

EU/Canada Agreement: participation of Canada in Union programmes

2024/0038(NLE) - 08/07/2024 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the Union, the Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and Canada, of the other part, on the participation of Canada in Union programmes.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: in accordance with a Council Decision, the Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and Canada, of the other part, on the participation of Canada in Union programmes was signed, subject to its conclusion at a later date.

Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) was established by Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council. In line with the Council's mandate, the Protocol on the association of Canada to Horizon Europe was negotiated in parallel to the Agreement and, pursuant to Article 19(14) of the Agreement, forms an integral part thereof.

It is now necessary to approve the Agreement.

CONTENT: the Council draft concerns the approval, on behalf of the Union, of the Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and Canada, of the other part, on the participation of Canada in Union programmes.

Under this Agreement, Canada associates to the Pillar II of Horizon Europe, which funds collaborative research projects across a wide range of domains. Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation with a budget of EUR 93.5 billion for 2021-2027. Pillar II is the largest collaborative part of the programme with a budget of EUR 52.4 billion that is focused on shared global challenges: climate, energy, digital economy and health.

Canadian entities can now join and lead research consortia with some of the world's best research organisations to tackle these global challenges together. They will get the opportunity to be funded directly from the programme, while Canada will contribute to its budget.