Basic information

2016/0325(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
Partnership for research and innovation in the Mediterranean area (PRIMA): participation of the Union Amended by 2023/0207(COD) See also 2017/0196(NLE) See also 2017/0197(NLE) See also 2017/0199(NLE) See also 2017/0200(NLE) **Subject** 3.50.02 Framework programme and research programmes 3.50.04 Innovation **Geographical area** Mediterranean Sea area	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	SAKORAFA Sofia (GUE/NGL)	17/11/2016
	Shadow rapporteur AYUSO Pilar (PPE) TOIA Patrizia (S&D) MARIAS Notis (ECR) TELIČKA Pavel (ALDE) RIVASI Michèle (Verts/ALE) BORRELLI David (EFDD)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
DEVE Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	GAMBUS MILLET Francisco de Paula (PPE)	21/11/2016
	LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meetings	Date
	Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	3544	2017-05-30
	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	3554	2017-06-26

European Economic and Social Committee

European Committee of the Regions

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
18/10/2016	Legislative proposal published	COM(2016)0662	Summary
27/10/2016	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
22/03/2017	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
22/03/2017	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
29/03/2017	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A8-0112/2017	Summary
03/04/2017	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 72)		
05/04/2017	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 72)		
30/05/2017	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	PE603.049 GEDA/A/(2017)004551	
12/06/2017	Debate in Parliament		
13/06/2017	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T8-0249/2017	Summary
13/06/2017	Results of vote in Parliament		
26/06/2017	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
04/07/2017	Final act signed		
05/07/2017	End of procedure in Parliament		
18/07/2017	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2016/0325(COD)

Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Amendments and repeals	Amended by 2023/0207(COD) See also 2017/0196(NLE) See also 2017/0197(NLE) See also 2017/0199(NLE) See also 2017/0200(NLE)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 188-p2 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 185
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/8/08189

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE595.480	17/01/2017	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE597.709	10/02/2017	
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE597.388	10/03/2017	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0112/2017	29/03/2017	Summary
Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations		PE603.049	30/05/2017	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0249/2017	13/06/2017	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	GEDA/A/(2017)004551	27/04/2017	
Draft final act	00018/2017/LEX	05/07/2017	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2016)0662	18/10/2016	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2016)0331	18/10/2016	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2016)0332	18/10/2016	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2017)477	12/07/2017	
	COM(2023)0285		

Follow-up document		31/05/2023	
Follow-up document	SWD(2023)0169	31/05/2023	

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	ES_PARLIAMENT	COM(2016)0662	21/12/2016	
Contribution	IT_SENATE	COM(2016)0662	17/01/2017	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0045/2017	25/01/2017	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2017/1324
OJ L 185 18.07.2017, p. 0001 Summary

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

2016/0325(COD) - 04/07/2017 - Final act

PURPOSE: to approve the EU's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) jointly undertaken by several Member States.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision (EU) 2017/1324 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.

CONTENT: under this Decision, **the Union shall participate in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)**, jointly undertaken by Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey.

Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco shall become Participating States subject to the conclusion of international agreements for scientific and technological cooperation with the Union.

Participation in the PRIMA shall remain open to any other EU Member State, as well as to third countries, provided that they fulfil the requisite conditions.

Objectives of PRIMA: PRIMA shall pool the EU and participating States' knowledge and financial resources to build research and innovation capacities and to develop knowledge and common **innovative solutions for agro-food systems** in the Mediterranean area.

The main objectives are:

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

Financial contribution: as part of its contribution, the **EU shall provide a contribution of EUR 220 million** from its Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Framework Programme. The participating States shall provide a financial or in-kind contribution of at least EUR 220 million during the period from 7 August 2017 to 31 December 2028.

Implementation: in order to ensure the joint implementation of PRIMA, the Decision provides for the setting up of an implementation structure, known as 'PRIMA-IS', which should be the beneficiary of the Union's financial contribution and ensure the effective implementation of PRIMA.

PRIMA shall be implemented on the basis of **annual work plans** covering activities to be undertaken for a given year. PRIMA-IS shall adopt the annual work plans by 31 March of the reference year, after obtaining approval from the Commission. In adopting the annual work plans, both PRIMA-IS and the Commission shall act without undue delay. PRIMA-IS shall make the annual work plan publicly available.

PRIMA-IS shall aim to provide, through the annual work plan, an appropriate share of its funding, **approximately 25 % of the Union financial contribution** , reflecting the commitments of Mediterranean Partner Countries to PRIMA, to legal entities established in targeted third countries considered to be Participating States. It shall make information on the implementation of the actions funded **publicly available**.

By 31 December 2028, the Commission shall carry out a final evaluation of PRIMA, with the assistance of independent experts.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 7.8.2017.

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.

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

2016/0325(COD) - 18/10/2016 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to enable the EU to participate in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) jointly undertaken by several Member States.

PROPOSED ACT: Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the process leading to the PRIMA Joint Programme started with the Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Science, Technology and Innovation in Barcelona in 2012. The aim is to strengthen Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in R&I as part of the broader objectives of the Union's external policy with regard to the Southern Neighbourhood.

On 23 December 2014, **a group of 19 countries of the Mediterranean Area** submitted to the Commission a proposal for a Joint Programme initiative 'Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area' (PRIMA). Among these countries, 14 countries have agreed to jointly undertake the PRIMA initiative by committing financial contributions: Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal and Spain, Member States of the Union; Israel and Tunisia, third countries associated to Horizon 2020; Egypt, Lebanon and Morocco (third countries not associated to Horizon 2020).

With 180 million people who are considered 'water poor', the Mediterranean area is generally characterised by high levels of hydric stress. Climate change is increasingly causing severe water shortages in the area, with major impacts on agriculture. Such shortages result in decreasing and irregular crop yields, putting additional pressure on natural resources and on the capacity to provide clean water and affordable food for the region's inhabitants. The programme's strategic objective is to develop the common innovative solutions for water provision and food systems that the Mediterranean region urgently needs. The programme is in line with the Communication from the Commission on establishing a new Partnership Framework with third countries under the European Agenda on Migration.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: the option withheld is Option 2: **PRIMA Joint Programme based on Article 185 TFEU** which enables the EU to make provisions for its participation in research and development programmes run by several Member States, including its participation in the structures created for the implementation of those programmes.

Previous and ongoing Article 185 TFEU initiatives show that such an initiative is likely to have a high leverage effect on national public funds in a stable, long-term and integrated manner.

CONTENT: the draft decision provides for the **participation of the EU in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area ('PRIMA')** jointly undertaken by Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia.

Egypt, Lebanon and Morocco shall become Participating States subject to the conclusion of international agreements with the Union setting out the terms and conditions of their participation in PRIMA. Any Member State and any country associated to Horizon 2020 may participate in PRIMA provided they contribute to its financing.

Objectives: the general objective of PRIMA is to **develop the fully piloted and demonstrated common innovative solutions for water provision and food systems in the Mediterranean region**, to make them more climate resilient, efficient, cost-effective and sustainable, and to contribute to solving nutrition, health, well-being and migration problems upstream.

In order to contribute to the general objective, PRIMA shall fulfil the following specific objectives:

- the formulation of a stable, long-term, common strategic agenda in the area of water provision and food systems;
- the orientation of all national R&I programmes towards the implementation of the strategic agenda;
- the structural involvement of all relevant public and private sector actors in implementing the strategic agenda by pooling knowledge and financial resources to achieve the necessary critical mass;
- the strengthening of funding and of the implementation capabilities of all actors involved.

Implementation: in order to ensure the joint implementation of PRIMA, an **implementation structure** should be set up (**'PRIMA-IS'**). The PRIMA-IS should be the recipient of the Union's financial contribution and it should ensure the efficient implementation of PRIMA.

PRIMA activities should be **in line with the objectives and research and innovation priorities of Horizon 2020** and with the general principles and conditions laid down in the Regulation establishing the 2020 Horizon framework programme.

In order to achieve the objectives of PRIMA, the PRIMA-IS should provide financial support mainly in the form of **grants** to participants in actions funded by the PRIMAIS. Those actions should be selected following open and **competitive calls for proposals** under the responsibility of the PRIMA-IS.

The PRIMA Annual Work Plans (AWP), which is subject to the approval of the Commission, will ensure consistency and coordination between all activities and their orientation towards the achievement of the operational, specific and general objectives of PRIMA. The proposal contains provisions on the monitoring, evaluation and reporting arrangements of the initiative.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: the EU contribution shall be up to **EUR 200 million** (in current prices) including the EFTA contribution. The EU contribution shall be made as part of the implementation of Horizon 2020.

The **Participating States** shall make or arrange for their national funding bodies to make financial or in kind contributions of at least EUR 200 000 000 during the period from the date of entry into force of this Decision until 31 December 2028.

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

2016/0325(COD) - 13/06/2017 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 607 votes to 39, with 3 abstentions, a legislative resolution 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 European Parliament's position, adopted at first reading following the ordinary legislative procedure, amended 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 Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey.

Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco shall become Participating States subject to the conclusion of international agreements for scientific and technological cooperation with the Union.

Objectives of PRIMA: in line with the priorities of Horizon 2020, the general objectives of PRIMA are to build research and innovation capacities and to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions for **agro-food systems**, to make them sustainable, and for **integrated water provision** and management in the Mediterranean area.

PRIMA shall also 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 220 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.

The Union financial contribution shall be conditional upon the commitment by each Participating State to contribute to the financing of PRIMA with an adequate contribution from national resources relevant to the objectives of PRIMA.

Activities and implementation of PRIMA: PRIMA shall support a **wide range of research and innovation activities**, including research, development and innovation projects, innovative demonstrators and pilot plants, capacity building, training, awareness-raising and dissemination actions, and researcher mobility, covering a wide range of technological maturity levels and respecting a balance between small and large projects.

Implementation: in order to ensure the joint implementation of PRIMA, an implementation structure ('PRIMA-IS') shall be set up. PRIMA-IS shall be the recipient of the Union financial contribution and it shall ensure the efficient and transparent implementation of PRIMA.

PRIMA shall be implemented on the basis of **annual work plans** setting out the activities to be undertaken in a given year. PRIMA-IS shall adopt the annual work plans by 31 March of the reference year, after obtaining approval from the Commission.

PRIMA-IS shall **monitor regularly** the actions it funds and if necessary to undertake corrective actions by amending the annual work plan.

Rules for participation: PRIMA-IS shall aim to provide approximately **25 %** of the Union financial contribution to legal entities established in **targeted third countries** considered to be Participating States. PRIMA-IS shall also be able to fund beneficiaries established in a country that is **not a Participating State**, provided that such participation is deemed to be essential by PRIMAIS or if funding is provided for under an international agreement or arrangement.

It shall make information on the implementation of the actions funded **publicly available**.

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

- a Board of Trustees, which shall have a Chair and a Co-Chair;
- a Steering Committee;
- a Secretariat, headed by a Director;

- a Scientific Advisory Committee.

PRIMA-IS shall be governed by the Board of Trustees, in which all Participating States are represented.

The **Board of Trustees** shall, inter alia, manage the Union's financial contribution and financial contributions from the Participating States and ensure the transparency of PRIMA activities.