Basic information

2024/2109(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Assessment of the implementation of Horizon Europe in view of its interim evaluation and recommendations for the 10th Research Framework Programme **Subject** 3.50.02.01 EC, EU framework programme 3.50.04 Innovation	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	EHLER Christian (EPP)	02/10/2024
	Shadow rapporteur REPASI René (S&D) BORCHIA Paolo (PfE) DONAZZAN Elena (ECR) LØKKEGAARD Morten (Renew) NIINISTÖ Ville (Greens/EFA) KENNES Rudi (The Left) KNAFO Sarah (ESN)	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
28/11/2024	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/02/2025	Vote in committee		
26/02/2025	Committee report tabled for plenary	A10-0021/2025	
11/03/2025	Decision by Parliament	T10-0028/2025	Summary
11/03/2025	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2024/2109(INI)

Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/10/00963

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE765.325	14/11/2024	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE766.787	05/12/2024	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A10-0021/2025	26/02/2025	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T10-0028/2025	11/03/2025	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2025)08	20/08/2025	

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
EHLER Christian	Rapporteur	ITRE	04/03/2025	Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften
EHLER Christian	Rapporteur	ITRE	03/03/2025	Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e.V. Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft Deutscher Forschungszentren e.V. Hochschulrektorenkonferenz Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften
EHLER Christian	Rapporteur	ITRE	03/03/2025	European Road Transport Research Advisory Council
DONAZZAN Elena	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	11/02/2025	BUSINESSEUROPE
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	29/01/2025	Finnish Liaison Office for EU R&I
EHLER Christian	Rapporteur	ITRE	28/01/2025	European University Association
				Aurora Universities Network COIMBRA GROUP Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research EuroTech Universities Alliance European Association for the Applied Sciences in Higher Education

EHLER Christian	Rapporteur	ITRE	27/01/2025	European Consortium of Innovative Universities European University Association League of European Research Universities The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities Universities of Applied Sciences for Europe Young European Research Universities Network
EHLER Christian	Rapporteur	ITRE	16/01/2025	EIT Manufacturing European Factories of the Future Research Association VDMA e.V.
EHLER Christian	Rapporteur	ITRE	15/01/2025	European Round Table for Industry
EHLER Christian	Rapporteur	ITRE	15/01/2025	Photonics21 Association
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	14/01/2025	VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd
EHLER Christian	Rapporteur	ITRE	14/01/2025	European Association of Research and Technology Organisations
EHLER Christian	Rapporteur	ITRE	27/11/2024	German U15 e.V.
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	25/11/2024	European Energy Research Alliance aisbl
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	22/11/2024	The Council of Rectors of Finnish Universities (Unifi)
EHLER Christian	Rapporteur	ITRE	21/11/2024	All European Academies e.V.
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	19/11/2024	Pohjanmaan liitto
EHLER Christian	Rapporteur	ITRE	19/11/2024	Robert Bosch GmbH
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	19/11/2024	West Finland European Office
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	18/11/2024	CSC – IT CENTER FOR SCIENCE LTD.
EHLER Christian	Rapporteur	ITRE	18/11/2024	Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft Deutscher Forschungszentren e.V.
EHLER Christian	Rapporteur	ITRE	18/11/2024	European Cooperation in Science and Technology
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	13/11/2024	Helsingin yliopisto
EHLER Christian	Rapporteur	ITRE	13/11/2024	Wirtschaftskammer Österreich
LØKKEGAARD Morten	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	07/11/2024	Allied for Startups
EHLER Christian	Rapporteur	ITRE	05/11/2024	European Consortium of Innovative Universities
REPASI René	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	05/11/2024	ERC Executive Agency (ERCEA)
LØKKEGAARD Morten	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	23/10/2024	Greater Copenhagen EU Office
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	08/10/2024	VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd

Other Members

Transparency		

Name	Date	Interest representatives
PETER-HANSEN Kira Marie	18/12/2025	Central Denmark EU Office Jesper Bracht
TOBÉ Tomas	27/01/2025	Confederation of Swedish Enterprise Teknikföretagen
JARUBAS Adam	10/10/2024	Dr hab. Adam Kubas, prof. IChF Institute of Physical Chemistry (IChF) PAN

Assessment of the implementation of Horizon Europe in view of its interim evaluation and recommendations for the 10th Research Framework Programme

2024/2109(INI) - 11/03/2025 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 472 votes to 75, with 92 abstentions, a resolution on the assessment of the implementation of Horizon Europe in view of its interim evaluation and recommendations for the 10th Research Framework Programme.

Following the Draghi, Letta, and Heitor reports, Members stressed that a **strong commitment is needed** to achieve a future framework programme that constitutes a crucial contribution to the competitiveness of Europe and its overall welfare.

General observations on Horizon Europe and Research and Innovation

Parliament welcomed Horizon Europe's **success rate** and its responsiveness to crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic or geopolitical challenges. However, it deplores not only the lack of additional funding but also the recurring **budget cuts**, which undermine initial priorities. The shift from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe has led to increased complexity and bureaucracy. Success rates for some parts of the programme are still so low that they discourage potentially excellent applications, particularly from researchers at research institutions with modest budgets and SMEs.

The resolution highlighted the importance of having a **framework programme based on excellence** in order to ensure the participation of the best researchers in Europe through the whole programme. It argued that one of the critical weakness of the EU research and innovation policy landscape is also linked to the lack of a meaningful, integrated and complementary approach between place-based and excellence-driven research and innovation activities.

Moreover, it is necessary to foster an attractive and inclusive European research, development and innovation ecosystem. The fragmentation of the EU innovation ecosystem is one of the root causes of Europe’s weak innovation performance according to Parliament. Members are convinced that to maximise the impact of the framework programme, it needs to be embedded in a **broader European research policy** that ensures that Europe is an attractive location for research activities which attracts global talent, which effectively translates science into economic growth and societal progress, and which effectively addresses the innovation gap within the EU.

The resolution insisted on the absolute need for that Member States to adopt concrete commitments to reach a **target of 3 % of GDP** spending on R&D by 2030. However, the EU is investing significantly less than other global powers, and that it has failed to reach the 3 % target for more than two decades, investing 2.24 % of its GDP in R&D in 2022, for example, compared to 3.5 % in the US. It should be noted that there are major discrepancies exist between the R&D intensity of the 27 EU Member States.

Members insisted on the vital role of long-term public funding to support **excellent basic research**, driven by scientific curiosity with the only aim of advancing scientific knowledge and without an obvious nor immediate benefit.

Recommendations for the 10th Research Framework Programme

Parliament called forFP10 to be a **stand-alone** EU programme with a substantially higher budget appropriate for achieving the 3 % GDP spending target and sufficient to fund at least 75 % of the excellent proposals submitted. It recommended that FP10 focus on three core objectives:

(1) creating a European competition of ideas, and a funnel to **accelerate the development from fundamental science to innovation scale-up**, providing support for blue-sky and basic research as well as strengthening the deployment and exploitation of innovative solutions;

(2) supporting **strategic research initiatives** which require large-scale and European collaboration to address the competitiveness gap with our global competitors, focusing on the development of priority innovative advanced technologies and their translation into concrete applications of innovative products, processes and services;

(3) advancing the **European Research Area s**hould lead to the development of an excellent, unified and well-functioning European Research Area that attracts talent, integrates newcomers in existing networks and provides access to world leading research and technology infrastructures.

Parliament recommended that the Commission ensure user-oriented, science-led, effective and efficient implementation of the programme, including by:

(a) implementing an **improved governance**, addressing the need to improve the programme's agility, which should: (i) be oriented towards facilitating the best science, technology development and innovation, (ii) contribute to EU priorities on the terms of science and innovation, (iii) be based on the principle of **self-governance**, through which recognised, independent specialists from the relevant field that act in the public interest can advise on how research and innovation can best contribute to the achievement of the policy priorities set by policymakers;

(b) including positions for **programme managers** for the EIC, appointed for a predefined period, as special advisers to the Commissioner responsible for research and innovation to ensure their seniority in the Commission, to manage strategic visionary portfolios of projects, fostering collaboration between projects where relevant across the whole programme for their mutual benefit and set out challenges based on strategic intelligence and with a view to fostering global leadership for Europe in specific areas of their field;

(c) implementing a **radical simplification** in the administrative work related to the application for and management of FP10 projects;

(d) promote **synergies** and coordinated programming and implementation with other sectoral programmes and policies.

Members believe that, within the framework of FP10, an **expanded and interconnected European Research Council (ERC) and EIC** should be the engine for a European competition of ideas and that their budgets should be increased as a priority. The EIC can only succeed if it can (i) offer blended finance as a single project and (ii) act with the same predictability and agility as private actors on the venture capital market through a tailor-made legal entity for its implementation. Furthermore, the **expansion of the EIC and ERC should include increased funding for blue-sky, collaborative and early research projects**.

The Commission is urged to design FP10 such that it can effectively support strategic research, technology development and deployment initiatives, focusing on a limited number of priorities to support research-based competitiveness and the resilience of key sectors in the European economy as well as to address societal challenges with 2040 as the time horizon and which require cross-border collaboration.