



## EU Research and Innovation Programmes beyond 2020



Halfway through its seven-year €75-billion Research & Innovation (R&I) funding programme Horizon 2020, the EU is already thinking of the next one due to be launched in 2021 (Framework Programme 9 or FP9).

The [interim evaluation report](#) published in May stresses that H2020 is heavily oversubscribed (only 1 proposal being funded out of 9 instead of 1 out of 6 in the previous programme) and that more red tape must be cut.

To define future R&I programmes and to maximise their impact, the European Commission created a high level group of experts headed by Pascal Lamy, former EU Commissioner for Trade. His [report](#), published in July, should strongly influence the design of FP9. It highlights Europe's difficulty to transform knowledge into innovation and markets, and proposes 11 recommendations to tackle this "innovation deficit".

Firstly, the FP9 budget **should double or at least maintain its current growth rate**, which would

lead to a seven-year budget of **€120 billion**. This is fully in line with the [resolution](#) on H2020 and FP9 prepared by Spanish Socialist MEP Soledad Cabezon Ruiz and adopted last June. This resolution and Lamy's report both advocate for more synergies with other funds, call for a clear separation between defence and civilian R&I budgets and indicate that the former should not affect the latter.

In addition, Lamy's report advocates for a "true EU innovation policy", including setting up the "European Innovation Council" (EIC) proposed two years ago by Research Commissioner Carlos Moedas. It recommends adopting a "mission-oriented, impact-focused approach to address global challenges". These "moon shots" missions should "capture public imagination and involvement", be **interdisciplinary, inter-sectoral** and "have a **breakthrough or**

**transformative potential**". For instance, building and operating the first quantum computer in Europe, or making three out of four patients survive cancer by 2034.

Furthermore, the report recommends sticking to the three-pillar structure of H2020 - **excellent science, industrial leadership** and **societal challenges** - and simplifying the application procedures, in order to make the programme more attractive and less costly for applicants.

Unsurprisingly, researchers welcomed the request for more cash on R&I. For the European Association of Research and Technology Organisations (EARTO), "a seven-year budget of €120 billion would be the bare minimum". But if EARTO also strongly supports the focus on impact,

Science Europe (which gathers Funding or Performing Research Organisations) was more reluctant and the League of European Research Universities considers that a "mission drift" of the FP should be avoided.



The Commission will respond to the Lamy report in October, with a communication expected to be a stepping stone towards FP9. The EIC could include all existing Innovation funds in H2020 and blend grants with loans and/or equity finance, and a pilot phase could be launched in the H2020 Work Programme to be published this autumn. A full FP9 proposal should be presented next summer.

At this stage, it is difficult to assess how FP9 can keep the H2020 structure and accommodate the EIC, the moon shots missions and a defence research programme, keeping in mind the uncertainties over the British participation and regarding the definition of the Multiannual Financial Framework post-2020. No wonder that rumours about a possible shortening of the programming period from seven to five years are beginning to circulate...

## The winds of change

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, Jean-Claude Juncker reiterated his annual speech on the State of the EU, the third since the beginning of his mandate as President of the EU Commission. While last year's speech was tainted with doubts, this one fiercely looked at a brighter horizon, inviting us to "catch the trade wind in our sails".

He justified his optimism with the new context: at the political level, an unexpected united front of the 27 Member States regarding Brexit and, at the economic level, reassuring perspectives given by a fifth year of recovery.

His address was welcomed by most political groups in the European Parliament, except for the far left (GUE) and the Green party, which lamented the gap between his optimistic tone and the concrete reality witnessed by citizens. Not to mention the traditional diatribe of Nigel Farage, British president of the Eurosceptic group EFDD, claiming that "thanks God, we are leaving!".

More than just a mere pep talk to his troops, President Juncker's speech was an opportunity to highlight the Commission's upcoming work in five domains:

- **Trade:** continuation of free-trade negotiations (despite growing criticism) with two new mandates (Australia and New Zealand), a commitment to more transparency in the process and a proposal for a mechanism to monitor foreign investments in strategic infrastructures
- **Industry:** a [new strategy](#) including among others, a [proposal](#) on free flow of data, an upcoming strategy on



plastics and a communication on standard essential patents to be published later this autumn

- **Climate change:** proposals to reduce car emissions
- **Cybersecurity:** a much awaited [package](#) defining the mandate of the EU Agency (ENISA) and creating a certification mechanism
- **Migration:** the President reported on ongoing efforts, asked for more solidarity from Member States with Africa and called for more legal migration routes

It was also an opportunity for him to present his views on the future of Europe, a few months after having launched a general public debate, on the basis his [white paper](#). Even more so, his speech was made a few days before the UK Prime Minister and the new French President's ones. He made it clear that his project was

to keep the herd united, avoiding the creation of dividing lines or a multispeed Europe, and to make efficient changes while avoiding the Pandora box of the treaties' review. His suggestions include merging the EU Commission and the European Council's presidencies, or the use of qualified majority rather than unanimity for some tax issues.

Following the recent setback of Eurosceptic parties in France and in the Netherlands, President Juncker's optimism appears acceptable to many, if not clearly welcome. On the contrary, his proposals of institutional changes did not raise enthusiastic reactions and might go unheeded.

### EU public consultations\*

Consumers	<a href="#">Targeted revision of EU consumer law directives</a>	08.10.2017
Single market	<a href="#">Retail regulations in a multi-channel environment</a>	08.10.2017
Taxation	<a href="#">Exchange of customs related information with third countries</a>	16.10.2017
Finance	<a href="#">Transparency and fees in cross-border transactions in the EU</a>	30.10.2017
Finance	<a href="#">Prevention and Resolution of disputes between investors and public authorities</a>	03.11.2017
Single market	<a href="#">Draft Guidance on Public Procurement of Innovation</a>	02.01.2018

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\* For an exhaustive list : <http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/>