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**NOTE**

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From: Presidency  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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No. prev. doc.: 15736/1/18 REV 1  
No. Cion doc.: 9870/18 + ADD 1

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Subject: *Preparation of the Competitiveness Council on 19 February 2019*  
Horizon Europe package: Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2021-2027  
- Proposal for a DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on  
establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon Europe – the Framework  
Programme for Research and Innovation  
*- Progress report*

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1. In June 2018, the Commission presented its proposal for the "Horizon Europe" package, including the proposal for a Decision on the Specific Programme implementing "Horizon Europe"<sup>1</sup>. The Competitiveness Council on 30 November 2018 took note of the progress made<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> doc. 9870/18 + ADD 1

<sup>2</sup> doc. 14264/18

2. Since this last Council, the Research Working party has continued the discussions on the content of the proposal in several of its meetings and delegations have provided oral and written comments, on the basis of which the Presidency issued a Presidency text on the Specific Programme<sup>3</sup> which reflects the state of discussions.

Agreed and open issues

3. The discussions at technical level have made significant progress. Nonetheless, further progress needs to be achieved before a Council position can be established.
4. There is general agreement within the Council to base the Specific Programme on article 182(4) TFEU alone, in line with the opinion of the Council Legal Service<sup>4</sup> and the orientation of the Council. The Presidency text reflects this.
5. As regards the strategic planning process, the Presidency text emphasises and clarifies the early involvement of Member States in the strategic planning process, the role of the Mission Boards, the form and content of the Strategic Plan, as well as the link with the strategic coordination process for European Partnerships.
6. The Strategic Plan should be adopted as an Implementing Act and should cover the areas of the Framework Programme that are organised in a top-down manner, with a strong focus on pillar II. The plan should contain *inter alia* key strategic orientations for R&I support, areas for international cooperation, identification of European Partnerships, the role of Social Science and Humanities, and the role of Key Enabling Technologies. It will be informed by an analysis, covering amongst others political, socio-economic drivers which are relevant for the EU and Member States' policy priorities and feedback from implementation, including of specific measures regarding widening participation and sharing excellence and the participation of SMEs.
7. In line with orientations given by Ministers in September 2018, areas for missions and institutionalised partnerships should not be included in the Strategic Plan as proposed by the Commission, but set out in an annex. The details on the list of mission and partnership areas have already been extensively discussed at technical level, following the political discussions.

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<sup>3</sup> doc. 6043/19

<sup>4</sup> doc. 11422/18

8. Delegations also reiterated the need to further clarify the process leading to the establishment and validation of missions. The governance of missions also requires clarification as regards the structures to be used and/or established.
9. On the details of pillar II, the description of the clusters in pillar II has been revised to better reflect the requests of delegations. This revised version will be further discussed at technical level. On pillar III and the part 'Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area, the discussions at Working party level are ongoing.
10. Overall, the progress in interinstitutional negotiations on the proposal for a Regulation on the establishment of the Framework Programme is also being taken into account in the evolution of the text of the Specific Programme.

#### Way forward

11. Following the Competitiveness Council, the Presidency will continue the discussions on the substance of the Specific Programme with a view to making as much progress as possible in consolidating the Council's position and ensuring full alignment with the Framework Programme Regulation.
12. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to take note of the progress made and the proposed way forward and submit the progress report to the Council for its meeting on 19 February. The Council is invited to confirm at political level the elements as set out in paragraphs 4 to 7. The Council is also invited to take note of the progress made on the other areas of the Specific Programme as set out in paragraphs 8 and 9.