

Basic information

2023/0207(COD)

COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Decision

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

Amending Decision 2017/1324 [2016/0325\(COD\)](#)

Subject

3.50.02 Framework programme and research programmes
3.50.04 Innovation




Procedure completed

Key players

European
Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	BORCHIA Paolo (ID)	24/07/2023
	Shadow rapporteur CARVALHO Maria da Graça (EPP) GÁLVEZ Lina (S&D) FLEGO Valter (Renew) SOLÉ Jordi (Greens/EFA) ILČIČ Ladislav (ECR) PEREIRA Sandra (The Left)	
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	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

	<div style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">LIBE</div> Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union			
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Research and Innovation	VESTAGER Margrethe	
European Economic and Social Committee			

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
28/06/2023	Legislative proposal published	COM(2023)0359 	Summary
11/09/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
28/11/2023	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
28/11/2023	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
29/11/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A9-0378/2023	Summary
11/12/2023	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 72)		
13/12/2023	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 72)		
23/01/2024	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	PE757.956 GEDA/A/(2024)000105	
26/02/2024	Debate in Parliament		
27/02/2024	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0092/2024	Summary
27/02/2024	Results of vote in Parliament		
26/03/2024	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
11/04/2024	Final act signed		
19/04/2024	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2023/0207(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Amendments and repeals	Amending Decision 2017/1324 2016/0325(COD)

Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 185 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 188-p2
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/9/12398

Documentation gateway




European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE752.796	20/09/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE754.745	13/10/2023	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0378/2023	29/11/2023	Summary
Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations		PE757.956	20/12/2023	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0092/2024	27/02/2024	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	GEDA/A/(2024)000105	20/12/2023	
Draft final act	00098/2023/LEX	11/04/2024	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2023)0359 	28/06/2023	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2024)270	08/07/2024	
Follow-up document	SWD(2026)0091 	17/03/2026	
Follow-up document	SWD(2026)0092 	17/03/2026	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES3618/2023	20/09/2023	

Additional information

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Source	Document	Date
EP Research Service	Briefing	25/01/2024
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
SOLÉ Jordi	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	20/07/2023	Research Working Party of the European Commission

Final act	
Decision 2024/1167 OJ OJ L 19.04.2024	Summary

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

2023/0207(COD) - 28/06/2023 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to extend, until 2027, the Union's participation in the partnership for research and innovation in the Mediterranean area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe.

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: PRIMA currently consists of nineteen Participating States: eleven EU Member States (Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain); three countries associated to Horizon 2020 (Israel, Tunisia and Turkey) and five third countries non-associated to Horizon 2020 (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco). The Partnership aims 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. The thematic focus became even more relevant in recent years, due to increasing effects of climate change, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the destabilising effect of Russia's illegal and unjustified aggression against the Ukraine on the fragile agriculture markets in a number of Mediterranean countries.

Decision (EU) 2017/1324 of the European Parliament and of the Council was adopted under the previous Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, namely Horizon 2020, for a period up to 31 December 2028. However, the Member States participating in PRIMA declared their intention to continue in their joint initiative beyond 2024 and called for the continued participation of the Union.

CONTENT: this proposal for an amendment of Decision 2017/1324 (the PRIMA Basic Act) constitutes an **extension of active operation** (publication of R&I calls) until 2027 under the current R&I Framework Programme- Horizon Europe. The amendment will provide for **additional budget**, from both the EU financial contribution from the Horizon Europe programme and the Participating States' financial contributions, to ensure continuation at the current level of activities for three further years.

Since the initial rationale and objectives of PRIMA partnership are still valid and PRIMA is a successful instrument, the Union should continue to provide financial support to allow PRIMA to fund research and innovation actions under the same thematic scope until 2027, and bring that instrument in synchronisation with the Union's multiannual financial framework (MFF) and MFF-aligned programming cycles of R&I programmes. Moreover, the overall duration of PRIMA should be extended until 2031 to allow for the full implementation of supported research and innovation actions.

Monitoring

The extension of PRIMA requires monitoring and evaluation of this partnership in accordance with Horizon Europe related provisions. The Commission should conduct an interim evaluation of PRIMA by 31 December 2025 at the latest, and, a final evaluation by 31 December 2031 at the latest, that should feed into the overall interim and final evaluations of Horizon Europe. The evaluations should assess the quality and efficiency of PRIMA and the progress made towards achieving its objectives. The Commission should publish and disseminate the results and conclusions of those evaluations.

Budgetary implications

The total Union contribution to the extended initiative will be up to **EUR 325 million** including the EEA contribution. Out of this amount, EUR 220 million were committed from the Horizon 2020 Programme for the programming period 2018-2024. EUR 105 million, to be committed in the period 2025-2027, will come from the Horizon Europe, cluster (vi) 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment'.

The maximum amount of the EU contribution to administrative costs for the whole duration of the initiative is up to 6%, corresponding to EUR 19.5 million from the total Union contribution of EUR 325 million.

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

2023/0207(COD) - 29/11/2023 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy adopted the report by Paolo BORCHIA (ID, IT) on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision (EU) 2017/1324 as regards the continuation of the Union's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe.

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

Enhanced dialogue

PRIMA should operate in a simple, agile, open and transparent way. PRIMA-IS and the Participating States should make dedicated efforts to strengthen dialogue with society, encourage active participation and ensure that the wider public is sufficiently and timely informed about their activities. To that end, PRIMA-IS should set up a reliable communication strategy to facilitate the exchange of information, best practices and research outcomes, with the involvement of academic, scientific and knowledge networks, social and economic partners, the media, industry SMEs and other stakeholders.

Access to results and information on proposals

Members proposed that the PRIMA-IS should provide the Commission **access to all information** related to the indirect actions it funds. Such information should include contributions and results of beneficiaries participating in indirect actions. The Commission should make such information accessible to the European Parliament where it refers to indirect actions which include beneficiaries established in their respective territories. Such access should be provided only for non-commercial and non-competitive use and subject to applicable confidentiality rules.

Monitoring and evaluation

The amended text stated that the Commission should conduct an interim evaluation of PRIMA by **31 December 2025** and a final evaluation by **31 December 2031**. These evaluations should examine the **success rates and the absorption rates** of the Southern Mediterranean Participating States, as well as how PRIMA fulfils its mission and objectives, cover all its activities and evaluate its European added value, effectiveness, efficiency, including its openness and transparency, the relevance of the activities pursued, including in industry and by SMEs, NGOs and civil society, and their consistency and complementarity with relevant regional, national and Union policies, including synergies with other parts of Horizon Europe, such as other partnerships, missions, clusters and thematic or specific programmes.

In addition, future evaluations of PRIMA should cover the **extension of the scope of the partnership's objectives and a corresponding increase of the financial allocation to PRIMA**. In particular, the extension should encompass energy R&I and climate-related R&I, taking into account the impact of new portfolios on other primary resources (namely water, land, and agriculture).

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

2023/0207(COD) - 27/02/2024 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 499 votes to 100, with 23 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision (EU) 2017/1324 as regards the continuation of the Union's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe.

The European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure amends the Commission's proposal as follows:

Participation in PRIMA

The Union should participate in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), an institutionalised European partnership under Horizon Europe, jointly undertaken by Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey.

The amended text stated that the thematic scope of PRIMA, namely support for agri-food systems, integrated water provision and water management in the Mediterranean area, is becoming increasingly topical. Research shows that water scarcity is an important contributor to the rise in global migration. Climate change and associated natural disasters have a devastating impact on agricultural production.

Since PRIMA's initial rationale and objectives remain valid, in particular in light of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, which has further destabilised fragile Southern Mediterranean agriculture markets, making the transition to sustainable food systems an even more urgent priority for Mediterranean societies.

PRIMA should retain its ambition and resources which make it an **essential instrument for international cooperation and scientific diplomacy** in the Mediterranean area.

Financial contribution

The Union financial contribution to PRIMA, including EEA appropriations, shall be equal to the Participating States' contributions. The Union financial contribution shall be up to **EUR 325 000 000** and should be distributed as follows: (a) up to EUR 220 000 000 from Horizon 2020; (b) up to EUR 105 000 000 from Horizon Europe.

Operating method

PRIMA needs to operate in a **simple, agile, open and transparent way**. PRIMA-IS needs to make dedicated efforts to strengthen dialogue with society, encourage active participation and ensure that the wider public is sufficiently informed about its activities in a timely manner. To that end, PRIMA-IS needs to strengthen its communication strategy to facilitate the exchange of information, best practices and research outcomes, with the involvement of academic, scientific and knowledge networks, social and economic partners, the media, industry SMEs and other stakeholders.

Secretariat

The Board of Trustees should establish the Secretariat of PRIMA-IS as the executive body of PRIMA.

The Secretariat should:

- implement the annual work programme;
- provide support to the other bodies of PRIMA-IS;
- monitor and report on the implementation of PRIMA;
- manage the Union financial contribution and the Participating States' financial contributions and report on their use;
- increase the visibility of PRIMA by means of advocacy and communication;
- liaise with the Commission in accordance with the financial framework partnership agreement;
- ensure the transparency of PRIMA's activities.

The **Scientific Advisory Committee** set up by the Board of Trustees should: (i) advise the Board of Trustees on strategic priorities and needs; (ii) advise the Board of Trustees on the content and scope of the draft annual work programme from a scientific and technical standpoint; (iii) review the scientific and technical aspects of the implementation of PRIMA and deliver an opinion on its annual report.

The Commission should, on a regular basis, assess the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken by the Participating States and, following such assessments, may involve Participating States and PRIMA-IS as necessary and should be able to take appropriate measures.

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

2023/0207(COD) - 19/04/2024 - Final act

PURPOSE : to continue the EU's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe for the period 2025-2027.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision (EU) 2024/1167 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision (EU) 2017/1324 as regards the continuation of the Union's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe.

CONTENT: the **Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)** is an institutionalised European partnership as referred to in Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Horizon Europe).

PRIMA has 20 participating states: 12 EU member states (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain), 3 countries associated to Horizon 2020 (Israel, Tunisia and Türkiye) and 5 other third countries (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco).

PRIMA's main aim is to pool the knowledge and financial resources of the EU and the participating states in order to build research activities and capacities and develop innovative solutions for sustainable and resilient water provision and food systems in the Mediterranean area.

Even though PRIMA activities are foreseen until 31 December 2028, its last calls for proposals will be launched in 2024 under the Horizon 2020 framework, which means that PRIMA's active period was due to end in 2024. The participating states have expressed their interest in the continuation of PRIMA as an effective instrument to tackle multiple societal crises.

PRIMA's initial rationale and objectives remain valid, in particular in light of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, which has further destabilised fragile Southern Mediterranean agriculture markets, making the transition to sustainable food systems an even more urgent priority for Mediterranean societies. PRIMA should retain its ambition and resources which make it an essential instrument for international cooperation and scientific diplomacy in the Mediterranean area.

Accordingly, this decision stipulates that the EU should **continue to provide financial support** to allow PRIMA to fund R&I actions under the same thematic scope until 2027, and to synchronise PRIMA with the Union's multiannual financial framework (MFF) and MFF-aligned programming cycles of R&I programmes. Moreover, PRIMA's overall duration should be extended until 2031 to allow for the full implementation of those R&I actions.

The Union's total contribution to the enlarged initiative will be **EUR 325 million**. The amount of the Union's financial contribution to Horizon Europe may be increased by contributions from third countries associated with Horizon Europe, provided that the total increase in the Union's financial contribution is at least matched by the contribution from the Participating States.

PRIMA needs to operate in a **simple, agile, open and transparent way**. PRIMA-IS needs to make dedicated efforts to strengthen dialogue with society, encourage active participation and ensure that the wider public is sufficiently informed about its activities in a timely manner. Moreover, PRIMA-IS will provide the Commission and, where applicable, the authorities of the Participating States with access to all information related to the indirect actions it funds.

The Commission should carry out an interim evaluation of PRIMA by 31 December 2025 and a final evaluation by 31 December 2031.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 9.5.2024.