

EERA Open Letter to the European Commission on the future Framework Programme 10

To:

President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen
Commissioner for Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration Piotr Serafin
Director-General of the European Commission's budget department Stephanie Riso

Copy to:

President of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola
Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) Borys Budka
President of the European Council António Costa
Prime Minister of Poland Donald Tusk

Brussels, 17 April 2025

Dear President von der Leyen, Commissioner Serafin and Director-General Riso,

The [European Energy Research Alliance](#) (EERA), as the **largest low-carbon energy research community in Europe and beyond**, representing over 250 leading organisations across more than 30 countries, warmly welcomes the **European Commission's commitment to placing research and innovation (R&I) at the heart of the EU economy**, as outlined in [President von der Leyen's Political Guidelines](#) for the new institutional term of the European Commission, and also emphasised in key publications such as the Letta report "[Much More Than a Market](#)" and the Draghi report "[The Future of European Competitiveness](#)".

In this context, we are actively engaged in discussions on the **future of EU framework programming**, particularly regarding the **proposal to integrate the successor to Horizon Europe, Framework Programme 10 (FP10), into a European Competitiveness Fund** under the **2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)**, alongside all other EU R&I programmes.

We are deeply concerned about this proposal, as **merging FP10 into a broader fund could risk diverting R&I funding to other priorities**, potentially driven by short-term political pressures. We strongly urge the Commission to maintain **continuity and long-term vision for EU R&I**, from research to deployment without silos, through a **standalone EU R&I Framework Programme**, as outlined in [Article 182 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#) (TFEU). A **ring-fenced budget** is essential for ensuring **transparency, stability, traceability**, and **strategic continuity in research funding**. This position is echoed in the recent [Warsaw Declaration](#), adopted by EU research ministers, and the [resolution](#) approved by the European Parliament.

Furthermore, it is **imperative that FP10's budget be increased to €220 billion**, as we have consistently advocated, based on the recommendations put forward in the [expert group's report on the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe](#) (Heitor report), alongside many other key stakeholders in the R&I ecosystem. A similar amount – €200 billion – was proposed in the above-mentioned Draghi report, and we believe that **this level of investment ambition is absolutely essential to achieving the long-missed target of 3% of GDP investment in R&D by 2030** and bringing about the acceleration in technological progress necessary to enhance Europe's global competitiveness while remaining on track to meet climate goals.

Additionally, **FP10 must maintain a balanced approach across all technology readiness levels (TRLs)**, which is critical for preserving the integrity of the EU's research and innovation ecosystem. **We therefore call for the current balance among the three pillars to be maintained**, emphasising the need for a well-functioning innovation pipeline rather than a fragmented, 'stop-and-go' approach across the TRL scale. Furthermore, **we caution against the promised simplification that the future ECF is expected to bring**, as such a large and intricate fund would most likely require an **overly complex administrative and governance structure**, risking the ultimate defeat of the original purpose currently inspiring its proposal.

Finally, **EERA warns against narrowing the role of R&I to a purely economic view of competitiveness**, as framing it solely in terms of productivity and growth risks overlooking the broader benefits it brings to the environment and society. In line with the recent [EERA policy recommendations on boosting the EU's competitiveness and strategic autonomy](#), we call for the **adoption of a wider, more inclusive concept of sustainable competitiveness** to inform the budget structure of the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF), as well as the broader EU political agenda. **R&I should be considered as a driver of sustainable competitiveness** and embedded in all sectorial flagship initiatives.

The implementation of the points advocated above will be critical also in the context of **rapidly evolving geopolitical developments**, particularly with regard to changes in the research, innovation, and investment landscape in the United States under the new administration. In this regard, **the European Union has a unique opportunity to assert global leadership in fostering a competitive, resilient, and sustainable research and innovation ecosystem, supported by an ambitious FP10**. We stand therefore ready to engage in further dialogue and cooperation to shape a future-proof EU R&I framework that ensures Europe's continued global leadership in science, technology, and sustainable competitiveness.

Yours sincerely,

The EERA Presidency on behalf of the Executive Committee



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