Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

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Interinstitutional files:
2025/0555 (COD)

Brussels, 22 May 2026

WK 7346/2026 INIT

LIMITE

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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 9457/26
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 on the revised Presidency text (doc. 9457/26) Ad hoc Working Party meeting on 26 May 2026

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PRESIDENCY NOTE

Explanatory note of the revised text - (doc. 9457/26)

The table provided herein outlines the most important changes that have been incorporated in this compromise text. In addition to these amendments, there are other adjustments throughout the text applied by the Council Lawyer Linguists for legal and linguistic consistency, that are not specifically commented on in the table.

Provision	Explanations
Rec.(2)	• The addition refers to the consideration of the geopolitical landscape and its potential impact on security and competitiveness.
Rec. (22)	• EU climate and energy legislation – linking ECF with climate and energy legislation
Rec. (22a)	• Linguistic change breaking the previous Recital 22 into two separate Recitals.
Rec. (32)	• The adjective 'responsible' was used to describe innovation.
Rec. (32b)	• 'Healthcare' was added as part of the red biotechnology.
Rec. (32c)	• Merged the first two sentences for better flow; deletion of 'which forms the basis for the production of feed and the production and processing of food.' as it was incorporated in new sentence below. • Addition of 'It is a core component of food systems, which include the entire chain from production to consumption, covering agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, the production of food and feed, processing, distribution, retail, consumption and waste, while encompassing the agri-food industry.' to include an elaboration of 'food systems' and to complement Article 3(2)(b)(iv) and Article 37(1)(g) that refer to 'food systems'. • Addition of 'innovation' to highlight the importance of evolving practices and to mirror Article 3(2)(b)(iv) and now Article 37(1)(g).

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Rec.36	• Emphasis on the defence industrial readiness of the Union, in light with the industry legal base. Addition following Council's legal service recommendation. • Clarification regarding the support related to military mobility.
Rec.40	• Re-placement of the phrase related to regional security resilience for better clarity.
Rec. (50)	• This addition stipulates that each work programme will be designed to strategically target priority areas that will be best positioned to attain the objectives that will be set out in that work programme.
(56a)	• The amendments mirror the revised formulation of Art.13b as explained in detail below.
New Rec. (56b)	• The amendments mirror the revised formulation of Art.13b as explained in detail below.
Rec. (77a)	• Further explanations added for the NCPs activities.
Art.3	• Chapeau: 'Strategic autonomy' and 'security' were added to enhance the scope of the ECF general objectives. • Para.1(i): The wording added focuses on increasing the competitiveness of the Union as a whole. • Para.2(a)(v): • Para.2(b)(iv): Addition of '(including food processing)' to emphasise its role in the food system. Brackets inserted to isolate from the rest of the terms. It also mirrors Article 37(1)(g).
Art.9a	• Para.1(a): The formulation now reads as an obligation regarding the inclusion of the elements set out and as provided therein.
Art.12	• Para. 4: Redrafted for better clarity

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Art.13b	• The changes reflect the outcome of the COREPER discussion that took place on 20 May, for the earlier involvement of the Member States to the priority setting process, without introducing complex and burdensome procedures. • The text now clearly states that the ECF General Committee under its Strategic Advisory role, will hold both ordinary meetings and strategic meetings for providing recommendations on the overall strategic direction of the ECF. • For the preparation of the strategic meetings, the steps are clearly defined. The Member States shall be able to provide strategic input at an early stage. The input will not be limited in one specific meeting; the formulation of the text rather retains flexibility for the Member States so that they provide inputs to the Commission under various fora (e.g. relevant analyses, foresight studies and evidence-based input from economic, industrial and R&I organisations, where appropriate as referred to in Recital 56b). • The Commission shall take into account the input of the Member States as well as relevant analyses and evidence-based input by relevant stakeholders when preparing the ECF Multiannual Strategic Document. • The ECF Multiannual Strategic Document will then be discussed in the dedicated strategic meetings.
Art.14c	• Para.8: Amendments for enhancement of the ECF InvestEU Instrument Advisory Board role. • Para.10: Broadened the engagement of the implementing partners during Policy Review Dialogues, in discussions concerning also the financial arrangements.
Art. 20	• Para. 2(a): Re-arrangement of the measures and inclusion of an additional safeguard stating that measure in point 3 can only be a last resort.
Art.25	• The addition clarifies that both new and existing pillar assessed implementing partners of the InvestEU Programmes are to be considered for the ECF InvestEU Instrument.

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Art.29	• Chapeau: Addition enhancing the focus of the actions under this provision to SMEs, startups and scaleups. • Para.(d): Clarification portraying that there will be contributions dedicated for SME financing by the policy windows, for the purposes of the specific objectives of the respective policy windows.
Art.33(1)	• Point (e): To harmonise systems and ensure smooth cross-border train circulation. • Point (f): Change reflecting the respective Recital language. • Point (i): Adjustments intended to reflect the circular economy approach. • Point (k): Linguistic adjustment to articulate the individual components as distinct rather than in an encompassing approach.
Art.37(1)	• Point (a): 'Diagnosis' was added to align with the wording in 3(2)(b)(i). • Point (f): Replaced “taking into account the role of and other primary production, and sectors such as fisheries and aquaculture” with “aquatic resources”; wording to make it clear that bio-based materials can be taken from aquatic environments. • Point (g): – Addition of ‘the innovation’ to highlight the importance of evolving practices and to mirror Article 3(2)(b)(iv), and now Recital 32(c). – Rearranged first sentence for better flow. – Added ‘sectors’, moved ‘food systems’ and added ‘of’, for better separation of terms. – Added ‘including food processing’ to emphasise its role in the food system. It mirrors Article 3(2)(b)(iv). • Point (h): The addition follows the horizontal approach clarifying that dedicated capacity building activities related to the specific activities of the policy window can be provided also under the respective policy window. This is also reflected and further explained in the ECF Technical Note #10 (wk5357).
Art.60	• Para.5(a): Addition of “harmonised pan-European geospatial reference data” to ensure the reference data come in harmonised format.

	• Para.5(ca): Addition of "horizontal activities supporting the development of capacity within the Member States". • Para.7: Inclusion of "high-level user needs jointly defined with the Member States". • Para.8(a)(ii): Inclusion of a cross-reference to the implementing acts (technical and operational specifications) to clarify the proess after the gap analysis. • Para.9: Clarification on EOGS participants, which authorise users or provide infrastructure. Separation of the Commission as subject to specific conditions.
Art.61	• Para.1b(d): Inclusion of a reference to low latency on areas of strategic importance • Para.2(-a): Update of the reference to EUSPA Regulation throughout the text • Para.2(ea):
Art.63	• Para 3a: Provision was deleted.
Art.83	• Para.1(e) & (g): The insertions reinforce the possibility conveyed already under this paragraph, following the MS request. It is emphasized that these additions made for Defence and Space, do not preclude the convening of the other Committees referred to in this paragraph, in different sub-configurations, as this is already provided for with the current wording. • Para.4a: Insertion of no-opinion clause regarding Defence.

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