

Partnership for research and innovation in the Mediterranean area (PRIMA): participation of the Union

2016/0325(COD) - 29/03/2017 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy adopted the report by Sofia SAKORAFA (GUE/NGL, EL) on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the participation of the Union in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) jointly undertaken by several Member States.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament's position, adopted at first reading following the ordinary legislative procedure, should amend the Commission proposal as follows:

Participation in PRIMA: the Union shall participate in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) jointly undertaken by Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia. Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco shall become Participating States subject to the conclusion of Science and Technology international agreements with the Union.

Objectives of PRIMA: in line with the priorities of Horizon 2020, the general objective of PRIMA is to build research and innovation capacities and to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions for **sustainable agri-food systems and integrated water management** in the Mediterranean region, in order to:

- make them more climate resilient, efficient, cost-effective and environmentally and socially sustainable;
- contribute to solving water scarcity, food security, nutrition, health, well-being and migration problems upstream.

Union's financial contribution to PRIMA: this amounts to EUR 200 million and shall equal the contributions of the Participating States. It shall cover the PRIMA-IS administrative costs up to a maximum of 6% of the Union's financial contribution.

Where the financial guarantees are provided by the Participating States, **each State shall be liable** for a maximum amount less than or equal to its financial commitment to the PRIMA programme. The total recovery shall be limited to the maximum amount of EUR 200 million.

Activities and implementation of PRIMA: Members stated that PRIMA shall support a wide range of research and innovation activities and actions as established in the PRIMA annual work plan, addressing a wide range of Technology Readiness Levels and ensuring an appropriate balance between small and large projects.

PRIMA shall be implemented on the basis of **annual work plans**, covering activities to be launched in the period from 1 January to 31 December of a given year. The annual work plans shall be made available to the relevant programme committees for the specific programme implementing Horizon 2020. All activities supported by PRIMA shall be implemented under an **authority recognised by the Union** as competent for that purpose.

Amended annual work plans of a given year and annual work plans of subsequent years shall take into account the results of previous calls for proposals. Coordination shall be sought between PRIMA and other research and innovation projects under Horizon 2020. All calls, proposals and projects shall be immediately made available on the **Horizon 2020 database eCORDA**. Members considered that it shall be possible to finance, under PRIMA, **international organisations and entities** established in a non-participating State that are not eligible for PRIMA funding, provided that certain conditions are fulfilled.

Governance of PRIMA: the bodies of the PRIMA-IS shall include:

- the Board of Trustees, which will have a Chair and a Co-chair;
- the Steering Committee;
- the Secretariat, headed by the Director;
- the Scientific Advisory Committee.

The PRIMA-IS shall be governed by the **Board of Trustees**, in which all Participating States are represented. The Board of Trustees shall ensure that the European Parliament is regularly informed and updated on the PRIMA Programme.

The Board of Trustees shall be the decision-making body of PRIMA-IS. It shall manage the Union's financial contribution and financial contributions from the Participating States and ensure the transparency of PRIMA activities.