

# **Research Programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS) and multiannual technical guidelines: advisory groups and technical groups**

2016/0047(NLE) - 29/05/2017 - Final act

**PURPOSE:** to revise Decision 2008/376/EC in order to ensure a coherent framework for participation in both the “Research Fund for Coal and Steel” (RFCS) Programme and Horizon 2020 Framework Programme in sectors relating to the coal and steel industry.

**NON LEGISLATIVE ACT:** Council Decision (EU) 2017/955 amending Decision 2008/376/EC on the adoption of the Research Programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel and on the multiannual technical guidelines for this programme

**CONTENT:** the Decision aims to change the legal basis of the **research programme dedicated to the coal and steel sectors** ([Council Decision 2008/376/EC](#)) with a view to implementing the following objectives:

- **ensure a coherent framework for participation in both the RFCS Programme and [Horizon 2020 Framework Programme](#),** by aligning certain rules for participation under the RFCS Programme with those applicable under the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme;
- **revise the rules on the competencies and on the composition of the Advisory Groups and of the Technical Groups,** notably as regards the nature of the experts appointed by the Commission to ensure increased transparency and conflicts of interest, and contribute to a balanced representation of relevant areas of expertise and areas of interest as well as to an optimal gender balance;
- **ease the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)** in the RFCS Programme and to permit the use of ‘unit costs’ to calculate eligible staff costs for owners of SMEs and other natural persons not receiving a salary;
- update the provisions referred to in the legal basis concerning, in particular, **comitology**.

**ENTRY INTO FORCE:** 27.6.2017.