

## EERA AMENDMENTS TO THE EUROPEAN COMPETITIVENESS FUND (ECF) REGULATION PROPOSAL

The European Energy Research Alliance, gathering 250 member organisations from more than 30 countries, welcomes the European Commission’s proposal for the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF), starting in 2028 onwards. To strengthen the proposal even further, EERA is hereby proposing amendments to the legal text in line with several of its flagship recommendations, including clarifying Framework Programme 10’s interface with the ECF, aligning the ECF’s governance with the EU Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan).

Article	Amendment proposal
<p><b>(10)</b> The Commission should ensure tight coordination and synergies between all Union founding sources in the MFF. For this purpose, the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation will be tightly linked to the ECF: to ensure that the European industry leverages research results funded by the Union to further innovate and produce in Europe. In order to foster synergies, the work programmes adopted under this Regulation should integrate in a specific and dedicated part and ensure coherence with and the ‘Competitiveness’ component, Part II ‘Competitiveness and Society’ of the Regulation (EU)[XXX] of the European Parliament and of the Council [Horizon Europe Framework programme for Research and Innovation] in accordance with the committee procedure set out in this Regulation. Besides, the ECF shall ensure coherence with the types of actions planned to be implemented under the Innovation Fund, notably when developing work programmes.</p>	<p>(10) The Commission should ensure tight coordination and synergies between all Union founding sources in the MFF. For this purpose, the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation will be tightly linked to the ECF: to ensure that the European industry leverages research results funded by the Union to further innovate and produce in Europe. In order to foster synergies, <b>while promoting excellence and safeguarding researchers’ autonomy as well as curiosity-driven research</b>, the work programmes adopted under this Regulation should integrate in a specific and dedicated part and ensure coherence with and the ‘Competitiveness’ component, Part II ‘Competitiveness and Society’ of the Regulation (EU) [XXX] of the European Parliament and of the Council [Horizon Europe Framework programme for Research and Innovation] in accordance with the committee procedure set out in this Regulation. Besides, the ECF shall ensure coherence with the types of actions planned to be implemented under the Innovation Fund, notably when developing work programmes.</p>
<p><b>(24)</b> Projects and activities under the Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation window shall promote energy efficiency, integrated renewable energy, new energies, energy renovations, and innovative heating and cooling solutions.</p>	<p>(24) Projects and activities under the Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation window shall promote energy efficiency, integrated renewable energy, new energies, energy renovations, and innovative heating and cooling solutions. <b>They should notably align with the technologies and cross-cutting priorities supported by the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan).</b></p>





<p><b>(53)</b> To deliver on the objective of translating research results into markets and strengthening Union's industrial presence in strategic technologies and sectors, Regulation (EU) [XXX] [Horizon Europe framework programme for Research and Innovation] will be tightly linked with ECF and will support research and innovation activities as laid down by the policy windows of ECF. The ECF work programmes will include collaborative research and innovation actions, in a specific dedicated part. This may also include contributions to European Partnerships established under the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, where necessary to achieve the ECF objectives. The ECF work programmes should also set out policy priorities that will steer EIC challenges.</p>	<p>To deliver on the objective of translating research results into markets and strengthening Union's industrial presence in strategic technologies and sectors, Regulation (EU) [XXX] [Horizon Europe framework programme for Research and Innovation] will be tightly linked with ECF <b>in a manner which fosters excellent and curiosity-driven research as well as safeguards researchers' autonomy</b>, and will support research and innovation activities as laid down by the policy windows of ECF <b>and through the evidence-based contribution of scientific experts building on decades of experience gained through participation to previous Framework Programmes</b>. The ECF work programmes will include collaborative research and innovation actions, in a specific dedicated part. This may also include contributions to European Partnerships established under the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, where necessary to achieve the ECF objectives. The ECF work programmes should also set out policy priorities that will steer EIC challenges.</p>
<p><b>Art 3.2.(a)</b> Under the general objectives set out in paragraph 1, the ECF shall in particular pursue the following specific objectives: For support to Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation, the specific objectives of support to decarbonisation of European industry, including SMEs and energy intensive industries, clean tech manufacturing and its supply chains, and contributing to the shift towards a sustainable, circular, energy-, water- and resource efficient, climate-neutral and resilient economy. This includes the uptake by industries of decarbonisation technologies and other solutions for their industrial processes and activities, as well as the decarbonisation of energy supply, promotion of energy efficiency, the uptake of renewable and clean energy solutions, the development of energy system flexibility, the uptake of lead markets for clean products, the development, resilience, integration and digitalisation of the energy and transport infrastructures and systems,</p>	<p>Under the general objectives set out in paragraph 1, the ECF shall in particular pursue the following specific objectives: For support to Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation, the specific objectives of support to decarbonisation of European industry, including SMEs and energy intensive industries, clean tech manufacturing and its supply chains, and contributing to the shift towards a sustainable, circular, energy-, water- and resource efficient, climate-neutral and resilient economy. This includes the uptake by industries of decarbonisation technologies and other solutions for their industrial processes and activities, as well as the decarbonisation of energy supply, promotion of energy efficiency, the uptake of renewable and clean energy solutions <b>in line with the technologies and cross-cutting priorities supported by the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan)</b>.</p>

<p>boosting smart mobility and sustainable alternative fuels, as well as boosting the sustainable blue economy, the development of innovative nature-based business models and demand side solutions for clean and decarbonised buildings, transport and industry, and production ramp up contributing to Europe's strategic autonomy.</p>	<p><b>in line with the technologies and cross-cutting priorities supported by the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan). It shall further support</b> the development of energy system flexibility, the uptake of lead markets for clean products, the development, resilience, integration and digitalisation of the energy and transport infrastructures and systems, boosting smart mobility and sustainable alternative fuels, as well as boosting the sustainable blue economy, the development of innovative nature-based business models and demand side solutions for clean and decarbonised buildings, transport and industry, and production ramp up contributing to Europe's strategic autonomy, <b>while addressing societal concerns to improve acceptance and uptake of clean energy technologies.</b></p>
<p><b>Art 7.2.</b> The Commission and Member States shall, in a manner commensurate to their respective responsibilities, facilitate coordination and coherence between European Competitiveness Fund and national and regional partnership plans on common competitiveness priorities in selected key areas and projects deemed of strategic importance and of common European interest.</p>	<p>Art 7.2. The Commission and Member States shall, in a manner commensurate to their respective responsibilities, facilitate coordination and coherence between European Competitiveness Fund and national and regional partnership plans on common competitiveness priorities in selected key areas and projects deemed of strategic importance and of common European interest, including <b>decarbonisation and the clean energy transition. Specifically, the European Commission and Member States shall ensure synergies between the ECF and the Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan, a well-established governance framework, which supports the development of clean, efficient and cost-competitive energy technologies by fostering collaboration and cooperation between the Commission, European industry, the research community and Member States representatives through its operational structures – including Implementation Working Groups (IWGs), European Technology and Innovation Platforms (ETIPs), and the European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) as the formal research pillar of the Plan – which translate strategic priorities into coordinated action.</b></p>





<p><b>Art 14.11</b> The Commission shall ensure that stakeholders are consulted in the development of the work programmes, with the creation of one or several thematic platforms per window.</p>	<p>The Commission shall ensure that stakeholders are consulted in the development of the work programmes, with the creation of one or several thematic platforms per window. <b>The thematic platform of the Clean Transition and Decarbonisation window would benefit from a structured alignment with the SET Plan, to avoid redundancy, address potential overlaps, and foster efficiency.</b></p>
<p><b>Art 33.</b> Support for clean transition, and industrial decarbonisation window shall be implemented in particular through the following activities:</p> <p>(b) Energy efficiency, energy storage, demand-response, domestic transmission and distribution grids, digitalisation of energy systems, integrated renewable energy, energy renovations, and heating and cooling solutions, systems and services.</p> <p>(c) Clean energy and decarbonisation solutions in industry, including electrification of energy intensive industries, and in cities, in particular for energy, transport and buildings.</p>	<p>Support for clean transition, and industrial decarbonisation window shall be implemented in particular through the following activities:</p> <p>(b) Energy efficiency, energy storage, demand-response, domestic transmission and distribution grids, digitalisation of energy systems, integrated renewable energy, energy renovations, and heating and cooling solutions, systems and services solutions <b>in line with the technologies and cross-cutting priorities supported within the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan).</b></p> <p>(c) Clean energy and decarbonisation solutions in industry, including electrification of energy intensive industries, and in cities, in particular for energy, transport and buildings.</p>
<p><b>Art 34.4</b> Work programmes adopted in accordance with the rules of this Regulation under this chapter shall integrate in a specific dedicated part and ensure coherence with the Competitiveness and Society activities supported under the Regulation (EU) [XXX] [Horizon Europe Framework programme for Research and Innovation].</p>	<p>Work programmes adopted in accordance with the rules of this Regulation under this chapter shall integrate in a specific dedicated part and ensure coherence with the Competitiveness and Society activities supported under the Regulation (EU) [XXX] [Horizon Europe Framework programme for Research and Innovation] <b>while ensuring excellence remains a core principle of work programme design and safeguarding researcher's autonomy.</b></p>