all regions and countries worldwide" rather than "from all over the world," to underline diversity and global reach. Suggestion highlights support for collaboration with institutions and innovation ecosystems beyond traditional hubs, including those in less represented countries.</p> <p>In supporting mobility, it's important to ensure that it results in brain circulation across the whole Union, while avoiding brain drain.</p>
<p>2. The MSCA shall fund excellent doctoral networks, post-doctoral fellowships, R&amp;I staff exchanges, <del>as well as support mechanisms to foster sustainable careers in view of attracting and retaining the most promising talents.</del> A strong focus shall be put on international, inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary cooperation as well as science outreach. The funding shall</p>	<p>BE                      (Comments):</p> <p>Support for this deletion.</p> <p>DE</p>

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<p>support cutting edge research and focus on developing research talent, with targeted support for early-career researchers. It shall <del>support</del> <b>contribute</b> to establish the Union as a leading destination for researchers.</p>	<p><b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>2. The MSCA shall fund excellent doctoral networks, post-doctoral fellowships, R&amp;I staff exchanges, <b>as well as support mechanisms to foster sustainable careers in view of attracting and retaining the most promising talents</b>. A strong focus shall be put on international, inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary cooperation as well as science outreach. The funding shall support cutting edge research and focus on developing research talent, with targeted support for early-career researchers. It shall <del>support</del> <b>contribute</b> to establish the Union as a leading destination for researchers.</p> <p>DE  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>DE: Why were the support mechanisms for sustainable careers deleted? Was this wording not aimed at MSCA COFUND and does the deletion mean that no MSCA COFUND programmes should not to be funded in the future?</p> <p>ES  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>2. The MSCA shall fund excellent doctoral networks, post-doctoral fellowships, R&amp;I staff exchanges, <b>as well as support mechanisms to foster sustainable careers in view of attracting and retaining the most promising talents</b>. A strong focus shall be put on international, inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary cooperation as well as science outreach. The funding shall support cutting edge research and focus on developing research talent, with targeted support for early-career researchers. It shall <del>support</del> <b>contribute</b> to establish the Union as a leading destination for researchers.</p> <p>ES  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>Explicit mention to support mechanisms for talent attraction programmes in Europe should be maintained. MSCA-COFUND has proven to be a very useful scheme to raise the standards of HR programmes across Europe – both</p>

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	<p>in terms of contractual conditions and training for fellows-. The programme has enabled regions and institutions to improve their talent programmes. The EU funding is key to add differential elements that could be lost otherwise.</p> <p>HU                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>2. The MSCA shall fund excellent doctoral networks, post-doctoral fellowships, R&amp;I staff exchanges <b><u>and support mechanisms aimed at fostering sustainable and inclusive careers to attract and retain the most promising talents from diverse geographic and socio-economic backgrounds</u></b>, as well as support mechanisms to foster sustainable careers in view of attracting and retaining the most promising talents. A strong focus shall be put on international, inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary cooperation as well as science outreach. <b><u>and engagement with underrepresented countries and communities</u></b>. The funding shall support cutting edge research and focus on developing research talent, with targeted support for early career researchers. <b><u>MSCA shall contribute to establishing the Union as a leading, inclusive destination for researchers worldwide</u></b>. <del>It shall support contribute to establish the Union as a leading destination for researchers.</del></p> <p>HU                      (Comments):</p> <p>HU fully supports SK’s proposals and reasoning here.</p> <p>IE                      (Comments):</p> <p>Ireland supports this amendment.</p> <p>LT                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>2. The MSCA shall fund excellent doctoral networks, post-doctoral fellowships, R&amp;I staff exchanges, <del>as well as support mechanisms to foster sustainable careers in view of attracting and retaining the most promising</del></p>

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	<p>talents. A strong focus shall be put on international, inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary cooperation, <b>promotion of balanced brain circulation</b>, as well as science outreach. The funding shall support cutting edge research and focus on developing research talent, with targeted support for early-career researchers. It shall support <u>contribute</u> to establish the Union as a leading destination for <b>European and foreign</b> researchers.</p> <p>LT  <b>(Comments):</b>                      We need to stress that MSCA should add to the balanced brain circulation.</p> <p>See the comment above. We should not forget the needs of European researchers. EU should be/remain attractive for our domestic researchers or for those willing to return to the EU.</p> <p>MT  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                      2. The MSCA shall fund excellent doctoral networks, post-doctoral fellowships, R&amp;I staff exchanges <b><u>and support mechanisms aimed at fostering sustainable and inclusive careers to attract and retain the most promising talents from diverse geographic and socio-economic backgrounds.</u></b> as well as support mechanisms to foster sustainable careers in view of attracting and retaining the most promising talents. A strong focus shall be put on international, inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary cooperation as well as science outreach <b><u>and engagement with underrepresented countries and communities.</u></b> The funding shall support cutting edge research and focus on developing research talent, with targeted support for early-career researchers. It shall support <u>contribute</u> to establish the Union as a leading destination for researchers.</p> <p>MT  <b>(Comments):</b></p>

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	<p>Malta calls for highlighting the importance of equity and diversity as core values in funding decisions and programme design. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions should strengthen their inclusiveness and support researchers from a wider geographical scope.</p> <p>SI                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>2. The MSCA shall fund excellent doctoral <b>and post-doctoral</b> networks, post-doctoral fellowships, R&amp;I staff exchanges, <del>as well as support mechanisms to foster sustainable careers in view of attracting and retaining the most promising talents.</del> A strong focus shall be put on international, inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary cooperation as well as <b>modernized research assessment and</b> science outreach. The funding shall support cutting edge research and focus on developing research talent, with targeted support for early-career researchers. It shall support contribute to establish the Union as a leading destination for researchers <b>regardless of their nationality and country of origin.</b></p> <p>SI                      (Comments):</p> <p>The MSCA post-doctoral networks are also key to attract and retain talent as well as foster mobility and internationalisation.</p> <p>Because cooperation and openness depend on how research is assessed. If researchers are evaluated by publication metrics, they have little incentive to engage in cross-sectoral projects and work across disciplines</p> <p>SK                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>2. The MSCA shall fund excellent doctoral networks, post-doctoral fellowships, R&amp;I staff exchanges <b>and</b>, <del>as well as support mechanisms aimed at fostering sustainable and inclusive careers to attract and retain</del></p>

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	<p><u>the most promising talents from diverse geographic and socio-economic backgrounds.</u> to foster sustainable careers in view of attracting and retaining the most promising talents. A strong focus shall be put on international, inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary cooperation as well as science outreach <u>and engagement with underrepresented countries and communities.</u> The funding shall support cutting edge research and focus on developing research talent, with targeted support for early-career researchers. <u>MSCA shall contribute to establishing the Union as a leading, inclusive destination for researchers worldwide.</u> <del>It shall support contribute to establish the Union as a leading destination for researchers.</del></p>
<p><b><u>Recital</u></b></p>	
<p>(14) In a knowledge-based global economy, the Union’s long-term competitiveness, technological leadership and capacity to address global challenges should depend notably on its ability to develop, attract and retain a highly skilled and, <u>subject to security considerations,</u> internationally connected research workforce <u>throughout the Union.</u> Strategic investment in excellent researchers, in their training, mobility and career prospects, within and outside academia, is essential to <del>sustain</del> <u>foster scientific breakthroughs, which lead to</u> innovation, economic resilience and societal well-being. In line with the principles of the European Charter for researchers, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) are instrumental in advancing this objective. The Programme should reinforce links between <u>research performing organisations,</u> <del>and</del> universities, and innovation ecosystems, including the private sector. It should <u>contribute to</u> enable the completion of the European Research Area, <del>including</del> <u>and</u> via <u>the development of synergies with the European Education Area, including through the European Universities Alliances and Erasmus+.</u> <u>This should support the</u> development of European higher education sector capacity to compete with global counterparts through collaboration, nurturing and</p>	<p>AT  <u>(Drafting suggestions):</u>                      It should <u>contribute to</u> <del>enable</del> the completion of the European Research Area, <u>and via to the development of synergies with the European Education Area, in its higher education dimension, including through the European Universities Alliances and Erasmus+.</u> <u>This should support the</u> development of European higher education sector capacity to compete with global counterparts through collaboration, nurturing and attracting talent and leveraging more private investments including <u>strengthening the links between research and higher education.</u></p> <p>AT  <u>(Comments):</u>                      AT supports the reference to „security considerations“ in this recital.</p> <p>As already pointed out, we consider the link between the ERA and the European Education Area in its higher education dimension important, and</p>

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<p>attracting talent and leveraging more private investments, <del>including through higher education initiatives like European Universities Alliances, in synergy with Erasmus+, and in line with the objectives and activities of this Regulation.</del></p>	<p>the European University Alliances as a particularly important tool which should be strengthened in both its higher education and its research dimension.</p> <p>We propose using the term “the European Education Area in its higher education dimension”. The European Higher Education Area is the concept of the Bologna Process which also comprises countries that are not part of the EU MS or AC. The European Education Area also comprises higher education but is not limited to it.</p> <p>BE  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>In a knowledge-based global economy, the Union’s long-term competitiveness, technological leadership and capacity to address global challenges should depend notably on its ability to develop, attract <del>and retain</del> a highly skilled and, <b><u>subject to security considerations</u></b>, internationally connected research workforce <b><u>throughout the Union</u></b>.</p> <p>Strategic investment in excellent researchers, in their training, mobility and career prospects, within and outside academia, is essential to <del>sustain</del> <b><u>foster scientific excellence breakthroughs, which lead to</u></b> innovation, economic resilience and societal well-being. In line with the principles of the European Charter for researchers, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) are instrumental in advancing this objective.</p> <p>The Programme should reinforce links <b><u>between all types of research performing organisations, in particular and universities and private sector organisations, as well as between national and regional R&amp;I ecosystems</u></b>.</p> <p>It should <b><u>contribute to</u></b> enable the completion of the European Research Area, <b><u>including and via the development of synergies with the European Education Area, including through the European Universities Alliances</u></b></p>

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	<p><del>and Erasmus+.</del> <b>This should support the</b>, the development of European higher education sector capacity to compete with global counterparts through collaboration, nurturing and attracting talent and leveraging more private investments, <del>including through higher education initiatives like European Universities Alliances, in synergy with Erasmus+, and in line with the objectives and activities of this Regulation.</del></p> <p>BE  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>Suggested deletion of ‘throughout the Union’: the wording “internationally connected” appears sufficiently clear on its own, so this addition may not add further value.</p> <p>Suggested reformulation ‘foster scientific excellence’: speaking of excellence would be more coherent with article 13 and is also more in line with MSCA than ‘breakthroughs’ which is more the focus of ERC.</p> <p>Support to keep the previous wording. Regarding the synergies with European Universities Alliances, we could mention them in the Specific Programme, where EIC, ERC and Erasmus + are already listed. See p. 20 of this document, art. 9, 3(b)</p> <p>Question: clarification is needed on the possible synergies with Erasmus+, EEA, European Universities Alliances.</p> <p>DE  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>(14) In a knowledge-based global economy, the Union’s long-term competitiveness, technological leadership and capacity to address global challenges should depend notably on its ability to develop, attract and retain a highly skilled and, <b>subject to security considerations</b>, internationally</p>

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	<p>connected research workforce <b>throughout the Union</b>. Strategic investment in excellent researchers, in their training, mobility and career prospects, within and outside academia, is essential to <del>sustain</del> <b>foster scientific breakthroughs, which lead to</b> innovation, economic resilience and societal well-being. In line with the principles of the European Charter for researchers, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) are instrumental in advancing this objective. The Programme should reinforce links between <b>research performing organisations</b>, and universities, and innovation ecosystems, including the private sector. It should <b>contribute to</b> enable the completion of the European Research Area, <del>including</del> <b>and via the development of develop synergies with the European Education Area, including through the European Universities Alliances and Erasmus+.</b> <b>This should support the</b> development of European higher education sector capacity to compete with global counterparts through collaboration, nurturing and attracting talent and leveraging more private investments, <del>including through higher education initiatives like European Universities Alliances, in synergy with Erasmus+, and in line with the objectives and activities of this Regulation.</del></p> <p>EE  <b>(Comments):</b>                  We support keeping the reference to security considerations in the text</p> <p>ES  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                  (14) In a knowledge-based global economy, the Union’s long-term competitiveness, technological leadership and capacity to address global challenges should depend notably on its ability to develop, attract and retain a highly skilled and, <b>subject to security considerations</b>, internationally connected research workforce <b>throughout the Union</b>. Strategic investment in excellent researchers <b>and other research staff</b>, in their training, mobility and career prospects, within and outside academia, is essential to <del>sustain</del></p>

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	<p><b><u>foster scientific breakthroughs, which lead to</u></b> innovation, economic resilience and societal well-being. In line with the principles of the European Charter for researchers, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) are instrumental in advancing this objective. The Programme should reinforce links between <b><u>research performing organisations,</u></b> and universities, and innovation ecosystems, including the private sector. It should <b><u>contribute to</u></b> enable the completion of the European Research <b>and Innovation</b> Area, <del>including</del> <b><u>and</u></b> via <b><u>the development of synergies with the European Higher Education Area, including through the European Universities Alliances and Erasmus+.</u></b> <del>This should support the</del> development of European higher education sector capacity to compete with global counterparts through collaboration, nurturing and attracting talent and leveraging more private investments, <del>including through higher education initiatives like European Universities Alliances, in synergy with Erasmus+, and in line with the objectives and activities of this Regulation.</del></p> <p>ES  <b>(Comments):</b>                  Agree to make RPOs more visible with this new version.</p> <p>We should be consistent with the COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION of 18 December 2023 on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe. Researchers can conduct their activities with equal relevance in all sectors performing research and innovation, including academia, industry, business, public administration and the non-profit sector, where their skills, knowledge and attitudes can be beneficial to European society, the research and innovation system, and the economy</p> <p>FR  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p>

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	<p>(14) In a knowledge-based global economy, the Union’s long-term competitiveness, technological leadership and capacity to address global challenges should depend notably on its ability to develop, attract and retain a highly skilled and <del>subject to security considerations,</del> internationally connected research workforce, <del>subject to security considerations,</del> <b><u>throughout the Union</u></b>. Strategic investment in excellent researchers, in their training, mobility and career prospects, within and outside academia, is essential to <del>sustain</del> <b><u>foster scientific breakthroughs, which lead to</u></b> innovation, economic <del>and environmental</del> resilience and societal well-being. In line with the principles of the European Charter for researchers, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) are instrumental in advancing this objective. The Programme should reinforce links between <b><u>research performing organisations,</u></b> <del>and</del> universities, and innovation ecosystems, including the private sector. It should <b><u>contribute to</u></b> enable the completion of the European Research Area, <del>including and</del> via <b><u>the development of synergies with the European Higher Education Area and the higher education dimension of the European Education Area, including in particular through the European Universities Alliances Initiative and other activities funded by Erasmus+.</u></b> <b><u>This should support the</u></b> development of European higher education sector capacity to compete with global counterparts through collaboration, nurturing and attracting talent and leveraging more private investments, <del>including through higher education initiatives like European Universities Alliances, in synergy with Erasmus+, and in line with the objectives and activities of this Regulation.</del></p> <p>FR  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>To reinforce the positioning of the Union as an internationally leading scientific hub, it is essential to attract researchers, but this must be accompanied by security checks. The notion of ‘throughout the Union’ is not necessary since mobility schemes target all EU institutions and researchers, regardless of their nationality.</p>

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	<p>Both areas should be mentioned (such as in the Council Conclusion                      HU                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>(14) In a knowledge-based global economy, the Union’s long-term competitiveness, technological leadership and capacity to address global challenges should depend notably on its ability to develop, attract and retain a highly skilled and, <b>subject to security considerations</b>, internationally connected research workforce <b>throughout the Union</b>. Strategic investment in excellent researchers, in their training, mobility and career prospects, within and outside academia, is essential to <del>sustain</del> <b>foster scientific breakthroughs, which lead to</b> innovation, economic resilience and societal well-being. In line with the principles of the European Charter for researchers, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) are instrumental in advancing this objective. The Programme should reinforce links between <b>research performing organisations</b>, and universities, and innovation ecosystems, including the private sector and . It should <b>contribute to</b> enable the completion of the European Research Area, including <b>and underrepresented regions and countries</b> via <b>the development of synergies with the European Education Area, including through the European Universities Alliances and Erasmus+</b>. <b>This should support the</b> development of European higher education sector capacity to compete with global counterparts through collaboration, nurturing and attracting talent and leveraging more private investments, <del>including through higher education initiatives like European Universities Alliances, in synergy with Erasmus+, and in line with the objectives and activities of this Regulation.</del></p> <p>HU                      (Comments):</p> <p>HU supports SK’s proposals here.</p> <p>IE</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p><b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>In a knowledge-based global economy, the Union’s long-term competitiveness, technological leadership and capacity to address global challenges should depend notably on its ability to develop, attract and retain a highly skilled and, <u>subject to security considerations</u>, internationally connected research <b>and innovation</b> workforce <u>throughout the Union</u>.</p> <p>IE</p> <p><b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>We question the insertion of ‘subject to security considerations’ in this particular recital.</p> <p>A consistent approach to security considerations is required across the FP.</p> <p>Why limit the ‘internationally connected research workforce’ to the EU?</p> <p>LT</p> <p><b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>We thank the PRES for including “throughout the Union”.</p> <p>MT</p> <p><b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>Malta supports the addition of “throughout the Union” in the text of the paragraph. We ask for it to be retained.</p> <p>NL</p> <p><b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>(14) In a knowledge-based global economy, the Union’s long-term competitiveness, technological leadership and capacity to address global challenges should depend notably on its ability to develop, attract and retain a highly skilled and, <u>subject to security considerations</u>, internationally connected research workforce <u>throughout the Union</u>. Strategic investment</p>

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	<p>in excellent researchers, in their training, mobility and career prospects, within and outside academia, is essential to sustain <b><u>foster scientific breakthroughs, which lead to</u></b> innovation, economic resilience and societal well-being. In line with the principles of the European Charter for researchers, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) are instrumental in advancing this objective. The Programme should reinforce links between <b><u>research performing organisations,</u></b> and universities, and innovation ecosystems, including the private sector. It should <b><u>contribute to</u></b> enable the completion of the European Research Area, including <b><u>and</u></b> via <b><u>the development of synergies with the European Education Area., including through the European Universities Alliances and Erasmus+.</u></b> This should support the development of European higher education sector capacity to compete with global counterparts through collaboration, nurturing and attracting talent and leveraging more private investments, including through higher education initiatives like European Universities Alliances, in synergy with Erasmus+, and in line with the objectives and activities of this Regulation.</p> <p>NL  <b>(Comments):</b>                  NL believes ‘throughout the Union’ should be deleted, since MSCA connects the Union internationally, also with R&amp;I ecosystems outside of Europe.</p> <p>NL underlines the important and necessary link between the ERA and the EHEA. We also underline the importance of fostering university alliances and their research dimension. However, MSCA starts from excellent science, and networks should form from that starting point, based on shared research priorities. We should not give preference to some networks over others in this sense. Naming the University alliances suggests a direct link between MSCA and Erasmus+ for their support.</p> <p>PT</p>

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	<p><b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>(14) In a knowledge-based global economy, the Union’s long-term competitiveness, <b>scientific and</b> technological leadership and capacity to address global challenges should depend notably on its ability to develop, attract and retain a highly skilled and, <b><u>subject to security considerations,</u></b> internationally connected research workforce <b><u>throughout the Union.</u></b> Strategic investment in excellent researchers, in their training, mobility and career prospects, within and outside academia, is essential to <del>sustain</del> <b><u>foster scientific breakthroughs, which lead to</u></b> innovation, economic resilience and societal well-being. In line with the principles of the European Charter for researchers, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) are instrumental in advancing this objective. The Programme should reinforce links between <b><u>research performing organisations, and universities, and the non-academic sector, including</u></b> innovation Ecosystems, <del>including and</del> the private sector. It should <b><u>contribute to</u></b> enable the completion of the European Research Area, <del>including and</del> via <b><u>the development of synergies with the European Education Area, including through the European Universities Alliances and Erasmus+.</u></b> <del>This should support the</del> development of European higher education sector capacity to compete with global counterparts through collaboration, nurturing and attracting talent and leveraging more private investments, <del>including through higher education initiatives like European Universities Alliances, in synergy with Erasmus+, and in line with the objectives and activities of this Regulation.</del></p> <p>SK</p> <p><b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>(14) In a knowledge-based global economy, the Union’s long-term competitiveness, technological leadership and capacity to address global challenges should depend notably on its ability to develop, attract and retain a highly skilled and, <b><u>subject to security considerations,</u></b> internationally connected research workforce <b><u>throughout the Union.</u></b> Strategic investment in excellent researchers, in their training, mobility and career prospects,</p>

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	<p>within and outside academia, is essential to <del>sustain</del> <b><u>foster scientific breakthroughs, which lead to</u></b> innovation, economic resilience and societal well-being. In line with the principles of the European Charter for researchers, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) are instrumental in advancing this objective. The Programme should reinforce links between <b><u>research performing organisations</u></b>, and universities, and innovation ecosystems, including the private sector, <b><u>and underrepresented regions and countries, while promoting interdisciplinarity and the integration of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) across all clusters to ensure a comprehensive approach to societal challenges</u></b>. It should <b><u>contribute to</u></b> enable the completion of the European Research Area, <del>including</del> <b><u>and</u></b> via <b><u>the development of synergies with the European Education Area, including through the European Universities Alliances and Erasmus+</u></b>. <b><u>This should support the</u></b> development of European higher education sector capacity to compete with global counterparts through collaboration, nurturing and attracting talent and leveraging more private investments, <del>including through higher education initiatives like European Universities Alliances, in synergy with Erasmus+, and in line with the objectives and activities of this Regulation.</del></p> <p>SK  <b>(Comments):</b>                      We would like to highlight the specific role of SSH and interdisciplinarity across all clusters.</p>
<p><i>Article 14</i>  <i>Joint Research Centre</i></p>	<p>ES  <b>(Comments):</b>                      There has been no real justification to have JRC under Pillar I.</p>
<p>1. The Joint Research Centre shall provide independent, evidence-based knowledge and science, supporting EU policies <b><u>and, where relevant,</u></b></p>	<p>AT</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
<p><b>Member States</b> to positively impact society. This shall be undertaken through JRC direct actions and through participation of the JRC in indirect actions. Chapter II of Title II shall not apply to direct actions. [By way of derogation from Article 21(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, the revenues or amounts resulting from the JRC’s research activities (e.g. patents, licenses etc) shall be reusable by the JRC.]</p>	<p>(Comments):                      AT <b>welcomes</b> this amendment.                      BE                      (Comments):                      Question: clarification is needed about the concrete implications and implementations of this addition. EC funding should be used for schemes that serve overarching European purposes.                      EE                      (Comments):                      We welcome the reference to the Member States.                      LT                      (Comments):                      We thank the PRES for taking into account our suggestion.</p>
<p><b>Recital</b></p>	
<p>(17) The Joint Research Centre (‘JRC’) should continue to provide independent scientific evidence and technical support for Union policies throughout the whole policy cycle. The direct actions of the JRC should be implemented in a flexible, efficient, and transparent manner, taking into account the needs of Union policies and the relevant needs of the <b>Member States and other</b> users of the JRC and ensuring the protection of the Union’s financial interests. [The JRC should continue to generate additional resources, which it may use to support its scientific and technical activities.]</p>	<p>AT                      (Comments):                      AT <b>welcomes</b> this amendment.                      BE                      (Comments):                      Question: clarification is needed about the concrete implications and implementations of this addition. EC funding should be used for schemes that serve overarching European purposes.</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p>Remark: it might be of interest to add a mention like “such revenues shall be used exclusively to reinforce scientific capacity and open access to JRC outputs, in line with EU financial regulations and avoiding distortions with national research funding”. While flexibility is welcome, revenue reuse without boundaries might create de facto self-funding cycles outside Council/EP control. The addition ensures transparency and equal treatment with MS research entities, and compliance with the EU financial regulation.</p> <p>SK  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>(17) The Joint Research Centre (‘JRC’) should continue to provide independent scientific evidence and technical support for Union policies throughout the whole policy cycle. The direct actions of the JRC should be implemented in a flexible, efficient, and transparent manner, taking into account the needs of Union policies and the relevant needs of the <b>Member States and other</b> users of the JRC and ensuring the protection of the Union’s financial interests <b>and open strategic autonomy</b>. [The JRC should continue to generate additional resources, which it may use to support its scientific and technical activities.]</p>
<p><b><u>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</u></b></p>	
<p><b>Chapter II</b></p>	

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
<b>Excellent Science</b>	
<i>Article 6</i> <b>European Research Council</b>	
<p>1. The Commission shall establish a European Research Council (the ‘ERC’) to implement the actions under Part I ‘Excellent Science’ of Regulation XXX [<i>reference to the Horizon Europe Regulation</i>] which relate to the ERC. The ERC shall succeed the European Research Council set up by Council Decision (EU) 2021/764.</p>	
<p>2. The ERC shall be composed of the independent ERC Scientific Council provided for in Article 7 and the ERC dedicated implementation structure provided for in Article 8.</p>	
<p>3. The ERC Scientific Council shall have a President (‘ERC President’) who shall be chosen from among senior and internationally respected scientists.</p>	<p>HU                      (Drafting suggestions):                      3. The ERC Scientific Council shall have a President (‘ERC President’) who shall be chosen from among senior and internationally respected scientists, <b><u>taking into account geographical diversity.</u></b></p> <p>HU                      (Comments):                      HU supports SK’s proposal.</p> <p>MT                      (Drafting suggestions):</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p>3. The ERC Scientific Council shall have a President ('ERC President') who shall be chosen from among senior and internationally respected scientists, <b><u>taking into account gender balance and geographical diversity.</u></b></p> <p>MT  <b>(Comments):</b>                      Malta calls for geographically and gender balanced representation in the ERC Scientific Council.</p> <p>SK  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                      The ERC Scientific Council shall have a President ('ERC President') who shall be chosen from among senior and internationally respected scientists <b><u>taking into account gender balance and geographical diversity.</u></b></p> <p>SK  <b>(Comments):</b>                      Addition supports inclusiveness and addresses the need for balanced representation, especially from less-represented regions.</p>
<p>4. The ERC President shall be appointed by the Commission following a transparent recruitment process involving an independent dedicated search committee. The recruitment process and the candidate selected shall have the approval of the ERC Scientific Council. The term of office of the ERC President shall be limited to <del>two</del> <b>four</b> years, <del>extendable</del> <b>renewable</b> once for <del>up to two</del> years.</p>	<p>AT  <b>(Comments):</b>                      AT <b>strongly supports this amendment</b> and wants to maintain the text as it stands now.</p> <p>BE  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                      The ERC President shall be appointed by the Commission following a transparent recruitment process involving an independent dedicated search committee. The recruitment process and the candidate selected shall have the approval of the ERC Scientific Council. The term of office of the ERC</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p>President shall be limited to <del>two</del> <b>four</b> years, <del>extendable</del> <b>renewable</b> once <b>for up to four years</b>.</p> <p>BE                      (Comments):                      Welcome modification to 4+4.</p> <p>The wording “renewable once” may lack precision however. It would be preferable to specify the duration of the second mandate explicitly.</p> <p>EE                      (Comments):                      Keeping the ERC Presidents mandate to four years (renewable once) is important to us. We are against shortening the ERC Presidents term.</p> <p>ES                      (Drafting suggestions):                      4. The ERC President shall be appointed by the Commission following a transparent recruitment process involving an independent dedicated search committee. The recruitment process and the candidate selected shall have the approval of the ERC Scientific Council. The term of office of the ERC President shall be limited to <del>two</del> <b>four</b> years, <del>extendable</del> <b>renewable</b> once <b>for up to <del>two</del> four years</b>.</p> <p>ES                      (Comments):                      Fully support on a 4+ max4 basis renewable once. Already given arguments against 2+2. The MFP argument given by the EC for limiting to 2+2 is not very understandable, as otherwise many other positions should be subject to the MFP. Moreover, such degree of rotation could go against stability and, thus, simplification.</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p>In any case being 4+ max4, gives the chance on the year four, not to renew the position, therefore within the MFP.</p> <p>“4 years renewable once” has given some misunderstanding in similar procedures. For example renovations where it was first renewed for 2 years and then extended to 2 additional years and the legality of procedure was put under questioning (rightly so).</p> <p>IE                      (Comments):                      Ireland strongly supports retaining the ERC Presidency term at 4+4 years.</p> <p>LT                      (Comments):                      We support this change.</p> <p>NL                      (Drafting suggestions):                      4. The ERC President shall be appointed by the Commission following a transparent recruitment process involving an independent dedicated search committee. The recruitment process and the candidate selected shall have the approval of the ERC Scientific Council. The term of office of the ERC President shall be limited to <del>two</del> <b>four</b> years, <del>extendable</del> <b>renewable</b> once <b>for up to four years.</b> <del>for up to two years.</del></p> <p>NL                      (Comments):                      In the current text it is unclear for how many years the renewable period is. NL deems it important that the ERC is able to operate in an independent manner. To achieve this independence, continuity and stability is crucial and therefore NL prefers terms of four years for the ERC President.</p> <p>SE</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p>(Comments):                      SE welcomes this amendment which promotes stability.</p>
<p>5. The ERC President shall chair the ERC Scientific Council and ensure the leadership of the ERC Scientific Council and its liaison with the ERC dedicated implementation structure and shall represent the ERC Scientific Council in the world of science.</p>	
<p><b><u>5a. The ERC President shall devote in principle at least 80% of their working time to ERC business. The ERC President shall be provided by the ERC dedicated implementation structure with the necessary support to carry out their functions.</u></b></p>	<p>AT                      (Comments):                      AT <b>supports</b> this additional paragraph, which provides <b>transparency on basic principles</b> of the contract for the ERC President.</p> <p>BE                      (Comments):                      Welcome addition. Note however that compared to FP9, there is no reference to the fact that the President shall reside in Brussels.</p> <p>DE                      (Comments):                      DE: support for the new paragraph]</p> <p>EE                      (Comments):                      We are not convinced that it is necessary to refer to ERC President’s working time here. Perhaps would be better to express these technical details to the contract.</p> <p>ES                      (Drafting suggestions):</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p><b>5a. <u>The ERC President shall devote in principle at least 80% of their working time to ERC business. The ERC President shall be provided by the ERC dedicated implementation structure with the necessary support to carry out their functions. The ERC President shall be remunerated at a level commensurate with the Commission's top management and shall be provided by the ERC dedicated implementation structure with the necessary support to carry out his or her functions.</u></b></p> <p>ES  <b>(Comments):</b>                      This piece of information is already in the current Horizon Europe Specific Programme (EU regulation 2021-764, annex I). It is very important to ensure whether in this Regulation, whether in the Specific Programme, these details to ensure and preserve independence, prestige and status of the ERC</p> <p>IT  <b>(Comments):</b>                      The introduction of paragraph 5a is very welcome. The required commitment (80%) ensures that the ERC Presidency is an executive and not merely honorary role, which is essential to the leadership and management of such a complex institution.</p>
<p>6. <del>The President shall be assisted by three Vice Presidents chosen by the Scientific Council from among its members.</del></p>	
<p>7. The ERC shall operate according to its core principles which are scientific excellence, open science, autonomy, efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, accountability and research integrity, <del>while respecting the corporate policies of the European Commission.</del> It shall ensure continuity with ERC actions conducted under Council Decision (EU) 2021/764.</p>	<p>AT  <b>(Comments):</b>                      AT welcomes the deletion of the reference to corporate policies and <b>supports the text</b> as it stands now. <b>IF</b> needed, a compromise proposal could be to add the following sentence: <b><i>“The European Commission will monitor</i></b></p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p><i>that overarching corporate policies, e.g. sanction regimes, are respected during the implementation of the programme.”</i></p> <p>BE                      (Comments):                      Support for deleting ‘while respecting the corporate policies of the European Commission’.</p> <p>ES                      (Comments):                      Fully support the new redaction. In the proposed article 8.2 of this regulation, there are already measures to ensure that ERC will follow the EC corporate policies. It does not make any sense and it is not required in indirect managed initiatives for example.</p> <p>HU                      (Drafting suggestions):                      7. The ERC shall operate according to its core principles which are scientific excellence, open science, autonomy, efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, accountability and research integrity, <b><u>inclusiveness, and the broad geographical representation of researchers,</u></b> <del>while respecting the corporate policies of the European Commission.</del> It shall ensure continuity with ERC actions conducted under Council Decision (EU) 2021/764.</p> <p>HU                      (Comments):                      HU supports SK’s proposal.</p> <p>IE                      (Comments):                      Ireland welcomes and supports the amendment.</p> <p>LT</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p><b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>7. The ERC shall operate according to its core principles which are scientific excellence, open science, autonomy, efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, accountability, <b>inclusiveness</b> and research integrity, <del>while respecting the corporate policies of the European Commission.</del> It shall ensure continuity with ERC actions conducted under Council Decision (EU) 2021/764.</p> <p>LT</p> <p><b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>Inclusiveness should be a horizontal principle in FP10. This would ensure enabling inclusive/nonbiased approach.</p> <p>MT</p> <p><b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>7. The ERC shall operate according to its core principles which are scientific excellence, open science, autonomy, efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, accountability and research integrity, <b><u>inclusiveness, and the broad geographical representation of researchers</u></b> <del>while respecting the corporate policies of the European Commission.</del> It shall ensure continuity with ERC actions conducted under Council Decision (EU) 2021/764.</p> <p>MT</p> <p><b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>Malta argues that inclusiveness and broad geographical representation of researchers should be added to the text as core principles of the European Research Council.</p> <p>SK</p> <p><b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>7. The ERC shall operate according to its core principles which are scientific excellence, open science, autonomy, efficiency, effectiveness,</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p>transparency, accountability and research integrity, <b><u>inclusiveness, and the broad geographical representation of researchers</u></b>, while respecting the corporate policies of the European Commission. It shall ensure continuity with ERC actions conducted under Council Decision (EU) 2021/764.</p> <p>SK  <b>(Comments):</b>                      Strengthens the policy alignment with Horizon Europe legislative proposal goals for inclusiveness and equality.</p>
<p>8. Through its activities, the ERC shall support, in a bottom-up manner, frontier research carried out across all fields by principal investigators and their teams in competition at European level, including early-stage-career researchers.</p>	<p>HU  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                      8. Through its activities, the ERC shall support, in a bottom-up manner, frontier research carried out across all fields by principal investigators and their teams in competition at European level, including early-stage-career researchers <b><u>and researchers from underrepresented regions</u></b>.</p> <p>HU  <b>(Comments):</b>                      HU supports SK’s proposal.</p> <p>SK  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                      8. Through its activities, the ERC shall support, in a bottom-up manner, frontier research carried out across all fields by principal investigators and their teams in competition at European level, including early-stage-career researchers <b><u>and researchers from underrepresented regions</u></b>.</p> <p>SK  <b>(Comments):</b>                      Encourages systemic support for underrepresented regions and institutions.</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
<p>9. The Commission shall act as the guarantor of the autonomy and integrity of the ERC and shall ensure the proper execution of the tasks entrusted to it.</p>	
<p>10. The Commission shall ensure that the implementation of ERC actions is in accordance with the principles set out in paragraph 7 of this Article as well as with the overall strategy for the ERC, referred to in Article 7(4)(a), established by the ERC Scientific Council.</p>	
<p><i>Article 7</i> <b>ERC Scientific Council</b></p>	
<p>1. The ERC Scientific Council shall be composed of <u>up to 22</u> independent scientists, engineers and scholars of the highest repute and with the appropriate expertise, including both women and men in different age groups, and ensuring a diversity of research areas and a variety of geographical origins. They shall act in their personal capacity, independent of extraneous interests. The members of the ERC Scientific Council shall be appointed by the Commission, following an independent and transparent procedure for their identification agreed with the ERC Scientific Council, including an open consultation of the scientific community and a report to the European Parliament and the Council.</p>	<p>BE  <b>(Comments):</b>                      Question: why is there no clearly specified amount or minimum?</p> <p>HU  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                      1. The ERC Scientific Council shall be composed of 22 independent scientists, engineers and scholars of the highest repute and with the appropriate expertise, including both women and men in different age groups, and ensuring a diversity of research areas, <b><u>balanced representation of geographical origins and underrepresented regions.</u></b> <del>and a variety of geographical origins.</del> They shall act in their personal capacity, independent of extraneous interests. The members of the ERC Scientific Council shall be appointed by the Commission, following an independent and transparent procedure for their identification agreed with the ERC Scientific Council <b><u>and consulted with the Committee configuration, referred to in Art.</u></b></p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p><b>18(2)(ii)</b>, including an open consultation of the scientific community and a report to the European Parliament and the Council.</p> <p>HU  <b>(Comments):</b>                      HU supports SK’s proposal.</p> <p>SK  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>1. The ERC Scientific Council shall be composed of <b>up to 227</b> independent scientists, engineers and scholars of the highest repute and with the appropriate expertise, including both women and men in different age groups, and ensuring a diversity of research areas and <del>a variety of geographical origins</del> <b>balanced representation of geographical origins and underrepresented regions</b>. They shall act in their personal capacity, independent of extraneous interests. The members of the ERC Scientific Council shall be appointed by the Commission, following an independent and transparent procedure for their identification agreed with the ERC Scientific Council <b>and consulted with the Committee configuration, referred to in Art. 18(2)(ii)</b>, including an open consultation of the scientific community and a report to the European Parliament and the Council.</p> <p>SK  <b>(Comments):</b>                      A more actionable framing that aligns with inclusiveness and Horizon Europe legislative proposal goals.</p> <p>ERC Scientific Council members identification process should also be reviewed (under advisory comitology procedure) by the ERC configuration of the Programme Committee to ensure possibility of MS input.</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
<p>2. The term of office for members of the ERC Scientific Council shall be <del>up</del> <b>limited</b> to four years, <del>extendable</del> <b>renewable</b> once <del>by up to two years</del>, based on a rotating system which shall ensure the continuity of the work of the ERC Scientific Council.</p>	<p>AT  <b>(Comments):</b>                  AT <b>welcomes</b> this amendment.</p> <p>BE  <b>(Comments):</b>                  While a longer term is suitable for the President for the sake of stability, we prefer maintaining the previous limited duration for the Members, as this allows experts to bring the necessary fresh perspectives in a fast-evolving scientific context</p> <p>EE  <b>(Comments):</b>                  We welcome this change</p> <p>ES  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                  2. The term of office for members of the ERC Scientific Council shall be <del>up</del> <b>limited</b> to four years, <del>extendable</del> <b>renewable</b> once <b>for up to four years</b> <del>by up to two years</del>, based on a rotating system which shall ensure the continuity of the work of the ERC Scientific Council.</p> <p>ES  <b>(Comments):</b>                  Fully support aligned with the President mandate</p> <p>NL  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                  The term of office for members of the ERC Scientific Council shall be <del>up</del> <b>limited</b> to four years, <del>extendable</del> <b>renewable</b> once <b>for up to four years</b> <del>by up to two years</del>, based on a rotating system which shall ensure the continuity of the work of the ERC Scientific Council.</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p>NL                      (Comments):                      In the current text it is unclear for how many years the renewable period is. NL deems it important that the ERC is able to operate in an independent manner. To achieve this independence, continuity and stability is crucial and therefore NL prefers terms of four years for the ERC Scientific Council.</p>
<p>3. The ERC Scientific Council shall elect from amongst its members <b>three</b> Vice-Presidents who shall assist the ERC President in its representation and the organisation of its work. <del>They shall hold the title of ERC Vice-President. The members of the ERC Scientific Council shall be compensated for the tasks they perform by means of an honorarium and, where appropriate, reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses.</del></p>	<p>BE                      (Drafting suggestions):                      3. The ERC Scientific Council shall elect from amongst its members <b>three, representing the three ERC domains</b> Vice-Presidents who shall assist the ERC President in its representation and the organisation of its work. <del>They shall hold the title of ERC Vice-President. The members of the ERC Scientific Council shall be compensated for the tasks they perform by means of an honorarium and, where appropriate, reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses.</del></p> <p>ES                      (Drafting suggestions):                      3. The ERC Scientific Council shall elect from amongst its members <b>three</b> Vice-Presidents who shall assist the ERC President in its representation and the organisation of its work.</p> <p>ES                      (Comments):                      This article takes important elements from the current Annex I.1.3.1 of the Horizon Europe Specific Programme (EU regulation 2021-764). The proposals that we suggest including are also already in the current text. What is the rationale to be so selective and be reluctant for those ones?</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	It is important to keep the fixed number, according to the main three areas of the ERC. This was already included in the current Horizon Europe Specific Programme (EU regulation 2021-764, annex I.1.3.1)
<p><b><u>3a. The members of the ERC Scientific Council shall be compensated for the tasks they perform by means of an honorarium and, where appropriate, reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses.</u></b></p>	<p>ES  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p><b><u>3a. The members of the ERC Scientific Council shall be compensated for the tasks they perform by means of an honorarium and, where appropriate, reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses</u></b>  <b>3abis. Support will be provided to the three Vice-Chairs to ensure adequate local administrative assistance at their home institutes.</b></p> <p>ES  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p><b>Consider come back to the current redaction of the Specific Programme Regulation (EU regulation 2021-764, annex I.1.3.1):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The members of the ERC Scientific Council shall be compensated for the tasks they perform by means of an honorarium and, where appropriate, reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses.</li> <li>• The ERC President shall reside in Brussels for the duration of the appointment and devote in principle at least 80 % of his or her working time to ERC business. The ERC President shall be remunerated at a level commensurate with the Commission's top management and shall be provided by the ERC dedicated implementation structure with the necessary support to carry out his or her functions.</li> <li>• The ERC Scientific Council shall elect from amongst its members three Vice-Chairs who shall assist the ERC President in its representation and the organisation of its work. They may also hold the title of ERC Vice-President.</li> </ul>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support will be provided to the three Vice-Chairs to ensure adequate local administrative assistance at their home institutes.</li> </ul>
<p>4. The ERC Scientific Council shall exercise its tasks solely and exclusively within the scope and for the purposes of the Specific Programme. In that context, it shall establish:</p>	<p>AT  <b>(Comments):</b>                      AT would like to point to the fact that the paragraph refers to the “<b>establishment</b>”, not the “<b>adoption</b>” of the strategy, work programme, positions etc.</p>
<p>(a) the overall strategy for the ERC;</p>	
<p>(b) the <del>draft</del> work programme for the implementation of the ERC activities;</p>	<p>AT  <b>(Comments):</b>                      AT <b>supports this deletion</b> and wants to <b>maintain the text as it stands. If needed</b>, reference could be added to the fact that the European Commission <b>adopts</b> the work programme, based on what has been <b>established</b> by the ERC Scientific Council.</p> <p>BE  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                      the <b>draft</b> work programme for the implementation of the ERC activities;</p> <p>BE  <b>(Comments):</b>                      In light of comitology rules (PC deciding on the work programme), the reference to draft should be kept.</p> <p>DE</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p>(Comments):                      DE: we welcome the deletion of the word “draft”                      IE                      (Comments):                      We welcome this amendment.</p>
(c) the methods and procedures for peer review and proposal evaluation on the basis of which the proposals to be funded are determined;	
(d) its position on any matter which from a scientific perspective may enhance the achievements and impact of the ERC and the quality of the research carried out;	
(e) a code of conduct covering, among other matters, the avoidance of conflicts of interest;	<p>HU                      (Drafting suggestions):                      (e) a code of conduct covering, among other matters, the avoidance of conflicts of interest, <b><u>and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusiveness in the peer review and selection process;</u></b></p> <p>HU                      (Comments):                      HU supports SK’s proposal.</p> <p>SK                      (Drafting suggestions):                      (e) a code of conduct covering, among other matters, the avoidance of conflicts of interest, <b><u>and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusiveness in the peer review and selection process;</u></b></p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	SK (Comments): Proposal broadens the code of conduct beyond conflict of interest to reinforce inclusiveness in ERC governance.
(f) the procedure for the election of the ERC Vice-Presidents.	
The Commission shall depart from the positions established by the ERC Scientific Council in accordance with the first subparagraph only if it considers that this Decision has not been respected. In that case, the Commission shall adopt measures to maintain continuity in the implementation of the Specific Programme and the achievements of its objectives, setting out and duly motivating the points of departure from the ERC Scientific Council positions.	
5. The ERC Scientific Council shall inform the Commission on research trends, data and any matter relevant for policy making and may perform analysis in this respect, <b><u>which the Commission shall convey, where relevant, to the Member States.</u></b>	AT (Comments): AT welcomes this amendment. BE (Drafting suggestions): 5. The ERC Scientific Council shall inform the Commission on research trends, data and any matter relevant for policy making and may perform analysis in this respect, <b><u>which the Commission shall convey, where relevant, to the Member States. Such exchanges shall not entail policy alignment obligations or prior-approval requirements from the Commission nor the member states.</u></b> BE

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p>(Comments):</p> <p>This would clarify that the flow of information remains advisory between all parties, not hierarchical. It would also support preventing any back-door influence of policy priorities on specific type of research selection.</p> <p>EE</p> <p>(Comments):</p> <p>We thank the Presidency for adding this reference</p> <p>HU</p> <p>(Comments):</p> <p>HU supports SK’s proposal.</p> <p>IT</p> <p>(Comments):</p> <p>We support the addition “to the Member States”, which ensures that the valuable trend analyses and data collected by the ERC do not remain confined to the Commission, but are shared with Member States to inform national R&amp;I policies.</p> <p>PT</p> <p>(Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>5. The ERC Scientific Council shall inform the Commission on research trends, data and any matter relevant for policy making and may perform analysis in this respect, <b><u>which the Commission shall convey, where relevant, to the Member States.</u></b></p> <p>PT</p> <p>(Comments):</p> <p>If there is a Programme Committee, as corroborated by the text of Article 8, point (ea), see below, then the PC is not established with the sole purpose of being informed “where relevant” by the Implementing Structure on the</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	progress of activities. Whilst respecting the independence of the ERC, the role of the PC and Member States in following and steering the implementation of the ERC activities is a valuable one and should not be discarded.
6. The ERC Scientific Council and the Commission shall meet at least twice a year to have a broad and timely exchange of views in the context of the development <b>and implementation</b> of the ERC’s strategy and the Commission's policy making.	FR (Drafting suggestions): 6. The ERC Scientific Council and the Commission shall meet at least twice a year to have a broad and timely exchange of views in <u>any relevant matter</u> <del>the context of the development and implementation of the ERC’s strategy and the Commission's policy making.</del> FR (Comments): The development of the ERC strategy is the exclusive prerogative of the Scientific Council. Since this exchange of views can tackle a wide range of issues, we believe it is more relevant to avoid being too prescriptive.
7. The ERC Scientific Council is the guarantor of the quality of the activity from the scientific perspective and has full authority over decisions on the type of research to be funded.	
8. The ERC Scientific Council shall act exclusively in the interest of the ERC, according to the principles set out in Article 6(7). It shall act with integrity and probity and carry out its work efficiently and with the greatest possible transparency.	

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
<p>9. In the context of the implementation of the Specific Programme, and in order to carry out these tasks, the ERC Scientific Council shall do the following:</p>	<p>ES  <b>(Comments):</b>                      This article is similar to the current Annex I.1.3.1 of the Horizon Europe Specific Programme (EU regulation 2021-764</p>
<p>(a) as regards scientific strategy:</p>	
<p>i. establish the overall scientific strategy for the ERC, in the light of scientific opportunities and European scientific needs;</p>	
<p>ii. establish the work programme and develop the ERC's mix of support measures in accordance with its scientific strategy;</p>	<p>HU  <b>(Comments):</b>                      We would support the launch of new support measures in the ERC ecosystem that would strengthen underrepresented Member States, as proposed by SK.                      SK  <b>(Comments):</b>                      We support the launch of new support measures in the ERC ecosystem that will strengthen underrepresented Member States.</p>
<p>iii. establish the necessary <del>international cooperation</del> initiatives including outreach activities, to increase the visibility of the ERC for the best researchers <del>from the rest of the world</del>, in accordance with its scientific strategy;</p>	<p>DE  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                      iii. establish the necessary <b>international cooperation</b> initiatives including outreach activities, to increase the visibility of the ERC for the best researchers <b>from the rest of the world</b>, in accordance with its scientific strategy;                      DE</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p><b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>DE: We are in favour of further emphasising this international aspect and therefore for coming back to the preceding version.]</p> <p>EE</p> <p><b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>We support Member States that wish to see specific ERC soft measures for (current) Widening countries in order to increase the visibility of the ERC.</p> <p>ES</p> <p><b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>iii. establish the <b>necessary European and international cooperation</b> initiatives including outreach activities, to increase the visibility of the ERC for the best researchers <b>within the Union and from the rest of the world</b>, in accordance with its scientific strategy;</p> <p>SK</p> <p><b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>iii. establish the necessary <b>international cooperation</b> initiatives including outreach activities <b>and targeted measures at excellent researchers in Widening Countries and Associated Countries</b>, to increase the visibility of the ERC for the best researchers from <b>Europe and the rest of the world</b>, in accordance with its scientific strategy;</p> <p>SK</p> <p><b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>We believe additional soft measures and promotional activities toward Widening MS are needed (e.g. the ERC Mentoring Initiative), given not only low successful rates, but also low application numbers. This indicates availability of issues that act like barriers before applying. Some soft measures and activities, e.g. informational and promotional activities, drafting workshops, seminars on showcasing projects and their results, etc</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	Proposals also aim to help promote a more balanced participation across the whole EU and Associated Countries.
(b) as regards scientific management, monitoring and quality control:	
<p>i. ensure a world-class peer review system based on scientific excellence and on fully transparent, fair and impartial treatment of proposals by establishing positions on the implementation and management of calls for proposals, evaluation criteria, peer review processes including the selection of experts, the methods for peer review and proposal evaluation and the necessary implementing rules and guidelines, on the basis of which the proposals to be funded will be determined under the supervision of the ERC Scientific Council;</p>	<p>HU  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                      i. ensure a world-class peer review system based on scientific excellence and on fully transparent, fair, <b>unbiased</b> and impartial treatment of proposals by establishing positions on the implementation and management of calls for proposals, evaluation criteria, peer review processes including the selection of experts, the methods for peer review and proposal evaluation and the necessary implementing rules and guidelines, on the basis of which the proposals to be funded will be determined under the supervision of the ERC Scientific Council;</p> <p>HU  <b>(Comments):</b>                      We agree with SK that ERC should ensure no perception of any bias in order to retain its global reputation and thus attract a wider pool of excellent researchers.</p> <p>LT  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                      i. ensure a world-class peer review system based on scientific excellence and on fully transparent, fair, <b>unbiased</b> and impartial treatment of proposals by establishing positions on the implementation and management of calls for proposals, evaluation criteria, peer review processes including the selection of experts, the methods for peer review and proposal evaluation and</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p>the necessary implementing rules and guidelines, on the basis of which the proposals to be funded will be determined under the supervision of the ERC Scientific Council;</p> <p>LT                      (Comments):                      We believe it is important to highlight this aspect. This is important message for all the applicants.</p> <p>SK                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>i. ensure a world-class peer review system based on scientific excellence and on fully transparent, fair <u>unbiased</u> and impartial treatment of proposals by establishing positions on the implementation and management of calls for proposals, evaluation criteria, peer review processes including the selection of experts, the methods for peer review and proposal evaluation and the necessary implementing rules and guidelines, on the basis of which the proposals to be funded will be determined under the supervision of the ERC Scientific Council;</p> <p>SK                      (Comments):                      ERC should ensure no perception of any bias in order to retain its global reputation and thus attract a wider pool of excellent researchers.</p>
<p>ii. make a proposal based on which experts shall be appointed in the case of ERC frontier research actions;</p>	
<p>iii. ensure that ERC grants are implemented according to simple and transparent procedures that maintain the focus on excellence, encourage</p>	<p>HU                      (Drafting suggestions):</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
<p>initiative and combine flexibility with accountability by continuously monitoring the quality of the operations and implementation;</p>	<p>iii. ensure that ERC grants are implemented according to simple and transparent procedures, <b><u>actively remove structural barriers to participation by researchers from Widening Countries and low-capacity institutions</u></b> that maintain the focus on excellence, encourage initiative and combine flexibility with accountability by continuously monitoring the quality of the operations and implementation;</p> <p>HU  <b>(Comments):</b>                      HU supports SK’s proposal.</p> <p>SK  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>iii. ensure that ERC grants are implemented according to simple and transparent procedures <b><u>actively remove structural barriers to participation by researchers from Widening Countries and low-capacity institutions</u></b> that maintain the focus on excellence, encourage initiative and combine flexibility with accountability by continuously monitoring the quality of the operations and implementation;</p> <p>SK  <b>(Comments):</b>                      Our proposal focuses on addressing systemic access barriers that prevent equal competition.</p>
<p>iv. review and assess the ERC's achievements and the quality and impact of the research funded by the ERC and make recommendations and guidelines for corrective or future actions accordingly;</p>	

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
v. establish positions on any other matter affecting the achievements and impact of the ERC's activities and the quality of the research carried out under this part of Horizon Europe.	
(c) as regards communication and dissemination:	
i. raise the global profile and visibility of the ERC by conducting communication and outreach activities, including scientific conferences, to promote the ERC's activities and achievements and the results of the projects funded by the ERC with the scientific community, key stakeholders and the general public;	
ii. where appropriate, consult with the scientific, engineering and academic community, regional and national research funding agencies and other stakeholders;	SK (Drafting suggestions): ii. where appropriate, consult with the scientific, engineering and academic community, regional and national research funding agencies and other stakeholders <b><u>including research councils and agencies from less research-intensive Member States;</u></b> SK (Comments): Our aim is to ensure that stakeholder consultations are geographically balanced.
iii. regularly report to the Commission on its own activities.	

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
<p><i>Article 8</i>  <b><i>ERC dedicated implementation structure</i></b></p>	
<p>1. The ERC dedicated implementation structure shall be responsible for the administrative implementation and execution of this component of the Specific Programme. It shall, in particular, implement the evaluation procedures, peer review and selection process in accordance with the strategy established by the ERC Scientific Council and shall ensure the financial and scientific management of the grants.</p>	<p>ES  <b>(Comments):</b>                      This article is quite similar to the Annex I.1.3.2 of the current Horizon Europe Specific Programme (EU regulation 2021-764</p>
<p>The ERC dedicated implementation structure shall support the ERC Scientific Council in the conduct of all of its tasks as set out in Article 7 including the development of its scientific strategy, its monitoring of the operations and its review and assessment of the ERC's achievements as well as its outreach and communications activities. The ERC dedicated implementation structure shall also provide access to the necessary documents and data in its possession and keep the ERC Scientific Council informed of its activities.</p>	<p>HU  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                      The ERC dedicated implementation structure shall support the ERC Scientific Council in the conduct of all of its tasks as set out in Article 7 including the development of its scientific strategy, its monitoring of the operations and its review and assessment of the ERC's achievements as well as its outreach and communications activities- <b><u>including tailored measures and outreach to less-represented research communities and institutions in Widening Countries.</u></b> The ERC dedicated implementation structure shall also provide access to the necessary documents and data in its possession and keep the ERC Scientific Council informed of its activities.</p> <p>HU  <b>(Comments):</b>                      HU supports SK’s proposal.</p> <p>SK  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                      The ERC dedicated implementation structure shall support the ERC Scientific Council in the conduct of all of its tasks as set out in Article 7</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	including the development of its scientific strategy, its monitoring of the operations and its review and assessment of the ERC's achievements as well as its outreach and communications activities <b><u>including tailored measures and outreach to less-represented research communities and institutions in Widening Countries</u></b> . The ERC dedicated implementation structure shall also provide access to the necessary documents and data in its possession and keep the ERC Scientific Council informed of its activities.  SK (Comments): Our aim is to support targeted engagement to improve application rates and success also from Widening Countries.
To ensure an effective liaison with the ERC dedicated implementation structure on strategy and operational matters, the leadership of the ERC Scientific Council and the Director of the ERC dedicated implementation structure shall hold regular coordination meetings.	
2. The Commission shall ensure that the ERC dedicated implementation structure follows strictly, efficiently and with the necessary flexibility the objectives and requirements of the ERC alone. To fulfil its responsibilities as set out in Articles 6 and 7 and in this Article, in the context of its own responsibilities for budget execution, the Commission shall:	ES (Comments): This article is quite similar to the current Annex I.1.3.3 of the Horizon Europe Specific Programme (EU regulation 2021-764)
(a) ensure the continuity and renewal of the ERC Scientific Council and provide support for a standing Identification Committee for the identification of future ERC Scientific Council members;	

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(b) ensure the continuity of the ERC dedicated implementation structure and the delegation of tasks and responsibilities to it, taking <del>into</del> <b>due</b> account <b>of</b> the views of the ERC Scientific Council;	
(c) ensure that the ERC dedicated implementation structure carries out the full range of its tasks and responsibilities;	
(d) appoint the Director and the members of the management of the ERC dedicated implementation structure, taking into account the views of the ERC Scientific Council;	
(e) ensure the timely adoption of the ERC work programme, the positions regarding implementing methodology and the necessary implementing rules including the ERC rules of submission and the ERC model grant agreement, taking into account the views of the ERC Scientific Council <del>and the Commission's corporate policies implemented through the Specific Programme;</del>	BE (Drafting suggestions): (e) ensure the timely adoption of the ERC work programme, the positions regarding implementing methodology and the necessary implementing rules including the ERC rules of submission and the ERC model grant agreement, taking into account the views of the ERC Scientific Council <b><u>and the Commission's corporate policies implemented through the Specific Programme;</u></b> ES (Comments): Previously referred HU (Drafting suggestions): (e) ensure the timely adoption of the ERC work programme, the positions regarding implementing methodology and the necessary implementing rules including the ERC rules of submission and the ERC

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p>model grant agreement, taking into account the views of the ERC Scientific Council <b><u>and in line with the objective of strengthening excellence and inclusiveness throughout the European Research Area</u></b> and the Commission’s corporate policies implemented through the Specific Programme;</p> <p>HU                      (Comments):                      HU supports SK’s proposal.</p> <p>IE                      (Comments):                      We welcome and support this amendment.</p> <p>SK                      (Drafting suggestions):                      (e) ensure the timely adoption of the ERC work programme, the positions regarding implementing methodology and the necessary implementing rules including the ERC rules of submission and the ERC model grant agreement, taking into account the views of the ERC Scientific Council <b><u>and the Commission’s corporate policies and in line with the objective of strengthening excellence and inclusiveness throughout the European Research Area, implemented through the Specific Programme;</u></b></p>
<p><b><u>(ea) regularly and in a timely manner inform and consult the Programme Committee on the implementation of the ERC activities;</u></b></p>	<p>AT                      (Comments):                      AT <b>welcomes</b> this additional paragraph.</p> <p>BE                      (Comments):                      Welcome addition.</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p>DE                      (Drafting suggestions):  <u>(ea) regularly and in a timely manner inform and consult the ERC Programme Committee on the implementation of the ERC activities;</u></p> <p>DE                      (Comments):                      DE: It should be clarified that the ERC Programme Committee is responsible.</p> <p>EE                      (Comments):                      We welcome this amendment.</p> <p>ES                      (Comments):                      Fully support</p> <p>PT                      (Comments):                      This is important to be established. Comments above reflect this new point added.</p> <p>SI                      (Drafting suggestions):  <u>(ea) regularly and in a timely manner inform and consult the Programme Committee on the implementation of the ERC activities;</u></p> <p>SI                      (Comments):                      Not clear what programme committee is this?</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
(f) monitor, as responsible for the overall implementation of the Programme, the ERC dedicated implementation structure and evaluate its performance.	
<i>Article 9</i> <b>Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions</b>	
1. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) shall focus on <b>bottom-up</b> , investigator-driven research founded exclusively on scientific excellence to support researchers’ career, skills development, and mobility at all career stages.	<p>AT                      (Comments):                      AT <b>strongly supports the mentioning of the “bottom-up” character</b> and wants to maintain the text as it stands now.</p> <p>DE                      (Comments):                      DE: We welcome the inclusion of the bottom-up principle. This takes account of the open-topic, excellence-based nature of the MSCA.</p> <p>HU                      (Drafting suggestions):                      1. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) shall focus on <b>bottom-up</b>, investigator-driven research founded <b>exclusively</b> on scientific excellence. <b>The MSCA shall</b> support researchers’ career, skills development, and mobility at all career stages <b>while promoting attractiveness, inclusiveness and participation throughout the Union.</b></p> <p>HU                      (Comments):                      HU agrees with SK to add language to ensure geographic inclusiveness is considered alongside excellence.</p> <p>IT</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p>(Comments):                      We consider the explicit addition of "bottom-up" to be relevant, as it aligns the MSCA with the ERC principles, giving them a distinctive feature.</p> <p>LT</p> <p>(Drafting suggestions):                      1. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) shall focus on <b>bottom-up</b>, investigator-driven research founded exclusively on scientific excellence to support researchers’ career, skills development, and <b>balanced</b> mobility at all career stages <b>across the EU and beyond</b>.</p> <p>LT</p> <p>(Comments):                      We want to reiterate our previous suggestion.</p> <p>MT</p> <p>(Drafting suggestions):                      1. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) shall focus on <b>bottom-up</b>, investigator-driven research founded <b>exclusively</b> on scientific excellence, <b>while also promoting inclusiveness and balanced participation across the Union. The MSCA shall</b> support researchers’ career, skills development, and mobility at all career stages.</p> <p>MT</p> <p>(Comments):                      Malta highlights the need to promote MSCA’s inclusiveness and balanced participation across the Union.</p> <p>MT also supports the addition of ‘‘bottom-up’’ to the text of the paragraph. We ask for it to be retained.</p> <p>SE</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p>(Comments):                      SE welcomes this addition.                      SI</p> <p>(Drafting suggestions):                      1. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) shall focus on <b>bottom-up</b>, investigator-driven research founded exclusively on scientific excellence to support researchers’ career, skills development, and mobility <b>with particular emphasis on early career researchers, while remaining open to researchers</b> at all career stages.</p> <p>SK</p> <p>(Drafting suggestions):                      1. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) shall focus on <b>bottom-up</b>, investigator-driven research founded <del>exclusively</del> on scientific excellence. <b>The MSCA shall</b> <del>to</del> support researchers’ career, skills development, and mobility at all career stages <b>while promoting attractiveness, inclusiveness and participation throughout the Union.</b></p> <p>SK</p> <p>(Comments):                      SK supports added focus on bottom-up approach.</p> <p>Furthermore, we would like to add language to ensure geographic inclusiveness is considered alongside excellence. This aligns with the Horizon Europe principle of excellence with inclusiveness and ensures that all Member States are not unintentionally excluded due to systemic disadvantages.</p>
<p>2. The MSCA shall be open to any scientific domain under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Treaty establishing the</p>	<p>AT</p> <p>(Comments):</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
<p>European Atomic Energy Community. If specific needs arise <b><u>and additional funding becomes available</u></b>, the MSCA may target certain activities in specific thematic priorities, types of research and innovation institutions, or geographical locations to respond to the evolving requirements and needs of the Union regarding skills, research training, career development and knowledge sharing, in pursuit of the Union strategic autonomy.</p>	<p>AT <b>strongly supports the amendment</b> and wants to maintain the text as it stands now.</p> <p>In case of further amendments, AT could support adding a reference to <b>evidence-based decision-making</b> when it comes to the identification of specific needs.</p> <p>BE  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>2. The MSCA shall be open to any scientific domain under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community. If specific needs arise <b><u>and additional funding sources may becomes available</u></b>, the MSCA may <b>target</b> certain activities in specific thematic priorities, types of research and innovation institutions, or geographical locations to respond to the evolving requirements and needs of the Union regarding skills, research training, career development and knowledge sharing, in pursuit of the Union strategic autonomy, <b><u>while respecting the bottom-up nature of the MSCA and the openness of the ERA.</u></b></p> <p>BE  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>Comment: we stress the importance of preserving the bottom-up nature of the MSCA. It is therefore essential to clearly distinguish between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The standard MSCA bottom-up calls, funded through a dedicated and sufficient MSCA budget.</li> <li>- Potential thematic calls linked to the MSCA (for eg RAISE – cluster 4), which could be assigned a distinct label to differentiate them and be funded through the foreseen additional resources.</li> </ul> <p>The addition at the end of the § would help preventing the MSCA from becoming mission-driven or geopolitically oriented, on the long term.</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p>Criteria should be established to introduce this directionality, and the added value for the European Union should be clearly demonstrated.</p> <p>DE                      (Comments):</p> <p>DE: We also welcome the clarification on the possibility of carrying out targeted activities <b>only if additional funding is made available</b>.</p> <p>EE                      (Comments):</p> <p>Bottom-up principle of MSCA is important to us. However, we can agree with directionality only if the directionality comes with additional and dedicate funding.</p> <p>ES                      (Comments):</p> <p>Essential to keep the bottom up nature of the programme</p> <p>FR                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>2. The MSCA shall be open to any scientific domain under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community. <del>If specific needs arise</del> <b><u>and additional funding becomes available To respond to specific policy needs, based on strategic and clear criteria</u></b>, the MSCA may target certain activities in specific thematic priorities, types of research and innovation institutions, or geographical locations <u>outside the Union</u> to respond to the evolving requirements and needs of the Union regarding skills, research training, career development and knowledge sharing, in pursuit of the Union strategic autonomy.</p> <p>FR                      (Comments):</p>

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	<p>There must be a strategy to decide whether to introduce some directionality or not, and this should not be only triggered by the availability of additional funding. We call for the development of a strategy in this regard, based on clear and shared criteria.</p> <p>Regarding geographical locations, it should only target third countries, with the objective to attract international talents or to address specific needs (e.g. MSCA4Ukraine).</p> <p>IE  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>We welcome the clarity that any targeted activities under the MSCA will be dependent on the availability of additional funding.</p> <p>However clarity is required on a number of other issues. How would the proposed targeting of activities work in practice? Who would decide that a specific need has arisen?</p> <p>IT  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>The "and additional funding becomes available" clause must be maintained. Any thematic targeting (which should be an exception) must absolutely not erode the budget allocated to the main "bottom-up" program. This clause protects the program's integrity.</p> <p>LT  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>We thank the Presidency for taking into account this suggestion.</p> <p>MT  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p>2. The MSCA shall be open to any scientific domain under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community. <del>If specific needs arise and additional</del></p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p><del>funding becomes available, the MSCA may target certain activities in specific thematic priorities, types of research and innovation institutions, or geographical locations to respond to the evolving requirements and needs of the Union regarding skills, research training, career development and knowledge sharing, in pursuit of the Union strategic autonomy.</del></p> <p>MT                      (Comments):                      Malta reiterates that the Maria Skłodowska-Curie Actions should remain a bottom-up instrument, without specific alignment with strategic EU priorities under the European Competitiveness Fund.</p> <p>NL                      (Drafting suggestions):                      2. The MSCA shall be open to any scientific domain under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community. <del>If specific needs arise <b>and additional funding becomes available</b>, the MSCA may target certain activities in specific thematic priorities, types of research and innovation institutions, or geographical locations to respond to the evolving requirements and needs of the Union regarding skills, research training, career development and knowledge sharing, in pursuit of the Union strategic autonomy.</del></p> <p>NL                      (Comments):                      Bottom-up should remain the default for <b>MSCA</b>. There should be no criteria regarding geography, thematic priorities or focus on strategic autonomy under any circumstances in MSCA, to ensure the bottom-up character and provide flexibility for researchers in responding to societal developments and global challenges in a bottom-up manner.</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p>Furthermore, the current legislation does not specify the MSCA budget, hence ‘additional funding’ is too unclear, in comparison to this provision in the current FP9 legislation.</p> <p>PT                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>2. The MSCA shall be open to any scientific domain under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community. If specific needs arise and <del>additional funding is made becomes available</del> <b>through the MSCA other parts of the programme, or other Union programmes, they</b> may target certain activities in specific thematic priorities, types of research and innovation institutions, or geographical locations to respond to the evolving requirements and needs of the Union regarding skills, research training, career development and knowledge sharing, in pursuit of the Union strategic autonomy, <b>using the outcomes of the MSCA evaluation processes.</b></p> <p>PT                      (Comments):</p> <p>It is not the aim of MSCA to “target certain activities”. MSCA is fully bottom-up. Other parts of the programme and other programmes may use the evaluation outcomes of the MSCA instruments to fund additional projects, like it happens already with ERA Fellowships.</p> <p>SI                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>2. The MSCA shall be open to any scientific domain under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community. If specific needs arise, <b><u>demonstrated by evidence, and additional funding becomes available</u></b>, the MSCA may target certain activities in specific thematic priorities, types of research and innovation institutions, or geographical locations to respond to the evolving</p>

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	<p>requirements and needs of the Union regarding skills, research training, career development and knowledge sharing, in pursuit of the Union strategic autonomy.</p> <p>SI                      (Comments):                      Specific needs" should be evidence-based, not because of subjective claims or opportunistic requests.</p> <p>SK                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>2. The MSCA shall be open to any scientific domain under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community. If specific needs arise <b>and additional funding becomes available</b>, the MSCA may target certain activities in specific thematic priorities, types of research and innovation institutions, or geographical locations <b>- including Widening Countries -</b> to respond to the evolving requirements and needs of the Union regarding skills, research training, career development and knowledge sharing, in pursuit of the Union strategic autonomy.</p> <p>SK                      (Comments):                      Explicitly naming Widening Countries in this context ensures they are eligible for targeted support, especially when activities are geographically focused. Adding “territorial cohesion” aligns with broader EU cohesion policies and strengthens the inclusion rationale.</p>
3. The implementation of the MSCA shall:	

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
<p>(a) offer attractive conditions and opportunities for career progression, helping to address systemic issues of career instability and precarity in the research sector. The MSCA shall actively support the principles set out in the European Charter for Researchers promoting fair recruitment, transparent procedures, and merit-based advancement<sup>1</sup>;</p>	<p>FR                      (Drafting suggestions):                      (a) offer attractive conditions and opportunities for career progression, <del>helping to address systemic issues of career instability and precarity in the research sector.</del> The MSCA shall actively support the principles set out in the European Charter for Researchers promoting fair recruitment, transparent procedures, and merit-based advancement<sup>2</sup>;</p> <p>FR                      (Comments):                      As previously mentioned, MSCA cannot address career instability and precarity, but they can contribute to face these issues by offering attractive conditions. The issue of precarity – which is an important one - should be tackled by legislative measures, if relevant.</p> <p>HU                      (Drafting suggestions):                      (a) offer attractive conditions and opportunities for career progression, helping to address systemic issues of career instability, <b>attractiveness</b> and precarity in the research sector <b>throughout the Union</b>. The MSCA shall actively support the principles set out in the European Charter for Researchers promoting fair recruitment, transparent procedures, and merit-based advancement</p> <p>HU                      (Comments):                      HU supports SK’s proposal.</p>

<sup>1</sup> COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION of 18 December 2023 on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe (C/2023/1640). <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2023/1640/oj/eng>

<sup>2</sup> COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION of 18 December 2023 on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe (C/2023/1640). <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2023/1640/oj/eng>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p>LT                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>(a) offer attractive conditions and opportunities for career progression, helping to address systemic issues of career instability and precarity in the research sector <b>throughout the Union</b>. The MSCA shall actively support the principles set out in the European Charter for Researchers promoting fair recruitment, transparent procedures, and merit-based advancement<sup>3</sup>;</p> <p>LT                      (Comments):</p> <p>See the comments on this in the relevant Regulation part.</p> <p>SI                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>(a) offer attractive conditions and opportunities for career progression, <b>especially for early career researchers</b>, helping to address systemic issues of career instability and precarity in the research sector. The MSCA shall actively support the principles set out in the European Charter for Researchers promoting fair recruitment, transparent procedures, and merit-based advancement<sup>4</sup>;</p> <p>SK                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>(a) offer attractive conditions and opportunities for career progression, helping to address systemic issues of career instability, <b>attractiveness</b> and precarity in the research sector <b>throughout the Union</b>. The MSCA shall actively support the principles set out in the European Charter for Researchers</p>

<sup>3</sup> COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION of 18 December 2023 on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe (C/2023/1640). <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2023/1640/oj/eng>

<sup>4</sup> COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION of 18 December 2023 on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe (C/2023/1640). <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2023/1640/oj/eng>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	promoting fair recruitment, transparent procedures, and merit-based advancement <sup>5</sup> ;  SK (Comments):  This proposal strengthens the inclusivity by addressing structural inequalities, ensuring that talent from all Member States is given fair opportunity to compete and succeed in the MSCA.
(b) ensure strategic synergies with the European Research Council (ERC) but also with Union instruments that foster innovation, such as the European Innovation Council (EIC) and the activities to foster the integration of the knowledge triangle – higher education, research and innovation, and business – across the Union as well as other Union programmes such as Erasmus+;	FR (Drafting suggestions): <del>(b) — ensure strategic synergies with the European Research Council (ERC) but also with Union instruments that foster innovation, such as the European Innovation Council (EIC) and the activities to foster the integration of the knowledge triangle — higher education, research and innovation, and business — across the Union as well as other Union programmes such as Erasmus+;</del>  FR (Comments): The question of synergies is broader than MSCA interactions with other instruments, it should be dealt with at the level of the Programme or even of the level of the MFF. Besides, synergies with European Universities Alliances and Erasmus+ are already mentioned in recital 14.  HU (Drafting suggestions): b) ensure strategic synergies with the European Research Council (ERC), as well as with Union instruments that foster innovation, such as the European

<sup>5</sup> COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION of 18 December 2023 on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe (C/2023/1640). <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2023/1640/oj/eng>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p>Innovation Council (EIC), <b><u>the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)</u></b>, higher education, research and innovation, and business – across the Union programme and Erasmus+;</p> <p>HU  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>Synergies should also be ensured with the EIT.</p> <p>IE  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>What is meant by ‘strategic synergies’?</p> <p>How would ‘strategic synergies’ work in practice?</p> <p>PT  <b>(Comments):</b></p> <p>This is acceptable: “but also with Union instruments that foster innovation, such as the European Innovation Council (EIC) and the activities to foster the integration of the knowledge triangle”          BUT on the condition that the EIC has also the same level of responsibilities. It is not just the Pillar I seeking synergies with the Pillar III, but it has to be ensured a dynamic equilibrium between the two.</p> <p>SE  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b></p> <p><del>(b) — ensure strategic synergies with the European Research Council (ERC) but also with Union instruments that foster innovation, such as the European Innovation Council (EIC) and the activities to foster the integration of the knowledge triangle — higher education, research and innovation, and business — across the Union as well as other Union programmes such as Erasmus+;</del></p> <p>SE  <b>(Comments):</b></p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
	<p>This sub para risk compromising quality unless it is operationalised with concrete mechanisms, roles and timelines that ensures the autonomy of MSCA and independent evaluations.</p> <p>SI                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>(b) ensure strategic synergies with the European Research Council (ERC) but also with Union instruments that foster innovation, such as the European Innovation Council (EIC) and the activities to foster the integration of the knowledge triangle – higher education, research and innovation, and business – across the Union as well as other Union programmes such as Erasmus+ <b><u>while preserving the MSCA’s core bottom-up nature;</u></b></p> <p>SK                      (Drafting suggestions):</p> <p>(b) ensure strategic synergies with the European Research Council (ERC) but also with Union instruments that foster innovation, such as the European Innovation Council (EIC), <b><u>the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)</u></b> and the activities to foster the integration of the knowledge triangle – higher education, research and innovation, and business – across the Union as well as other Union programmes such as Erasmus+; <b><u>Synergies shall particularly support participation of institutions and researchers from Widening Countries, through alignment with initiatives such as the Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence.</u></b></p> <p>SK                      (Comments):</p> <p>Adding EIT strengthens the "knowledge triangle" emphasis. Highlighting synergies with the Widening reinforces the aim to improve access and capability-building in those regions.</p>

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
<p>(c) promote work-life balance, diversity, and inclusion, setting high standards for working conditions across the European Research Area.</p>	<p>SK                      (Drafting suggestions):                      (c) promote work-life balance, diversity, and inclusion, setting high standards for working conditions across the European Research Area.  <u>Particular efforts shall be made to address barriers faced by women, minorities, and researchers from disadvantaged or underrepresented regions, including Widening Countries.</u></p> <p>SK                      (Comments):                      Proposed revision makes inclusion more actionable and measurable, reinforcing MSCA’s alignment with EU objectives on gender equality, diversity, and regional development.</p>
	<p>SK                      (Drafting suggestions):  <u>(d) address all barriers before participation of talents across the Union [, incl. by ensuring country correction coefficients do not create unlevel playing field and unattractiveness conditions within the Union, ] to ensure level playing field and attractiveness of the its actions.</u></p> <p>SK                      (Comments):                      SK supports comment raised by BG that proposes additional amendments regarding country correction coefficient.</p>
<p><i>Article 10</i>  <b>Joint Research Centre</b></p>	
<p>1. The activities of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) shall be complementary to indirect actions supporting longer-term policy objectives.</p>	

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
To achieve this, the JRC works with international, national, regional, and local stakeholders, including through scientific collaboration agreements.	
The JRC activities shall:	
– be flexible and responsive to evolving policy needs.	SE (Drafting suggestions): be flexible and responsive to evolving policy needs. SE (Comments): There is either a need or not a need. The word evolving doesn't add any information.
– ensure synergy with other EU investments.	SE (Drafting suggestions): ensure promote synergy with other EU investments. SE (Comments): The JRC alone cannot ensure synergy with other EU investments given the limitations of Horizon Europe.
– focus on the following areas:	
i. scientific and technical support to Union policy priorities, in particular (but not limited to) those defined within the framework of the	BE (Drafting suggestions):

Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)	Drafting suggestions and Comments
<p>European Competitiveness Fund and those defined for parts I, II, III and IV of the Horizon Europe Programme;</p>	<p>i. scientific and technical support to Union policy priorities, in particular (but not limited to) those defined within the framework of the European Competitiveness Fund and those defined for parts I, II, III and IV of the Horizon Europe Programme, <b><u>while ensuring that JRC activities remain, science-based, and not subordinated to short-term competitiveness objectives</u></b>;</p> <p>BE  <b>(Comments):</b>                      The link to the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) risks instrumentalising JRC research for industrial policy only. Adding this would help restoring balance with long term fundamental research needs, public-interest and evidence-based research.</p>
<p>ii. knowledge integration and policy impact;</p>	<p>BE  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                      knowledge integration and policy impact <b><u>on society</u></b>;</p> <p>BE  <b>(Comments):</b>                      In line with the current aim of this department to provide “independent, evidence-based knowledge and science, supporting EU policies to positively impact society”. This finality should be reflected somewhere in text.</p>
<p>iii. territorial development and Member State support;</p>	<p>SE  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                      iii. territorial development and Member State <b>scientific and technical</b> support;</p> <p>SE</p>

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	<p><b>(Comments):</b>                      Territorial development is not research and innovation activity and therefore does not belong in Horizon Europe. The type of support should be clarified.</p>
iv. scientific excellence and international collaboration;	
v. open science, knowledge sharing and capacity building.	
<b><u>Recital</u></b>	
<p>(3) The Board of Governors of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) set up by Commission Decision 96/282/Euratom<sup>6</sup> has been consulted on the scientific and technological content of the Specific Programme on the non-nuclear direct actions of the JRC.</p>	<p>BE  <b>(Drafting suggestions):</b>                      (3) The Board of Governors of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) set up by Commission Decision 96/282/Euratom<sup>7</sup> has been consulted on the scientific and technological content of the Specific Programme on the non-nuclear direct actions of the JRC <b><u>and shall continue to be regularly consulted, together with Member State representatives, to ensure transparency and shared governance.</u></b></p> <p>BE  <b>(Comments):</b>                      This would support MS participation in JRC governance, mitigating centralisation risks in future decision-making.</p>

<sup>6</sup> Commission Decision 96/282/Euratom of 10 April 1996 on the reorganization of the Joint Research Centre (OJ L 107, 30.4.1996, p. 12, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/1996/282/oj>).

<sup>7</sup> Commission Decision 96/282/Euratom of 10 April 1996 on the reorganization of the Joint Research Centre (OJ L 107, 30.4.1996, p. 12, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/1996/282/oj>).

<b>Presidency text (doc. 13792/25)</b>	<b>Drafting suggestions and Comments</b>

