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MEETING DOCUMENT

From:	Presidency
To:	Ad Hoc Working Party on the Multiannual Financial Framework (AHWP MFF) - European Competitiveness Fund
N° prev. doc.:	ST 6731/26
Subject:	Regulation on establishing the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF), including the specific programme for defence research and innovation activities, repealing Regulations (EU) 2021/522, (EU) 2021/694, (EU) 2021/697, (EU) 2021/783, and amending Regulations (EU) 2021/696, (EU) 2023/588, (EU) [EDIP] - Explanatory note: Revised Presidency text on Chapter VII section 2 Ad Hoc Working Party meeting on 4 March 2026

PRESIDENCY NOTE

Explanatory note of the revised text - (doc. 6731/26)

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Article	Reasoning
Recital 36	Following comments from Member States, the reference to the White Paper was deleted, in light also of the long-term application of the Regulation. (See also amendment of Art. 44(3a)).
Article 2	Definitions of 'dynamic availability management' and 'maintenance of defence products' were added, derived from the EDIP Regulation, to clarify the interpretation of Article 48(1), points (d) and (e) as amended.
Article 44, paragraph 1	A new point (ca) was inserted to refer to "Support to defence internal market enablers", reflecting the amendments to Article 47 and the creation of a new Article 47a. Points (e) and (ea) were amended to align its wording with Articles 49 and 49a.
Article 44, paragraph 3	Following Member States' comments, the reference to financial instruments was deleted.
Article 44, paragraph 3a	In light of Member States' comments, the reference to the 'Roadmap' was deleted, as not endorsed by the Council. A reference to the European Council was inserted instead to frame the long-term application of the Regulation.
Article 45, paragraph 4, point (-a)	Proposed deletion of 'gradually', which is not agreed language in the EDIP Regulation.
Article 45, paragraph 4b	The provision was amended to enhance clarity and to ensure that the eligibility criteria applied depend on the type of activity.
Article 45, paragraph 5	Proposed inclusion of 'unanimously', reflecting Member States' comments. Proposed replacing 'and' with 'or' to allow for the possibility of inviting either the High Representative or the EDA or the Commission.
Article 46, paragraph 1, point b	Following Member States' comments, the term 'upgraded' was added, in line with the European Defence Fund. A provision mirroring Article 10(3)(i) EDF was also introduced.
Article 46, paragraph 1a	The paragraph was deleted and reinstated in Article 51(15) to ensure consistency with the overall ECF architecture.
Article 47	In paragraph 1, point f, proposed deletion of 'gradually', in line with amendments made in Article 45(4)(-a). To improve clarity, paragraph 1, points (fa) and (fb), as well as paragraphs 3 and 4, were moved to a new Article 47a. The essence of

	what used to be paragraph 4a was retained in Article 47 as (new) paragraph 1a.
Article 47a	To improve clarity, the activities supporting defence internal market enablers relating to MSM and SEAP were moved to a new Article 47a. This also facilitates cross-referencing, for instance in Article 51. In light of Member States' comments, amendments were made to support the continuation of EDIP instruments (SEAP). The provision was placed in a distinct point (b) of paragraph 1 to allow for financial support to the establishment and operation of SEAPs outside of 'Pools'. The elements of paragraph 3 relating to eligibility were deleted, as they are now covered by Article 51(15).
Article 48, paragraph 1, point e	Following comments from Member States seeking greater precision regarding the concept of 'availability', the reference was amended to 'dynamic availability management', in line with the EDIP Regulation. The respective definition from EDIP was added in Article 2 to this effect.
Article 48, paragraph 1b	The provision has been reinserted in its original position, in Article 51(15), to ensure consistency with the overall ECF architecture, with additional adjustments.
Article 49 (Title)	Amendments were made to the title of this Article, in order to better reflect its scope.
Article 49, paragraph 1	An insertion of the reference to 'support to industrial enablers' is proposed in order to better clarify the scope of the provision. Further amendments were made in paragraph 1 with a view to streamlining the text and improving its overall clarity as regards the supported activities. Following comments from Member States, in point (e), the reference to 'secure handling' has been added.
Article 49, paragraph 2	A reference to the Military Mobility Regulation was added to ensure synergies and complementarity.
Article 49a (Title)	The title of the Article has been amended to better reflect its content and to ensure consistency with the structure of all other Articles that describe types of activities
Article 49a, paragraph 1	The proposed amendments aim to enhance the clarity and structure of the Article, as well as to ensure consistency with the architecture of the other ECF articles.
Article 50, paragraph 1	Proposed wording changes to better reflect the applicable rules. The participation of other third countries has been relocated from paragraph 2 to a new point (ba) under paragraph 1 to enhance the

	clarity of the text and group all possible categories under a single paragraph. Following comments from Member States, a specification was added in the new point 1 (ba) that participation by other third countries is open to countries that have a Security and Defence Partnership with the EU.
Article 50, paragraph 2	Participation of third countries moved under Article 50, paragraph 1, new point (ba), and this paragraph now focuses exclusively on the requirements to be taken into account by the association agreement for the countries under paragraph 1 (ba). In point (a) of that paragraph, the wording has been amended to clarify that the eligibility conditions set out in Article 51 are applicable to the third countries concerned, while ensuring that the security and defence interests of the Union and its Member States are duly taken into account.
Article 51, paragraph 8	Reinsertion of 'in certain duly substantiated exceptional circumstances' to ensure there is a justification when applying an exception.
Article 51, paragraph 15	This paragraph has been reinstated in this its original position to ensure consistency with the overall ECF architecture. Furthermore, it was split in two paragraphs (paragraph 15 and 15 a respectively). Amendments were made to the text to improve clarity with regard to the type of activities the relevant criteria would apply to.
Article 53, paragraph 1, point b	Clarifications have been introduced in the text to clarify the basis on which the criteria are to be applied. The term 'capacities' has been replaced with 'potential', following Member States' comments. 'Cost-efficiency and effectiveness' has been added as a criterion, drawing on the wording of the EDF.
Article 54, paragraph 1	Small clarification introduced in the text.

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