

Basic information	
2025/2951(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects Resolution on the upcoming European Research Area (ERA) Act Subject 3.50.01 European research area and policy 3.50.01.05 Research specific areas	Procedure completed

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy		LAKOS Eszter (EPP)	10/11/2025
European Commission	Commission DG		Commissioner	
	Research and Innovation		ZAHARIEVA Ekaterina	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
09/03/2026	Debate in Parliament		
10/03/2026	Decision by Parliament	T10-0068/2026	Summary
10/03/2026	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2025/2951(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Debate or resolution on oral question/interpellation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/10/04247

Documentation gateway
European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B10-0156/2026	03/03/2026	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T10-0068/2026	10/03/2026	Summary

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
LAKOS Eszter	Rapporteur	ITRE	08/12/2025	Initiative for Science in Europe
LAKOS Eszter	Rapporteur	ITRE	05/12/2025	European Regions Research and Innovation Network
LAKOS Eszter	Rapporteur	ITRE	17/11/2025	League of European Research Universities
LAKOS Eszter	Rapporteur	ITRE	06/11/2025	UK Mission to the European Union
LAKOS Eszter	Rapporteur	ITRE	06/11/2025	European University Association Young European Research Universities Network

Resolution on the upcoming European Research Area (ERA) Act

2025/2951(RSP) - 10/03/2026 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 399 votes to 78, with 69 abstentions, a resolution on the upcoming European Research Area (ERA) Act.

The EU still lacks an integrated European Research Area (ERA) that attracts and retains talent, owing to barriers such as inadequate prioritisation of research and innovation (R&I) investment, with few Member States meeting the 3 % of GDP target, insufficient R&I policy coordination, continued fragmentation, performance disparities, and excessive administrative burdens for researchers and universities. The ERA Act represents a key opportunity to elevate European research by addressing such challenges.

Parliament supported aligning EU and national R&I priorities to ensure complementarity, increase cooperation between universities, research organisations, regions, Member States and industries, create an effective governance framework, make research careers and private investment more attractive.

Members called for a **two-track approach** of voluntary cooperation under the ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027 combined with legislative measures, including the ERA Act and complementary initiatives, to provide ERA with a binding and enforceable framework.

Furthermore, the resolution recommended that the ERA Act be a **regulation**, ensuring direct applicability across Member States, stimulating private investment in R&D, the free circulation of researchers, scientific knowledge and technology, and contribute to reducing single market fragmentation. Members also called for the ERA Act proposal to be accompanied by a separate legislative proposal with a **distinct legal basis** protecting the fundamental freedom of scientific research, including minimum standards for researchers' rights, ethical conduct, integrity and institutional independence, and supported by effective monitoring mechanisms.

Against this background, Parliament also called:

- for the ERA Act to include the Union target of investing at least 3 % of Union GDP in R&D by 2030, complemented by national targets for total R&D expenditure;
- for increased support for public research by strengthening funding for European programmes such as Horizon Europe;
- on Member States to: (i) improve coordination of R&D investment through national roadmaps and targets to ensure complementarity of public and private funding; (ii) increase financial resources for universities and public research organisations; and (iii) undertake reforms to remove barriers to the free circulation of researchers and knowledge, and to enhance cross-border collaboration and innovation. In this regard, it reiterated support for a European Charter for Researchers;
- for strengthened governance of the ERA, and for existing policy and monitoring instruments to be rationalised;

- on the Commission and the Member States to enhance coordination between national and EU R&I initiatives in line with overarching ERA priorities, ensuring synergies across national and Union funding instruments and policies to strengthen Europe's global scientific and technological leadership.

Lastly, Parliament recommended that the ERA Act be aligned with existing and future initiatives, such as the Innovation Act, the Pact for R&I, the Framework Programme and the European Education Area, to ensure mutually reinforcing reforms, innovation uptake, talent mobility and funding.