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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

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Subject: Horizon Europe package: Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2021-2027

-Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination

- *Partial general approach*
- *Statements by HU delegation, by IT delegation, by MT delegation, by SK-HR-CZ-HU and LT delegations*

Delegations will find attached above-mentioned statements which will be annexed to the Council minutes.

**Declaration of Hungary on Widening issues within Horizon Europe for the Competitiveness
Council meeting on 30 November 2018**

Hungary agrees that support for research and innovation should play a crucial role in the next MFF period. However, we are convinced that the full exploitation of the research and innovation potential of Europe can only be realized if the issue of balanced representation is properly addressed by Horizon Europe.

It is important to highlight the fact that the share of the EU13 within the Horizon 2020 programme funding has been less than 5%. It has become evident that more serious efforts need to be undertaken to widen the participation and tackle the innovation divide within the next framework programme.

As signalled consistently during the negotiations, we would like to express our concerns about the way widening issues are addressed within the latest version of the proposal for the Horizon Europe Regulation. The continuation of the Horizon 2020 widening measures in the new programme is appreciated since they are important instruments in capacity building in the widening countries. However, they have a restricted focus and much more is needed to bring the desired results of opening up the closed networks and contribute to an increased participation of EU13 countries.

Therefore, we call for an increased budget of 7% of the total budget of Horizon Europe for widening measures. We also reiterate our conviction that a horizontal approach for widening is essential in the Horizon Europe programme to address the innovation divide within Europe. To achieve this goal, different instruments with targeted actions and indicators are needed in all Pillars of the Horizon Europe programme, as it was also outlined in the letter sent to Commissioner Moedas and Minister Fassmann signed by the ministers of twelve Member States.

In our view, the measures on widening participation are linked to the MFF negotiations. Therefore we reserve the right to come back to the issue of geographical balance after it has been discussed at the level of heads of state and government, as part of the MFF negotiating box.

A number of possible measures have already been presented during the negotiations and we call for continuing this constructive dialogue in the next months as well, with the aim of improving the Programme for the benefit of Europe as a whole.

Italian statement to the minutes of the Compet Council (Research) - 30.11.2018

In a spirit of compromise, Italy accepts the proposal of the Austrian Presidency on the structure of the Framework Programme and the resources dedicated to Space, while stressing that this political commitment of the Council will have to be implemented, within the Multiannual Financial Framework, through appropriate legal provisions.

Statement by Malta on Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research

Malta welcomes the Horizon Europe Framework Programme as a key tool in realising the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals and in contributing to the strengthening of the European Research Area by delivering upon the commitments made therein. In this context, Malta has ensured its commitment by fully engaging in the negotiations undertaken that were aimed at shaping an inclusive Horizon Europe Programme which rewards excellence and supports potential excellence in research and innovation. Nevertheless, Malta continues to advocate that it cannot agree with the eligibility for funding of activities under the Horizon Europe Framework Programme that involves research on, and the destruction of, human embryos in line with Chapter 524 of the Law of Malta relating to the protection of Embryos.

**Statement by Slovakia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Lithuania on the
Commission remuneration model within the Horizon Europe programme proposal for the
Competitiveness Council meeting on 30 November 2018**

Slovakia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Lithuania welcome the Horizon Europe proposal that will bring science closer to European public addressing grand societal challenges. Appropriate set of tools should help to implement the programme in order to support competitiveness of the European Union as a whole.

We acknowledge that significant progress has been achieved during negotiations on the Horizon Europe legislative package.

Nevertheless, Slovakia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Lithuania are concerned that the issue of unequal payment for the same work in excellent projects was not resolved. We are convinced that disparities in remuneration negatively affect motivation of researchers in the low-performing countries to participate in Framework programme and lead to brain drain within and outside the Union.

We call on the current and future Presidencies, European Commission, Member States and European Parliament to address this issue as an important integral part of Horizon Europe legislation in order to decrease the innovation divide and build a strong and well-balanced European Research Area.
