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**2023/0199(COD)**

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**NOTE**

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	5241/1/24
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Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform ('STEP') and amending Directive 2003/87/EC, Regulations (EU) 2021/1058, (EU) 2021/1056, (EU) 2021/1057, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) 2021/1060, (EU) 2021/523, (EU) 2021/695, (EU) 2021/697 and (EU) 2021/241 - 4-column document

Delegations will find attached the text of the four-column document for the above-mentioned proposal, containing the initial positions of the institutions.

**Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform ('STEP') and amending Directive 2003/87/EC, Regulations (EU) 2021/1058, (EU) 2021/1056, (EU) 2021/1057, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) 2021/1060, (EU) 2021/523, (EU) 2021/695, (EU) 2021/697 and (EU) 2021/241**

**2023/0199(COD)**

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Formula				
1	2023/0199 (COD)	2023/0199 (COD)	2023/0199 (COD)	
Proposal Title				
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	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>Proposal for a</p> <p>REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform ('STEP') and amending Directive 2003/87/EC, Regulations (EU) 2021/1058, (EU) 2021/1056, (EU) 2021/1057, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) 2021/1060, (EU) 2021/523, (EU) 2021/695, (EU) 2021/697 and (EU) 2021/241</p>	<p>Proposal for a</p> <p>REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform ('STEP') and amending Directive 2003/87/EC, Regulations (EU) 2021/1058, (EU) 2021/1056, (EU) 2021/1057, <a href="#">(EU) 2021/1755</a>, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) 2021/1060, (EU) 2021/523, (EU) 2021/695, (EU) 2021/697 and (EU) 2021/241</p>	<p>Proposal for a</p> <p>REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform ('STEP') and amending Directive 2003/87/EC, Regulations (EU) 2021/1058, (EU) 2021/1056, (EU) 2021/1057, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) 2021/1060, (EU) 2021/523, (EU) 2021/695, (EU) 2021/697 and (EU) 2021/241</p>	
	Formula			
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	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,	THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,	THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,	
Citation 1				
4	Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 164, Article 173, Article 175, third paragraph, Article 176, Article 177, Article 178, Article 182(1) and Article 192(1) thereof,	Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 164, Article 173, Article 175, third paragraph, Article 176, Article 177, Article 178, Article 182(1) and Article 192(1) thereof,	Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 164, Article 173, Article 175, third paragraph, Article 176, Article 177, Article 178, Article 182(1) and Article 192(1) thereof,	
Citation 2				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
5	Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,	Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,	Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,	
Citation 3				
6	After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,	After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,	After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,	
Citation 4				
7	Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social	Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social	Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	Committee <sup>1</sup> ,  _____  1. OJ C [...], [...], p. [...]	Committee <sup>1</sup> ,  _____  1. OJ C [...], [...], p. [...]	Committee <sup>1</sup> ,  _____  1. OJ C [...], [...], p. [...]	
Citation 5				
8	Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions <sup>1</sup> ,  _____  1. OJ C [...], [...], p. [...]	Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions <sup>1</sup> ,  _____  1. OJ C [...], [...], p. [...]	Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions <sup>1</sup> ,  _____  1. OJ C [...], [...], p. [...]	
Citation 6				
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	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,	Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,	Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,	
Formula				
10	Whereas:	Whereas:	Whereas:	
Recital 1				
11	(1) Strengthening the competitiveness and resilience of the European economy through the green and digital transformations has been the EU compass over the last years. The green and digital	(1) Strengthening the competitiveness and resilience of the European economy through the green and digital transformations has been the EU compass over the last years. The green and digital	(1) Strengthening the competitiveness and resilience of the European economy through the green and digital transformations has been the EU compass over the last years. The green and digital	

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	<p>transitions anchored in the European Green Deal<sup>1</sup> and the Digital Decade,<sup>2</sup> spurs growth and the modernisation of the EU economy, opening up new business opportunities and helping gain a competitive advantage on the global markets. The European Green Deal sets out the roadmap for making the Union's economy climate neutral and sustainable in a fair and inclusive manner, tackling climate and environmental-related challenges. Moreover, the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030 sets out a clear direction for the digital transformation of the Union and for the delivery of digital targets at Union level by 2030, notably concerning digital skills, digital infrastructures, and the digital transformation of businesses and</p>	<p>transitions anchored in the European Green Deal<sup>1</sup> and the Digital Decade,<sup>2</sup> spurs growth and the modernisation of the EU economy, opening up new business opportunities and helping gain a competitive advantage on the global markets. The European Green Deal sets out the roadmap for making the Union's economy climate neutral and sustainable in a fair and inclusive manner, tackling climate and environmental-related challenges. Moreover, the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030 sets out a clear direction for the digital transformation of the Union and for the delivery of digital targets at Union level by 2030, notably concerning digital skills, digital infrastructures, and the digital transformation of businesses and</p>	<p>transitions anchored in the European Green Deal<sup>1</sup> and the Digital Decade,<sup>2</sup> spurs growth and the modernisation of the EU economy, opening up new business opportunities and helping gain a competitive advantage on the global markets. The European Green Deal sets out the roadmap for making the Union's economy <del>climate neutral</del><b>climate-neutral</b> and sustainable in a fair and inclusive manner, tackling climate and environmental-related challenges. Moreover, the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030 sets out a clear direction for the digital transformation of the Union and for the delivery of digital targets at Union level by 2030, notably concerning digital skills, digital infrastructures, and the digital</p>	

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	<p>public services.</p> <hr/> <p>1. Communication on The European Green Deal, COM(2019) 640 final. See also European Parliament resolution of 15 January 2020, and European Council conclusions of 11 December 2020.</p> <p>2. Decision (EU) 2022/2481 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 establishing the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030 (OJ L 323, 19.12.2022, p. 4).</p>	<p>public services.</p> <hr/> <p>1. Communication on The European Green Deal, COM(2019) 640 final. See also European Parliament resolution of 15 January 2020, and European Council conclusions of 11 December 2020.</p> <p>2. Decision (EU) 2022/2481 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 establishing the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030 (OJ L 323, 19.12.2022, p. 4).</p>	<p>transformation of businesses and public services.</p> <hr/> <p>1. Communication on The European Green Deal, COM(2019) 640 final. See also European Parliament resolution of 15 January 2020, and European Council conclusions of 11 December 2020.</p> <p>2. Decision (EU) 2022/2481 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 establishing the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030 (OJ L 323, 19.12.2022, p. 4).</p>	
Recital 2				
12	<p>(2) The EU industry has proven its inbuilt resilience but is being</p>	<p>(2) The EU industry has proven its inbuilt resilience but <del>is being</del></p>	<p>(2) The EU industry has proven its inbuilt resilience but is being</p>	

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	<p>challenged. High inflation, labour shortages, post-COVID supply chains disruptions, rising interest rates, and spikes in energy costs and input prices are weighing on the competitiveness of the EU industry. This is paired with strong, but not always fair, competition on the fragmented global market. The EU has already put forward several initiatives to support its industry, such as the Green Deal Industrial Plan,<sup>1</sup> the Critical Raw Materials Act<sup>2</sup>, the Net Zero Industry Act<sup>3</sup>, the new Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State aid,<sup>4</sup> and REPowerEU.<sup>5</sup> While these solutions provide fast and targeted support, the EU needs a more structural answer to the investment needs of its industries, safeguarding cohesion and the level playing field</p>	<p><del>challenged</del><u>its competitiveness must also be ensured in the future.</u> High inflation, labour shortages, post-COVID supply chains disruptions, <u>Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine,</u> rising interest rates, and spikes in energy costs and input prices are weighing on the competitiveness of the EU industry <u>and have highlighted the importance for the Union to secure its open strategic autonomy and reduce its strategic dependence on third countries in various sectors.</u></p> <p>This is paired with strong, but not always fair, competition on the fragmented global market. The EU has already put forward several initiatives to support its industry, such as the Green Deal Industrial Plan,<sup>140</sup> the Critical Raw Materials Act<sup>241</sup>, the Net Zero Industry Act<sup>342</sup></p>	<p>challenged. High inflation, labour shortages, post-COVID supply chains disruptions, rising interest rates, and spikes in energy costs and input prices are weighing on the competitiveness of the EU industry. This is paired with strong, but not always fair, competition on the fragmented global market. The EU has already put forward several initiatives to support its industry, such as the Green Deal Industrial Plan,<sup>1</sup> the Critical Raw Materials Act<sup>2</sup>, the Net Zero Industry Act<sup>3</sup>, the new Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State aid,<sup>4</sup> <b>NextGenerationEU</b> and REPowerEU.<sup>5</sup> While these solutions provide fast, <b>targeted and, in some cases, temporary</b> and targeted support, the EU needs a more structural answer to the investment</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>in the Single Market and to reduce the EU's strategic dependencies.</p> <hr/> <p>1. Communication on A Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age, COM(2023) 62 final.</p> <p>2. COM(2023) 160 final</p> <p>3. COM(2023) 161 final</p> <p>4. Communication on a Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State Aid measures (OJ C 101, 17.3.2023, p. 3).</p> <p>5. Regulation (EU) 2023/435 as regards REPowerEU (OJ L 63, 28.2.2023, p. 1).</p>	<p>, the new Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State aid<sup>43</sup>, <u>and the Recovery and Resilience Facility<sup>43a</sup>, as amended by<sup>4</sup></u> <del>and</del> REPowerEU.<sup>544</sup> While these solutions provide fast and targeted support, the EU needs a more structural answer to the investment needs of its industries, safeguarding cohesion, <u>creating quality jobs</u>, and the level playing field in the Single Market, <u>facilitating access to funding and reducing</u> <del>and to reduce</del> the EU's strategic dependencies.</p> <p><u>The adaptation of new, different State aid frameworks has facilitated the potential allocation of substantial volumes of state aid.</u></p> <p><u>Under more adverse circumstances, this situation possesses the capacity to undermine the efficacy of the</u></p>	<p>needs of its industries <b>and to reduce the EU's strategic dependencies, while</b> <del>ensuring</del> safeguarding cohesion and the level playing field in the Single Market. <b>The EU should work to prevent relocation, to transfer back production facilities of critical technologies from third countries, and to reduce the EU's attract new ones to prevent</b> strategic dependencies.</p> <hr/> <p>1. Communication on A Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age, COM(2023) 62 final.</p> <p>2. COM(2023) 160 final</p> <p>3. COM(2023) 161 final</p> <p>4. Communication on a Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State Aid measures (OJ C 101, 17.3.2023, p. 3).</p>	

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		<p><u><a href="#">internal market.</a></u> <sup>4143a40434244</sup></p> <hr/> <p><del>1. Communication on A Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age, COM(2023) 62 final</del></p> <p><del>2. COM(2023) 160 final</del></p> <p><del>3. COM(2023) 161 final</del></p> <p><del>4. Communication on a Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State Aid measures (OJ C 101, 17.3.2023, p. 3).</del></p> <p><del>5. Regulation (EU) 2023/435 as regards REPowerEU (OJ L 63, 28.2.2023, p. 1).</del></p> <p><u><a href="#">41. COM(2023) 160 final</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">43a. Regulation (EU) 2021/241 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility (OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17).</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">40. Communication on A Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age, COM(2023) 62 final.</a></u></p>	<p>5. Regulation (EU) 2023/435 as regards REPowerEU (OJ L 63, 28.2.2023, p. 1).</p>	

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		<p><u>43. Communication on a Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State Aid measures (OJ C 101, 17.3.2023, p. 3).</u></p> <p><u>42. COM(2023) 161 final</u></p> <p><u>44. Regulation (EU) 2023/435 as regards REPowerEU (OJ L 63, 28.2.2023, p. 1).</u></p>		
Recital 2a				
12a		<p><u>(2a) The Single Market has brought significant economic, social, and political advantages to the entire Union, including its citizens and businesses. While these benefits are widely recognised, it is imperative to continue finding solutions to further harness its untapped societal potential. The</u></p>		

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		<u><i>Commission communication of 16 March 2023 entitled “The Single Market at 30” paves the long-term strategic direction of the Single Market. The future Single Market must remain adaptable in the face of evolving geopolitical dynamics, technological advancements, and the green and digital transitions, while fostering the resilience of health systems in the face of an ageing population and contributing to enhance the Union’s long-term competitiveness and productivity.</i></u>		
Recital 3				
13	(3) The uptake and scaling up in the Union of deep and digital	(3) The uptake and scaling up <del>in</del> <i>the Union of deep and</i> digital	(3) The uptake and scaling up in the Union of deep and digital	

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	<p>technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies will be essential to seize the opportunities and meet the objectives of the green and digital transitions, thus promoting the competitiveness of the European industry and its sustainability. Therefore, immediate action is required to support the development or manufacturing in the Union of such technologies, safeguarding and strengthening their value chains thereby reducing the Union's strategic dependencies, and addressing existing labour and skills shortages in those sectors through trainings and apprenticeships and the creation of attractive, quality jobs accessible to all.</p>	<p>technologies, <del>net-zero</del>, <del>clean</del> technologies, and biotechnologies <u>and life sciences</u> will be essential to <u>reduce the Union's strategic dependencies</u>, seize the opportunities and meet the objectives of the green and digital transitions, thus <u>securing the sovereignty and strategic autonomy of the Union and</u> promoting the competitiveness of the European industry and its sustainability. Therefore, immediate action is required to support the development or manufacturing in the Union of such technologies, safeguarding and strengthening their <del>value</del> <u>supply</u> chains, thereby reducing the Union's strategic dependencies, and addressing existing labour and skills shortages in <del>those</del> <u>the relevant</u> sectors through <u>lifelong learning</u>.</p>	<p>technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies will be essential to seize the opportunities and meet the objectives of the green and digital transitions, thus promoting the competitiveness of the European industry and its sustainability. Therefore, immediate action is required to support the development, <b>manufacturing and deployment or manufacturing</b> in the Union of such technologies, <b>or related services</b>, safeguarding and strengthening their value chains thereby reducing the Union's strategic dependencies, and addressing existing labour and skills shortages in those sectors through trainings and apprenticeships and the creation of attractive, <b>and</b> quality jobs accessible to all.</p>	

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		trainings and apprenticeships and the creation of attractive, quality jobs accessible to all.		
Recital 4				
14	(4) There is a need to support critical technologies in the following fields: deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies (including the respective critical raw materials value chains), in particular projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains. By way of example, deep technologies and digital technologies should include microelectronics, high-	(4) There is a need to support critical technologies in the following fields: <del>deep and</del> digital technologies, <del>clean</del> <u>net-zero</u> technologies, and biotechnologies <del>and life science,</del> <u>including medicinal products on the Union List of Critical Medicinal Products established pursuant to Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2022/123 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>44a</sup> and their components, and the respective supply chains of those</u>	(4) There is a need to support critical technologies <b>and related services</b> in the following fields: deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies (including the respective critical raw materials value chains <b>in all three technology areas</b> ), <b>the entire carbon capture utilisation and storage technologies' value chains, research projects, and preliminary studies and analyses to support the development of innovative</b>	

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	performance computing, quantum technologies (i.e., computing, communication and sensing technologies), cloud computing, edge computing, and artificial intelligence, cybersecurity technologies, robotics, 5G and advanced connectivity and virtual realities, including actions related to deep and digital technologies for the development of defence and aerospace applications. Clean technologies should include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; heat pumps; electricity grid; renewable fuels of non-biological origin; sustainable alternative fuels; electrolyzers and fuel cells; carbon capture, utilisation and storage; energy efficiency; hydrogen and its related infrastructure; smart energy solutions;	<del>technologies including the respective Critical raw materials value chains</del> , in particular <u>in projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience. For reasons of legal clarity and coherence, the definition of digital technologies should be aligned with the definition contained in Decision (EU) 2022/2481 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>44b</sup> and the definition of net-zero technologies is aligned with the definition in Regulation (EU) .../... [Net-Zero Industry Act]. In the absence of a definition of biotechnologies in Union law, this Regulation should take over the OECD definition. Life sciences should include the application of scientific knowledge to fields such</u>	<b>technologies</b> , in particular projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains. By way of example, deep technologies and digital technologies should include microelectronics, <b>photonics, semiconductors and semiconductor equipment, communication technologies, including 5G and advanced connectivity, advanced materials technologies, Internet of Things, high-performance computing, mass data processing tools (Open/Linked/Big Data), additive manufacturing</b> , quantum technologies (i.e., computing, communication and sensing technologies), cloud computing, edge computing, <b>secure data infrastructures and ecosystems</b> ,	

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	technologies vital to sustainability such as water purification and desalination; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials, and technologies for the sustainable extraction and processing of critical raw materials. Biotechnology should be considered to include technologies such as biomolecules and its applications, pharmaceuticals and medical technologies vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. The Commission may issue guidance to further specify the scope of the technologies in these three fields considered to be critical in accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common	<u>as biology, zoology, botany, ecology, physiology, biochemistry, microbiology, pharmacology, agronomy, medicine. Critical medicinal products, including active pharmaceutical ingredients, as listed in the Union List of Critical Medicinal Products, should be covered as well. The Union's open strategic autonomy and competitiveness cannot be enhanced without strengthening the supply chains in the technology sectors covered by this Regulation. Financial support to projects along the supply chain for the manufacturing of critical technologies therefore also contribute to the STEP objectives. Technologies should be considered critical when they bring an innovative, cutting-edge element</u>	<del>and</del> artificial intelligence, cybersecurity technologies, robotics, <del>5G and advanced connectivity and</del> virtual realities, including actions related to deep and digital technologies for the development of defence and aerospace applications, <b>as well as applications to deliver healthcare.</b> Clean technologies should include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; <b>vehicles enabling efficient and clean mobility as well as their value chain and supply infrastructures;</b> heat pumps; electricity grid; <b>geothermal energy;</b> renewable fuels of non-biological origin; <del>sustainable alternative</del> <b>sustainable</b> fuels; electrolyzers and fuel cells; <del>carbon capture, utilisation and storage; energy efficiency</del> <b>energy efficiency;</b>	

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	<p>interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective programmes in light of the common strategic objective. Moreover, technologies in any of these three fields which are subjects of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, in accordance with the respective programme rules, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not yet been completely covered.</p>	<p><u>with significant economic potential to the Single Market or contribute to the prevention or reduction of Union dependencies. The Commission should adopt a delegated act, at the latest two months after the entry into force of this Regulation.</u> <del>projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains. By way of example, deep technologies and digital technologies should include microelectronics, high-performance computing, quantum technologies (i.e., computing, communication and sensing technologies), cloud computing, edge computing, and artificial intelligence, cybersecurity technologies, robotics, 5G and advanced connectivity and virtual realities, including actions related to</del></p>	<p><b>biolubricants</b>; hydrogen and its related <del>infrastructure</del> <b>infrastructure</b>; smart energy solutions; <b>cutting-edge solutions for leak detection and repair inspections of renewable gases and water transport and distribution networks</b>; technologies vital to sustainability such as water <b>efficiency and storage, smart use, purification and desalination technologies; circular economy, such as high-quality recycling, resource and material efficiency</b>; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials, and technologies for the sustainable extraction and processing of critical raw materials. Biotechnology should be considered to include technologies such as <del>biomolecules</del> <b>and its applications</b>;</p>	

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		<del>deep and digital technologies for the development of defence and aerospace applications. Clean technologies should include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; heat pumps; electricity grid; renewable fuels of non-biological origin; sustainable alternative fuels; electrolyzers and fuel cells; carbon capture, utilisation and storage; energy efficiency; hydrogen and its related infrastructure; smart energy solutions; technologies vital to sustainability such as water purification and desalination; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials; and technologies for the sustainable extraction and processing of critical raw materials. Biotechnology should</del>	<p>pharmaceuticals <b>molecular biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, medical products</b> and medical technologies <b>such as medical devices, and processes</b> vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. <del>The Commission may issue guidance to further specify the scope of the technologies in these three fields considered to be critical in accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective programmes in light of the common strategic objective. Moreover,</del> technologies in any of these three fields which are subjects of an Important Project of Common</p>	

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		<p><del>be considered to include technologies such as biomolecules and its applications, pharmaceuticals and medical technologies vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. The Commission may issue guidance</del> to further specify the scope of the technologies in these three <del>fields</del><u>sectors</u> considered to be critical in accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective programmes in light of the common strategic objective <u>to reduce critical dependencies. When defining strategic dependencies, the</u></p>	<p>European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, in accordance with the respective programme rules, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not yet been completely covered.</p>	

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		<p><u>Commission should build upon the assessments conducted in recent years. When defining strategic dependencies, the Commission should build upon the assessments conducted in recent years.<sup>44c</sup> The Commission should review the delegated act in light of the findings of its interim evaluation report drawn up in accordance with this Regulation and adapt it to the then prevailing market conditions. As the Net-Zero Industry Act creates a comprehensive understanding of those European industries that are deemed necessary to reach the climate targets in 2050, Strategic Projects as identified under Regulation (EU) .../... [Net-Zero Industry Act] that comply with the resilience or competitiveness criteria of the Net-Zero Industry</u></p>		

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		<p><u>Act, in the spirit of the critical aspects of all technology projects under this Regulation, should be considered to fulfill the STEP objectives. The same should apply to Strategic Projects identified under Regulation (EU) .... [Critical Raw Materials Act].</u> <del>Moreover, technologies in any of these three fields which are subjects of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by The Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, in accordance with the respective programme rules, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not yet</del></p>		

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		<p><del>been completely covered.</del></p> <p>_____</p> <p><u>44a. Regulation (EU) 2022/123 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 January 2022 on a reinforced role for the European Medicines Agency in crisis preparedness and management for medicinal products and medical devices (OJ L 020 31.1.2022, p. 1)</u></p> <p><u>44b. Decision (EU) 2022/2481 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 establishing the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030 (OJ L 323, 19.12.2022, p. 4).</u></p> <p><u>44c. Commission Staff Working document on Strategic dependencies and capacities (SWD(2021)352) and Commission Staff Working Document on EU strategic dependencies and capacities: second stage of in-depth reviews (SWD(2022)41), Commission Staff Working document 2023 Annual Single Market Report: Single Market at 30 (SWD(2023)26).</u></p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Recital 5				
15	<p>(5) Strengthening the manufacturing capacity of key technologies in the Union will not be possible without a sizeable skilled workforce.</p> <p>However, labour and skills shortages have increased in all sectors including those considered key for the green and digital transition and endanger the rise of key technologies, also in the context of demographic change. Therefore, it is necessary to boost the activation of more people to the labour market relevant for strategic sectors, in particular through the creation of jobs and apprenticeships for young,</p>	<p>(5) Strengthening the manufacturing capacity of <del>key</del> technologies <u>in the relevant sectors identified under this Regulation</u> in the Union will not be possible without a sizeable skilled workforce. However, labour and skills shortages, <u>which</u> have increased in all sectors including those considered key for the green and digital transition, <u>are expected to increase further in light of demographic change</u> and endanger the rise of <del>key</del> technologies, <del>also</del> in the <del>context of demographic change</del> <u>relevant sectors identified under this Regulation</u>. Therefore, it</p>	<p>(5) Strengthening the <b>development and</b> manufacturing capacity of key technologies in the Union will not be possible without a sizeable skilled workforce. However, labour and skills shortages have increased in all sectors, including those considered key for the green and digital transition, and endanger the rise of key technologies, also in the context of demographic change. Therefore, it is necessary to boost the activation of more people to the labour market relevant for strategic sectors, in particular through the creation of jobs and apprenticeships for young,</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>disadvantaged persons, in particular, young people not in employment, education or training. Such support will complement a number of other actions aimed at meeting the skills needs stemming from the transition, outlined in the EU Skills Agenda.<sup>1</sup></p> <hr/> <p>1. Communication on a European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, COM(2020) 274 final.</p>	<p>is necessary to boost the activation of more people to the labour market relevant for <del>strategie</del><u>relevant</u> sectors, in particular through <u>investments in learning and life-long learning, the enhancement of relevant skills</u>, the creation of <u>quality</u> jobs and apprenticeships for young, disadvantaged persons, <del>in particular, young people</del> not in employment, education or training. Such support will complement a number of other actions aimed at meeting the skills needs stemming from the transition, outlined in the EU Skills Agenda.<sup>145</sup> <u>Those actions have an important role to play in promoting a mind-set of reskilling and upskilling, boosting the competitiveness of Union undertakings, in particular SMEs, and contributing to the creation of</u></p>	<p><b>and</b> disadvantaged persons, in particular, young people not in employment, education or training. Such support will complement a number of other actions aimed at meeting the skills needs stemming from the transition, outlined in the EU Skills Agenda.<sup>1</sup></p> <hr/> <p>1. Communication on a European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, COM(2020) 274 final.</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u>quality jobs with a view to realising the full potential of the green and digital transition in a socially fair, inclusive and just manner.</u></p> <hr/> <p><del>1. Communication on a European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, COM(2020) 274 final.</del></p> <p><u>45. Communication on a European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, COM(2020) 274 final.</u></p>		
Recital 6				
16	(6) The scale of investments needed for the transition require a full	(6) <u>Significant investments will be required over the coming years to</u>	(6) The scale of investments needed for the transition require a full	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>mobilisation of funding available under existing EU programmes and funds, inclusive those granting a budgetary guarantee for financing and investment operations and implementation of financial instruments and blending operations. Such funding should be deployed in a more flexible manner, to provide timely and targeted support for critical technologies in strategic sectors. Therefore, a Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform ('STEP') should give a structural answer to the Union investment needs by helping to better channel the existing EU funds towards critical investments aimed at supporting the development or manufacturing of critical technologies, while preserving a level playing field in the Single</p>	<p><u>strengthen the open strategic autonomy of the Union in a comprehensive way, to preserve its competitiveness in the global market and to achieve the green and digital transitions.</u> <del>The scale of investments needed for the transition require a full mobilisation of funding available under</del> Existing EU programmes and funds, <del>inclusive</del> <u>including</u> those granting a budgetary guarantee for financing and investment operations and implementation of financial instruments and blending operations. <u>should contribute to addressing those goals. In addition to its full mobilisation, Union.</u> <del>Such</del> funding should be deployed in a more flexible manner, to provide timely and targeted support for <del>critical</del> technologies in <del>strategie</del> <u>relevant</u></p>	<p>mobilisation of funding available under existing EU programmes and funds, inclusive those granting a budgetary guarantee for financing and investment operations and implementation of financial instruments and blending operations. Such funding should be deployed in a more flexible manner, to provide timely and targeted support for critical technologies in strategic sectors. Therefore, a Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform ('STEP') should give a structural answer to the Union investment needs by helping to better channel the existing EU funds towards critical investments aimed at supporting the development or manufacturing of critical technologies, while preserving a level playing field in the Single</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>Market, thereby preserving cohesion and aiming at a geographically balanced distribution of projects financed under the STEP in accordance with the respective programme mandates.</p>	<p>sectors, <u>reinforcing the financing for Union-wide and cross-border projects</u>. Therefore, a Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform ('STEP') should <del>give a structural answer to the Union investment needs by helping</del> <u>help</u> to better channel <del>the</del> existing <u>EU Union</u> funds towards critical investments aimed at supporting the development or manufacturing of <del>critical</del> technologies <u>in relevant sectors</u>, while preserving a level playing field in the Single Market, thereby preserving cohesion and aiming at a geographically balanced distribution of projects financed under the STEP in accordance with the respective programme mandates. <u>While being open to every Member State, STEP should put specific emphasis on net-zero industry valleys as defined</u></p>	<p>Market, thereby preserving cohesion and aiming at a geographically balanced distribution of projects financed under the STEP in accordance with the respective programme mandates.</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u>under Regulation (EU) .../... [Net-Zero Industry Act], on projects in territories included in the Territorial just transition plans as referred to in Article 11 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1056, on less developed and transition regions as well as more developed regions in Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017.</u></p>		
Recital 7				
17	(7) The STEP should identify	(7) The STEP should identify	(7) <del>The</del> STEP should identify	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>resources which should be implemented within the existing Union programmes and funds, the InvestEU, Horizon Europe, European Defence Fund and Innovation Fund. This should be accompanied by providing additional funding of EUR 10 billion. Of this, EUR 5 billion should be used to increase the endowment of the Innovation Fund<sup>1</sup> and EUR 3 billion to increase the total amount of the EU guarantee available for the EU compartment under the InvestEU Regulation to EUR 7,5 billion,<sup>2</sup> taking into account the relevant provisioning rate. EUR 0.5 billion should be made available to increase the financial envelope under the Horizon Europe Regulation,<sup>3</sup> which should be amended accordingly; and EUR 1.5 billion to the European</p>	<p><del>resources which should be implemented</del> <u>available resources</u> within <del>the</del> existing Union programmes and funds, <del>the</del> <u>namely</u> <u>InvestEU, Horizon Europe, EU4Health, Digital Europe, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund (JTF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), the European Defence Fund, and the</u> <del>and</del> Innovation Fund, <u>for projects contributing to the STEP objectives</u>. This should be accompanied by providing additional <u>Union</u> funding of EUR <del>10</del> <u>13</u> billion. Of this, EUR 5 billion should be used to increase the endowment of the Innovation Fund<sup>146</sup> and EUR <del>3</del> <u>4,2</u> billion to increase the total amount of the EU</p>	<p>resources which should be implemented within the existing Union programmes and funds, <b>including</b> the InvestEU, Horizon Europe, European Defence Fund and Innovation Fund. This should be accompanied by providing additional funding of <del>EUR 10</del> billion. Of this, <del>EUR 5 billion should be used to increase the endowment of the Innovation Fund<sup>1</sup> and EUR 3 billion to increase the total amount of the EU guarantee available for the EU compartment under the InvestEU Regulation to EUR 7,5 billion,<sup>2</sup> taking into account the relevant provisioning rate. EUR 0.5 billion should be made available to increase the financial envelope under the Horizon Europe Regulation,<sup>3</sup> which should be amended accordingly; and</del> [EUR 1.5 billion] to the European</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>Defence Fund.<sup>4</sup></p> <hr/> <p>1. Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading (OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, p. 32).</p> <p>2. Regulation (EU) 2021/523 establishing the InvestEU Programme (OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 30).</p> <p>3. Regulation (EU) 2021/695 establishing Horizon Europe (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1).</p> <p>4. Regulation (EU) 2021/697 establishing the European Defense Fund (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 149.)</p>	<p>guarantee available for the EU compartment under the InvestEU Regulation<sup>47</sup> to EUR <del>7,5</del><u>10,5</u> billion,<sup>2</sup> taking into account the relevant provisioning rate. EUR <del>0,5</del><u>1,3</u> billion should be made available to increase the financial envelope under the Horizon Europe Regulation,<sup>348</sup> which should be amended accordingly; and EUR <del>1,5</del><u>2,5</u> billion to the European Defence Fund.<sup>449</sup></p> <hr/> <p><del>1. Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading (OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, p. 32).</del></p> <p><u>46. Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading (OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, p. 32).</u></p>	<p>Defence Fund.<sup>4</sup></p> <hr/> <p><del>1. Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading (OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, p. 32).</del></p> <p><del>2. Regulation (EU) 2021/523 establishing the InvestEU Programme (OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 30).</del></p> <p><del>3. Regulation (EU) 2021/695 establishing Horizon Europe (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1).</del></p> <p>4. Regulation (EU) 2021/697 establishing the European Defense Fund (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 149.)</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u><a href="#">47. Regulation (EU) 2021/523 establishing the InvestEU Programme (OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 30).</a></u></p> <p><del>2. Regulation (EU) 2021/523 establishing the InvestEU Programme (OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 30);</del></p> <p><del>3. Regulation (EU) 2021/695 establishing Horizon Europe (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1);</del></p> <p><u><a href="#">48. Regulation (EU) 2021/695 establishing Horizon Europe (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1).</a></u></p> <p><del>4. Regulation (EU) 2021/697 establishing the European Defense Fund (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 149.)</del></p> <p><u><a href="#">49. Regulation (EU) 2021/697 establishing the European Defence Fund (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 149.)</a></u></p>		
Recital 8				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
18	<p>(8) A Sovereignty Seal should be awarded to projects contributing to the STEP objectives, provided that the project has been assessed and complies with the minimum quality requirements, in particular eligibility, exclusion and award criteria, provided by a call for proposals under Horizon Europe, the Digital Europe programme,<sup>1</sup> the EU4Health programme,<sup>2</sup> the European Defence Fund or the Innovation Fund, and regardless of whether the project has received funding under those instruments. These minimum quality requirements will be established with a view to identify high quality projects. This Seal should be used as a quality label, to help projects</p>	<p>(8) A Sovereignty Seal should be awarded to projects contributing to the STEP objectives, <u>taking into account the contribution of the projects to the strengthening and structuring of local industrial networks and their contribution to jobs</u>, provided that the project has been assessed and complies with the minimum quality requirements, in particular eligibility, exclusion and award criteria, provided by a call for proposals under Horizon Europe, the Digital Europe programme,<sup>450</sup> the EU4Health programme,<sup>251</sup> the European Defence Fund <del>or</del> the Innovation Fund, <u>or the cohesion policy funds</u>, and regardless of whether the project has received funding under those instruments.</p>	<p>(8) A Sovereignty Seal should be awarded to projects contributing to the STEP objectives, provided that the project has been assessed and complies with the minimum quality requirements, in particular eligibility, exclusion and award criteria, provided by a call for proposals under Horizon Europe, the Digital Europe programme,<sup>1</sup> the EU4Health programme,<sup>2</sup> the European Defence Fund or the Innovation Fund, and regardless of whether the project has received funding under those instruments. These minimum quality requirements will be established with a view to identify high quality projects. This Seal should be used as a quality label, to help projects</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>attract public and private investments by certifying its contribution to the STEP objectives. Moreover, the Seal will promote better access to EU funding, notably by facilitating cumulative or combined funding from several Union instruments.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation (EU) 2021/694 establishing the Digital Europe Programme (OJ L 166, 11.5.2021, p. 1).</p> <p>2. Regulation (EU) 2021/522 establishing a Programme for the Union's action in the field of health, EU4Health Programme (OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 1).</p>	<p>These minimum quality requirements will be established with a view to identify high quality projects. <u>Strategic projects as identified under Regulation (EU) .../... [Net-Zero Industry Act] that comply with the resilience or competitiveness criteria of the Net-Zero Industry Act are considered to contribute to the objectives of this Regulation, by either reducing or preventing strategic dependencies or bringing an innovative, cutting-edge element to the Single Market. Therefore, these Strategic Projects under the Regulation (EU) .../... [Net-Zero Industry Act] should be awarded a Sovereignty Seal. Equally, as all Strategic Projects identified under the Regulation (EU) .../... [Critical Raw Materials Act] aim at fulfilling the objectives</u></p>	<p>attract public and private investments by certifying <del>its</del><b>their</b> contribution to the STEP objectives. Moreover, the Seal will promote better access to EU funding, notably by facilitating cumulative or combined funding from several Union instruments.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation (EU) 2021/694 establishing the Digital Europe Programme (OJ L 166, 11.5.2021, p. 1).</p> <p>2. Regulation (EU) 2021/522 establishing a Programme for the Union's action in the field of health, EU4Health Programme (OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 1).</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u>of this Platform, and should be awarded a Sovereignty Seal as well.</u></p> <p><u>To promote projects that will eventually contribute to the reduction of European strategic dependence from third countries, the Seal should be awarded only to projects managed by legal entities established inside the Union or a third country associated to the relevant programme. In the same spirit, if the project is managed by multiple legal entities, the Seal should only be awarded to the project, if at least one independent legal entity is established in a Member State and at least two other independent legal entities are established in different Member States or associated countries.</u> This</p> <p>Seal should be used as a quality label, to help projects attract public</p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p>and private investments by certifying its contribution to the STEP objectives. Moreover, the Seal will promote better access to EU funding, notably by facilitating cumulative or combined funding from several Union instruments. <u><i>Member States should also be encouraged to take into account the Sovereignty Seal when granting financial support through their own programmes.</i></u></p> <hr/> <p><del>1. Regulation (EU) 2021/694 establishing the Digital Europe Programme (OJ L 166, 11.5.2021, p. 1).</del></p> <p><u>50. Regulation (EU) 2021/694 establishing the Digital Europe Programme (OJ L 166, 11.5.2021, p. 1).</u></p> <p><del>2. Regulation (EU) 2021/522 establishing a Programme for the Union's action in the field of health, EU4Health Programme (OJ L</del></p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<del>107, 26.3.2021, p. 1).</del>  <u>51. Regulation (EU) 2021/522 establishing a Programme for the Union's action in the field of health, EU4Health Programme (OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 1).</u>		
Recital 9				
19	<p>(9) To that end, it should be possible to rely on assessments made for the purposes of other Union programmes in accordance with Articles 126 and 127 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046,<sup>1</sup> in order to reduce administrative burden for beneficiaries of Union funds and encourage investment in priority technologies. Provided they comply with the provisions of the RRF</p>	<p>(9) To that end, it should be possible to rely on assessments made for the purposes of other Union programmes in accordance with Articles 126 and 127 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046,<sup>452</sup> in order to reduce administrative burden for beneficiaries of Union funds and encourage investment in priority technologies. Provided they comply with the provisions of the</p>	<p>(9) To that end, it should be possible to rely on assessments made for the purposes of other Union programmes in accordance with Articles 126 and 127 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046,<sup>1</sup> in order to reduce administrative burden for beneficiaries of Union funds and encourage investment in <del>priority technologies</del> <b>technologies covered by this Regulation</b>. Provided they</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>Regulation,<sup>2</sup> Member States should consider including actions awarded the Sovereignty Seal when preparing their recovery and resilience plans and when proposing their Recovering and Resilience Plans and when deciding on investment projects to be financed from its share of the Modernisation Fund. The Sovereignty Seal should also be taken into account by the Commission in the context of the procedure provided for in Article 19 of the EIB Statute and of the policy check laid down in Article 23 of the InvestEU Regulation. In addition, the implementing partners should be required to examine projects having been awarded the Sovereignty Seal in case they fall within their geographic and activity scope in accordance with Article 26(5) of that</p>	<p>RRF Regulation,<sup>23</sup> Member States should consider including <del>actions</del> <u>projects</u> awarded the Sovereignty Seal when <del>preparing</del> <u>revising</u> their recovery and resilience plans and when <del>proposing</del> <u>their Recovering and Resilience Plans and when</u> deciding on investment projects to be financed from <del>its</del> <u>their</u> share of the Modernisation Fund. The Sovereignty Seal should also be taken into account by the Commission in the context of the procedure provided for in Article 19 of the EIB Statute and of the policy check laid down in Article 23 of the InvestEU Regulation. In addition, the implementing partners should be required to examine projects having been awarded the Sovereignty Seal in case they fall within their</p>	<p>comply with the provisions of the RRF Regulation,<sup>2</sup> Member States <del>should</del> <u>may</u> consider including actions awarded the Sovereignty Seal when <del>preparing</del> <u>amending</u> their recovery and resilience plans and when <del>proposing their Recovering and Resilience Plans and when</del> deciding on investment projects to be financed from <del>its</del> <u>their</u> share of the Modernisation Fund. <b>In order to take full advantage of this possibility, Member States may request an amendment of their recovery and resilience plan.</b> The Sovereignty Seal <del>should</del> <u>may</u> also be taken into account by the Commission in the context of the procedure provided for in Article 19 of the EIB Statute and of the policy check laid down in Article 23 of the InvestEU Regulation. In addition,</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>Regulation. Authorities in charge of programmes falling under STEP should also be encouraged to consider support for strategic projects identified in accordance with the Net Zero Industry and the Critical Raw Materials Acts that are within the scope of Article 2 of the Regulation and for which rules on cumulative funding may apply.</p> <hr/> <p>1. Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).</p> <p>2. Regulation (EU) 2021/241 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility (OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17).</p>	<p>geographic and activity scope in accordance with Article 26(5) of that Regulation. Authorities in charge of programmes falling under STEP should <del>also be encouraged to consider</del> <u>consider to</u> support for strategic projects identified in accordance with <del>the</del> <u>Regulation (EU) .../... [Net Zero Industry Act] and Regulation .../... [and the</u> Critical Raw Materials <del>Acts</del> <u>Act]</u> that are within the scope of Article 2 of <del>the</del> <u>this</u> Regulation and for which rules on cumulative funding may apply.</p> <hr/> <p><del>1. Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).</del></p> <p><u>52. Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046</u></p>	<p>the implementing partners should be required to examine projects having been awarded the Sovereignty Seal in case they fall within their geographic and activity scope in accordance with Article 26(5) of that Regulation. Authorities in charge of programmes falling under STEP should also be encouraged to consider support for strategic projects identified in accordance with the Net Zero Industry and the Critical Raw Materials Acts that are within the scope of Article 2 of the Regulation and for which rules on cumulative funding may apply.</p> <hr/> <p>1. Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u>on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).</u></p> <p><del>2. Regulation (EU) 2021/241 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility (OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17).</del></p> <p><u>53. Regulation (EU) 2021/241 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility (OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17).</u></p>	2. Regulation (EU) 2021/241 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility (OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17).	
Recital 9a				
19a		<p><u>(9a) To ensure open strategic autonomy and enhance the market valorisation of R&amp;I results in critical technologies, the Union must act as a standards-setter as outlined in the Commission communication of 2 February 2022</u></p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u>entitled “An EU Strategy on Standardisation Setting global standards in support of a resilient, green and digital EU single market”. Therefore, projects that include standardisation efforts in their proposal should be favoured in all the Union programmes providing funding under STEP. Moreover, it is imperative that projects under STEP consider standardisation in their implementation, in order to accelerate and scale up the deployment of a particular technology across the Single Market. Additionally, aligning international standards with European interests can ensure technological leadership and a level playing field globally. The Commission and Member States</u></p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>should undertake specific efforts to support projects under STEP to actively engage in the development of standards and within national, European and, where appropriate, international standardisation.</u>		
Recital 9b				
19b		<u>(9b) Since trust is crucial element for investments, a governance structure should be put in place to ensure that STEP is implemented in an effective, efficient, fair and transparent manner. To that end, the Commission should set up a STEP Committee composed of experts on the various technologies covered by this Regulation as well</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u>as on the Union programmes and funds which provide financial support for the Platform. The STEP Committee should be charged with the awarding and promotion of the Sovereignty Seal and the management of the Sovereignty Portal and take on a coordinating role between the various networks and stakeholders that are relevant to achieve the objectives of the platform. Given that the technologies covered by this Regulation are constantly evolving, an Industrial Advisory Group on Strategic Technologies should be set up to assist the Commission by offering advice on latest technological developments and challenges faced by the sectors concerned. This Group should be composed of representatives of</u></p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>Union industry of the sectors covered by this Regulation.</u> <u>Geographical balance within the Industrial Advisory Group should be taken into account.</u>		
Recital 10				
20	<p>(10) A new publicly available website (the ‘Sovereignty Portal’) should be set up by the Commission to provide information on available support to companies and project promoters seeking funds for STEP investments. To that end, it should display in an accessible and user-friendly manner the funding opportunities for STEP investments available under the EU budget. This</p>	<p>(10) A new publicly available website (the ‘Sovereignty Portal’) should be set up by the Commission to provide information on available support <u>for projects contributing to the STEP objectives. To address the needs of</u> <del>to</del> companies and project promoters seeking funds for STEP <del>investments. To that end, it</del> <u>projects under Union funding programmes, the Sovereignty Portal</u> should</p>	<p>(10) A new publicly available website (the ‘Sovereignty Portal’) should be set up by the Commission to provide information on available support to companies and project promoters seeking funds for STEP investments. To that end, it should display in an accessible and user-friendly manner the funding opportunities for STEP investments available under the EU budget. This</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>should include information about directly managed programmes, such as Horizon Europe, the Digital Europe programme, the EU4Health programme, and the Innovation Fund, and also other programmes such as InvestEU, the RRF, and cohesion policy funds. Moreover, the Sovereignty Portal should help increase the visibility for STEP investments towards investors, by listing the projects that have been awarded a Sovereignty Seal. The Portal should also list the national competent authorities responsible for acting as contact points for the implementation of the STEP at national level.</p>	<p>display in an accessible and user-friendly manner the funding opportunities for STEP investments available under the EU budget. This should include information about <u>the</u> directly managed <del>programmes, such as</del> <u>Union programmes</u> Horizon Europe, <del>the</del> Digital Europe, <u>EU4Health, the European Defence Fund programme, the EU4Health programme,</u> and the Innovation Fund, and <del>also other programmes such as</del> <u>other Union funding sources, that is</u> InvestEU, the <del>RRF</del> <u>Recovery and Resilience Facility</u>, and cohesion policy funds. <u>In order to increase the usefulness of the Sovereignty Portal for project promoters, the Portal should include a rapid simulator to give guidance on which Union programme or fund an individual</u></p>	<p>should include information about directly managed programmes, such as Horizon Europe, the Digital Europe programme, the EU4Health programme, and the Innovation Fund, and also other programmes such as InvestEU, the RRF, and cohesion policy funds. Moreover, the Sovereignty Portal should help increase the visibility for STEP investments towards investors, by listing the projects that have been awarded a Sovereignty Seal. The Portal should also list the national competent authorities responsible for acting as contact points for the implementation of the STEP at national level.</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u>project may be eligible for, without disclosing confidential business information and being legally binding.</u> Moreover, the Sovereignty Portal should help increase the visibility for STEP investments towards investors, by listing the projects that have been awarded a Sovereignty Seal. <u>The publication of information as regards projects related to security and defence should be assessed on a case-by-case basis and be limited to projects where the publication is deemed necessary by the project promoter or the Commission. Due attention should be paid to the need to protect confidentiality of security of information in defence matters.</u> The Portal should also list the national competent authorities responsible for acting as contact points for the</p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		implementation of the STEP at national level. <u><i>The Commission should ensure the complementarity of the Portal with similar platforms, including the NZIA Platform, and should avoid red tape and administrative burdens.</i></u>		
Recital 10a				
20a		<u><i>(10a) The Commission should monitor the implementation of the Platform objectives to track progress towards the Union's policy objectives. The monitoring should be conducted in a manner that is targeted and proportionate to the activities carried out under the Platform to avoid overregulation</i></u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u>and administrative burden, in particular for the beneficiaries of funding. In order to ensure accountability to Union citizens, the Commission should report annually to the European Parliament and to the Council on the progress of the implementation of the Platform objectives under each of the programmes and funds, on the overall expenditure of the STEP financed under the respective programmes and funds, and on the performance of the STEP based on the performance indicators provided for by those programmes. Furthermore, information should be provided on the Platform's qualitative and quantitative contribution to cross-border projects and to projects per Member</u></p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>State.</u>		
Recital 11				
21	(11) While the STEP relies on the reprogramming and reinforcement of existing programmes for supporting strategic investments, it is also an important element for testing the feasibility and preparation of new interventions as a step towards a European Sovereignty Fund. The evaluation in 2025 will assess the relevance of the actions undertaken and serve as basis for assessing the need for an upscaling of the support towards strategic sectors.	(11) While the STEP relies on the reprogramming and reinforcement of existing programmes for supporting strategic investments, <u>and reducing the Union dependencies,</u> it is also an important element for testing the feasibility and preparation of new interventions <u>providing the necessary structural answer to the Union's investment needs. In particular, it can be considered</u> as a step towards <u>the establishment of</u> a European Sovereignty Fund <u>that could contribute to shaping and strengthening a European</u>	(11) While <del>the</del> STEP relies on the reprogramming and reinforcement of existing programmes for supporting strategic investments, it is also an important element for testing the feasibility and preparation of <b>possible</b> new interventions <del>as a step towards a European Sovereignty Fund.</del> The evaluation in 2025 will assess the relevance of the actions undertaken and serve as basis for assessing the <del>need for an upscaling of the</del> <b>outstanding needs for</b> support towards strategic sectors.	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u>industrial policy by providing increased funding to European industry in the Multiannual Financial Framework post 2027.</u></p> <p><u>The interim</u> <del>The</del> evaluation in 2025 will assess the relevance of the actions undertaken and <u>provide an update on the state of the dependencies of the Union and the most strategic sectors to strengthen its autonomy in a comprehensive way. In the interim evaluation, the Commission should also assess the feasibility of expanding the Sovereignty Portal to combine all existing publically available websites and provide information on Union programmes and funds under direct, shared and indirect management in one single Portal. It should</u> <del>serve as a</del> basis for assessing the need for an upscaling of the</p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		support towards strategic sectors <u>in the post-2027 multiannual financial framework, with a view to better addressing the identified challenges and meeting the policy objectives of the Union in this field.</u>		
Recital 12				
22	(12) Directive 2003/87/EC <sup>1</sup> should be amended to allow for additional financing with a financial envelope for the period 2024-2027 of EUR 5 billion. The Innovation Fund supports investments in innovative low-carbon technologies, which is a scope that is to be covered by the STEP. The increase in volume of the Innovation Fund should therefore	(12) Directive 2003/87/EC <sup>+5454</sup> should be amended to allow for additional financing with a financial envelope for the period 2024-2027 of EUR 5 billion <u>to be provided from the European Union's general budget.</u> The Innovation Fund supports investments in innovative low-carbon technologies, which is a scope that is to be covered by the	(12) <del>Directive 2003/87/EC<sup>1</sup> should be amended to allow for additional financing with a financial envelope for the period 2024-2027 of EUR 5 billion. The Innovation Fund supports investments in innovative low-carbon technologies, which is a scope that is to be covered by the STEP. The increase in volume of the Innovation Fund should therefore</del>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>allow to provide financing responding to the objective of supporting the development or manufacturing in the Union of critical clean technologies. In line with the objectives of ensuring cohesion and promoting the Single Market, and in order to support the green transition and the development of clean technologies throughout the Union, the additional financial envelope should be made available through calls for proposals open to entities from Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a</p>	<p>STEP. The increase in volume of the Innovation Fund should therefore allow to provide financing responding to the objective of supporting the development or manufacturing in the Union of <del>critical clean</del> <u>net-zero</u> technologies. In line with the objectives of ensuring <u>economic, social and territorial</u> cohesion and promoting the Single Market, and in order to support the green transition and the development of <del>clean</del> <u>net-zero</u> technologies throughout the Union, the additional financial envelope should be made available through calls for proposals <u>for Strategic Projects as defined in Regulation EU (.../...) [Net-Zero Industry Act], provided they either comply with the resilience or competitiveness criteria in the selection process of</u></p>	<p><del>allow to provide financing responding to the objective of supporting the development or manufacturing in the Union of critical clean technologies. In line with the objectives of ensuring cohesion and promoting the Single Market, and in order to support the green transition and the development of clean technologies throughout the Union, the additional financial envelope should be made available through calls for proposals open to entities from Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU 27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017.</del></p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading (OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, p. 32).</p>	<p><u>strategic projects. Until 31 December 2025, the financial envelope should be available in equal parts</u> <del>open</del> to entities from Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017 <u>and to entities from all Member States. Technical assistance to Member States with a low level of participation as provided for in the latest revision of the ETS Directive should be maintained throughout those calls for proposals.</u></p> <p><del>1. Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading (OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, p.</del></p>	<p>scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading (OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, p. 32).</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<del>32).</del>  <a href="#">54. Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading (OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, p. 32).</a>		
Recital 13				
23	(13) In order to extend support possibilities for investments aimed at strengthening industrial development and reinforcement of value chains in strategic sectors, the scope of support from the ERDF should be extended by providing for new specific objectives under the ERDF, without prejudice to the rules on eligibility of expenditure and climate spending as set out in Regulation	(13) In order to extend support possibilities for investments aimed at strengthening industrial development and reinforcement of value chains in strategic sectors, the scope of support from the ERDF should be extended by providing for new specific objectives under the ERDF, without prejudice to the rules on eligibility of expenditure and climate spending as set out in Regulation	(13) In order to extend support possibilities for investments aimed at strengthening industrial development and reinforcement of value chains in strategic sectors, the scope of support from the ERDF should be extended by providing for new specific objectives under the ERDF, without prejudice to the rules on eligibility of expenditure and climate spending as set out in Regulation	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	(EU) 2021/1060 <sup>1</sup> and Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 <sup>2</sup> . In strategic sectors, it should also be possible to support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs, which can make a significant contribution to the development of less developed and transition regions, as well as in more developed regions of Member States with a GDP per capita below the EU average. Managing authorities are encouraged to promote the collaboration between large enterprises and local SMEs, supply chains, innovation and technology ecosystems. This would allow reinforcing Europe's overall capacity to strengthen its position in those sectors through providing access to all Member States for such investments, thus counteracting the	(EU) 2021/1060 <sup>+55</sup> and Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 <sup>+56</sup> . In strategic sectors, it should also be possible to support productive investments in enterprises <del>other than SMEs,</del> <u>with a focus on SMEs and midcaps and</u> which can make a significant contribution to the development of less developed and transition regions, as well as in more developed regions of Member States with a GDP per capita below the EU average. Managing authorities are encouraged to promote the collaboration between large enterprises and local SMEs, supply chains, innovation and technology ecosystems. This would allow reinforcing Europe's overall capacity to strengthen its position in those sectors through providing access to all Member States for such	(EU) 2021/1060 <sup>1</sup> and Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 <sup>2</sup> . In strategic sectors, it should also be possible to support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs, which can make a significant contribution to the development of less developed and transition regions, as well as in more developed regions of Member States with a GDP per capita below the EU average. Managing authorities are encouraged to promote the collaboration between large enterprises and local SMEs, supply chains, innovation and technology ecosystems. This would allow reinforcing Europe's overall capacity to strengthen its position in those sectors through providing access to all Member States for such investments, thus counteracting the	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>risk of increasing disparities.</p> <hr/> <p>1. Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).</p> <p>2. Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 31).</p>	<p>investments, thus counteracting the risk of increasing disparities. <u>The resources programmed for these new specific objectives should be limited to a maximum of 20% of the initial allocation of the ERDF in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/1058.</u></p> <hr/> <p><del>1. Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).</del></p> <p><u>55. Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).</u></p> <p><del>2. Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 31).</del></p> <p><u>56. Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and</u></p>	<p>risk of increasing disparities.</p> <hr/> <p>1. Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).</p> <p>2. Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 31).</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<a href="#"><u>on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 31).</u></a>		
Recital 13a				
23a			(13a) In order to keep a high level of ambition in meeting climate objectives in cohesion policy, while at the same time allowing for flexibility between the Cohesion Fund and the ERDF, the amount of the climate contribution of the Cohesion Fund exceeding 37 % of its total allocation may be taken into account when calculating the climate contribution of the ERDF and, vice versa, the amount of the climate contribution of the ERDF exceeding the 30 % of its total	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
			allocation may be taken into account when calculating the climate contribution of the Cohesion Fund.	
Recital 14				
24	(14) The scope of support of the JTF, laid down in Regulation (EU) 2021/1056, <sup>1</sup> should also be extended to cover investments in clean technologies contributing to the objectives of the STEP by large enterprises, provided that they are compatible with the expected contribution to the transition to climate neutrality as set out in the territorial just transition plans. The support provided for such	(14) The scope of support of the JTF, laid down in Regulation (EU) 2021/1056, <sup>457</sup> should also be extended to cover investments in <del>clean</del> <u>net-zero</u> technologies <u>and addressing shortages of labour and skills in support of these investments,</u> contributing to the objectives of the STEP by <del>large</del> enterprises <u>with focus on SMEs and mid-caps,</u> provided that they are compatible with the expected	(14) The scope of support of the JTF, laid down in Regulation (EU) 2021/1056, <sup>1</sup> should also be extended to cover investments in clean technologies contributing to the objectives of the STEP by large enterprises, provided that they are compatible with the expected contribution to the transition to climate neutrality as set out in the territorial just transition plans. The support provided for such	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>investments should not require a revision of the territorial just transition plan where that revision would be exclusively linked to the gap analysis justifying the investment from the perspective of job creation.</p> <hr/> <p>1. Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 establishing the Just Transition Fund (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 1).</p>	<p>contribution to the transition to climate neutrality as set out in the territorial just transition plans. <u>In the context of support for enterprises other than SMEs, consideration should also be given to investments contributing to the creation of apprenticeships and jobs or providing education or training for new skills. The support provided for such investments should not require a revision of the territorial just transition plan.</u> <del>The support provided for such investments should not require a revision of the territorial just transition plan where that revision would be exclusively linked to the gap analysis justifying the investment from the perspective of job creation.</del></p> <hr/>	<p>investments should not require a revision of the territorial just transition plan where that revision would be exclusively linked to the gap analysis justifying the investment from the perspective of job creation.</p> <hr/> <p>1. Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 establishing the Just Transition Fund (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 1).</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><del><i>1. Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 establishing the Just Transition Fund (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 1).</i></del></p> <p><u><i>57. Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 establishing the Just Transition Fund (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 1).</i></u></p>		
Recital 14a				
24a		<p><u><i>(14a) Member States should have the possibility to transfer all or part of their provisional allocation from the resources of the BAR to the ERDF or ESF+, provided that they are to support productive investments, which can make a significant contribution to the development of less developed and transition regions, as well as in</i></u></p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u>more developed regions of Member States with a GDP per capita below the EU average, including in those regions and local communities that are most adversely affected by the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union. The investments contributing to the objectives of the STEP to be funded under the ERDF and ESF+ and the BAR can serve similar purposes and have similar content since both aim ultimately to allow reinforcing Europe's overall capacity to strengthen its position in certain sectors through providing access to Member States for such investments, thus counteracting the risk of increasing disparities and mitigating negative impacts on economic, social and territorial</u></p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u><a href="#">cohesion.</a></u>		
Recital 14b				
24b		<u><a href="#">(14b) Member States should also have the possibility to transfer all or part of their provisional allocation from the resources of the BAR to the JTF, provided that these resources are to support actions that are compliant with approved Territorial Just Transition Plans, including in the just transition regions that are - directly or indirectly - most affected by the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union. Both JTF and the BAR can contribute to the objectives of STEP since both aim</a></u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<i><u>to ultimately allow regional economic diversification and reinforce Europe's overall capacity to strengthen its position in certain sectors through providing access to Member States to investments, thus counteracting the risk of increasing disparities and mitigating negative impacts on economic, social and territorial cohesion.</u></i>		
Recital 15				
25	(15) The ESF+, <sup>1</sup> being the main EU Fund for investment in people, provides a key contribution to promote the development of skills. In order to facilitate the use of that Fund for the STEP objectives, it	(15) The ESF+, <sup>1</sup> being the main EU Fund for investment in people, provides a key contribution to promote the development of skills. In order to facilitate the use of that Fund for the STEP objectives, it	(15) The ESF+, <sup>1</sup> being the main EU Fund for investment in people, provides a key contribution to promote the development of skills. In order to facilitate the use of that Fund for the STEP objectives, it	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>should be possible to use the ESF+ to cover investments aimed at achieving a skilled and resilient workforce ready for the future world of work.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (OJ L 231 30.6.2021, p.21).</p>	<p>should be possible to use the ESF+ to cover investments aimed at achieving a skilled and resilient workforce ready for the future world of work.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (OJ L 231 30.6.2021, p.21).</p>	<p>should be possible to use the ESF+ to cover investments aimed at achieving a skilled and resilient workforce ready for the future world of work.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (OJ L 231 30.6.2021, p.21).</p>	
Recital 16				
26	<p>(16) In order to help accelerate investments and provide immediate liquidity for investments supporting the STEP objectives under the ERDF, the ESF+<sup>1</sup> and the JTF, an additional amount of exceptional</p>	<p>(16) In order to help accelerate investments and provide immediate liquidity for investments supporting the STEP objectives under the ERDF, the ESF+<sup>459</sup> and the JTF, an additional amount of exceptional</p>	<p>(16) In order to help accelerate investments and provide immediate liquidity for investments supporting the STEP objectives under the ERDF, the ESF+<sup>1</sup> and the JTF, an additional amount of exceptional</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>pre-financing should be provided in the form of a one-off payment with respect to the priorities dedicated to investments supporting the STEP objectives. The additional pre-financing should apply to the whole of the JTF allocation given the need to accelerate its implementation and the strong links of the JTF to support Member States towards the STEP objectives. The rules applying for those amounts of exceptional pre-financing should be consistent with the rules applicable to pre-financing set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. Moreover, to further incentivise the uptake of such investments and ensure its faster implementation, the possibility for an increased EU financing rate of 100% for the STEP priorities should be available. When implementing</p>	<p>pre-financing should be provided in the form of a one-off payment with respect to the priorities dedicated to investments supporting the STEP objectives. The additional pre-financing should apply to the whole of the JTF allocation given the need to accelerate its implementation and the strong links of the JTF to support Member States towards the STEP objectives. The rules applying for those amounts of exceptional pre-financing should be consistent with the rules applicable to pre-financing set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. Moreover, to further incentivise the uptake of such investments and ensure its faster implementation, the possibility for an increased EU financing rate of <u>up to</u> 100% for the STEP priorities should be available. When</p>	<p>pre-financing should be provided in the form of a one-off payment with respect to the priorities dedicated to investments supporting the STEP objectives. The additional pre-financing should apply to the whole of the JTF allocation given the need to accelerate its implementation and the strong links of the JTF to support Member States towards the STEP objectives. The rules applying for those amounts of exceptional pre-financing should be consistent with the rules applicable to pre-financing set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. Moreover, to further incentivise the uptake of such investments and ensure <del>its</del><b>their</b> faster implementation, the possibility for an increased EU financing rate of 100% for the STEP priorities should be available. When implementing</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>the new STEP objectives, managing authorities are encouraged to apply certain social criteria or promote social positive outcomes, such as creating apprenticeships and jobs for young disadvantaged persons, in particular young persons not in employment, education or training, applying the social award criteria in the Directives on public procurement when a project is implemented by a body subject to public procurement, and paying the applicable wages as agreed through collective bargaining.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21).</p>	<p>implementing the new STEP objectives, managing authorities are encouraged to apply certain social criteria <del>and</del> promote social positive outcomes, such as creating apprenticeships and <u>quality</u> jobs for young disadvantaged persons, in particular young persons not in employment, education or training, applying the social award criteria in the Directives on public procurement when a project is implemented by a body subject to public procurement, and paying the applicable wages as agreed through collective bargaining.</p> <p>_____</p> <p><del>1. Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21).</del></p> <p><u>59. Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing</u></p>	<p>the new STEP objectives, managing authorities are encouraged to apply certain social criteria or promote social positive outcomes, such as creating apprenticeships and jobs for young disadvantaged persons, in particular young persons not in employment, education or training, applying the social award criteria in the Directives on public procurement when a project is implemented by a body subject to public procurement, and paying the applicable wages as agreed through collective bargaining.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21).</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<a href="#"><i>the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)</i></a> <a href="#"><i>(OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21).</i></a>		
Recital 17				
27	(17) The Common Provisions Regulation <sup>1</sup> should be amended to allow that projects having been awarded a Sovereignty Seal could benefit from better access to EU funding, notably by facilitating cumulative or combined funding from several Union instruments. To that end, it should be possible for managing authorities to grant support from the ERDF or the ESF+ directly, for operations attributed a Sovereignty Seal.	(17) The Common Provisions Regulation <sup>1</sup> should be amended to allow that projects having been awarded a Sovereignty Seal could benefit from better access to EU funding, notably by facilitating cumulative or combined funding from several Union instruments. To that end, it should be possible for managing authorities to grant support from the ERDF or the ESF+ directly, for operations attributed a Sovereignty Seal.	(17) The Common Provisions Regulation <sup>1</sup> should be amended to allow that projects having been awarded a Sovereignty Seal could benefit from better access to EU funding, notably by facilitating cumulative or combined funding from several Union instruments. To that end, it should be possible for managing authorities to grant support from the ERDF or the ESF+ directly, for operations attributed a Sovereignty Seal.	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>1. Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).</p>	<p>1. Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).</p>	<p>1. Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).</p>	
Recital 17a				
27a			<p><b>(17a) In order to reduce administrative burden towards a timely deployment of STEP, it should be possible, in derogation from the applicable rules, to exclude from the mid-term review priorities that have been included to address investments contributing to the STEP objectives. Such programme amendments may also definitely</b></p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
			<p>allocate the totality or part of the flexibility amount for the years 2026 and 2027. The Commission should approve programme amendments related exclusively to the introduction of priorities contributing to STEP objectives within two months from their submission by Member States. Moreover, it should also be possible to introduce any corresponding amendment to the Partnership Agreement and have them approved in an expedited way by the Commission.</p>	
Recital 18				
28	(18) The regulatory framework for	(18) The regulatory framework for	(18) The regulatory framework for	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes has been adapted over the past years to provide Member States and regions with additional with additional flexibility in terms of implementation rules and more liquidity to tackle the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war or aggression against Ukraine. These measures, introduced at the end of the programming period, require sufficient time and administrative resources to be fully exploited and implemented; also at a time where Member States will focus resources on revising the 2021-2027 operational programmes linked to the STEP objectives. With a view to alleviate the administrative burden on programme authorities and to prevent possible loss of funds at closure for purely administrative</p>	<p>the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes has been adapted over the past years to provide Member States and regions with additional <del>with additional</del> flexibility in terms of implementation rules and more liquidity to tackle the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war or aggression against Ukraine. These measures, <del>introduced at the end of the programming period,</del> require sufficient time and administrative resources to be fully exploited and implemented; also at a time where Member States will focus resources on revising the 2021-2027 operational programmes linked to the STEP objectives. With a view to alleviate the administrative burden on programme authorities and to prevent possible loss of funds at closure for purely administrative</p>	<p>the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes has been adapted over the past years to provide Member States and regions with additional <del>with additional</del> flexibility in terms of implementation rules and more liquidity to tackle the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war or aggression against Ukraine. These measures, introduced at the end of the programming period, require sufficient time and administrative resources to be fully exploited and implemented; also at a time where Member States will focus resources on revising the 2021-2027 <del>operational</del> programmes linked to the STEP objectives. With a view to alleviate the administrative burden on programme authorities and to prevent possible loss of funds at closure for purely administrative</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>reasons, the deadlines for the administrative closure of the programmes under the 2014-2020 period should be extended in Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013<sup>1</sup> and Regulation (EU) No 223/2014<sup>2</sup>. More specifically, the deadline for the submission of that final payment application should be extended by 12 months. Furthermore, the deadline for the submission of the closure documents should also be extended by 12 months. In the context of this amendment, it is appropriate to clarify that distribution of food and material bought until the end of the eligibility period (end-2023) may continue after that date. In order to ensure a sound implementation of the EU budget and respect for the payment ceilings, payments to be made in</p>	<p>reasons, the deadlines for the administrative closure of the programmes under the 2014-2020 period should be extended in Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013<sup>461</sup> and Regulation (EU) No 223/2014<sup>262</sup>. More specifically, the deadline for the submission of that final payment application should be extended by 12 months. Furthermore, the deadline for the submission of the closure documents should also be extended by 12 months.</p> <p><u>Consequently, Member States should be able to submit the final payment application by 30 June 2025 and the documents referred to in Article 138 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 by 15 February 2026, in order to give Member States sufficient time to finalise the process linked to the closure of</u></p>	<p>reasons, the deadlines for the administrative closure of the programmes under the 2014-2020 period should be extended in Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013<sup>1</sup> and Regulation (EU) No 223/2014<sup>2</sup>. More specifically, the deadline for the submission of <del>that</del>the final payment application should be extended by 12 months. Furthermore, the deadline for the submission of the closure documents should also be extended by 12 months. In the context of this amendment, it is appropriate to clarify that distribution of food and material bought until the end of the eligibility period (end-2023) may continue after that date. In order to ensure a sound implementation of the EU budget and respect for the payment ceilings, payments to be</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>2025 should be capped at 1 % of the financial appropriations from resources under the Multiannual Financial Framework per programme. Amounts due exceeding the ceiling of 1% of programme appropriations per fund for 2025 would not be paid in 2025 nor in subsequent years but only used for the clearance of pre-financing. Unused amounts shall be decommitted in accordance with the general rules for decommitment at closure.</p> <hr/> <p>1. Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 laying down common provisions (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).</p> <p>2. Regulation (EU) 223/2014 on the Fund for European Aid on the Most Deprived (OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1).</p>	<p><u>projects</u>. In the context of this amendment, it is appropriate to clarify that distribution of food and material bought until the end of the eligibility period (end-2023) may continue after that date. In order to ensure a sound implementation of the EU budget and respect for the payment ceilings, payments to be made in 2025 should be capped at <del>1</del> <u>10</u>% of the financial appropriations from resources under the Multiannual Financial Framework per programme. Amounts due exceeding the ceiling of <del>1%</del> <u>10</u>% of programme appropriations per fund for 2025 would not be paid in 2025 nor in subsequent years but only used for the clearance of pre-financing. Unused amounts shall be decommitted in accordance with the general rules for decommitment at</p>	<p>made in 2025 should be capped at 1 % of the financial appropriations from resources under the Multiannual Financial Framework per programme. Amounts due exceeding the ceiling of 1% of programme appropriations per fund for 2025 would not be paid in 2025 nor in subsequent years but only used for the clearance of pre-financing. Unused amounts shall be decommitted in accordance with the general rules for decommitment at closure.</p> <hr/> <p>1. Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 laying down common provisions (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).</p> <p>2. Regulation (EU) 223/2014 on the Fund for European Aid on the Most Deprived (OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1).</p>	

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		<p>closure. <u>Taking into account the specific challenges of the outermost regions as defined in Article 349 TFEU, specific derogation should be provided as regards the deadline for the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year and the interim payments in 2025 should be capped at 15%.</u></p> <hr/> <p><del>1. Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 laying down common provisions (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320);</del></p> <p><u>61. Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 laying down common provisions (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).</u></p> <p><del>2. Regulation (EU) 223/2014 on the Fund for European Aid on the Most Deprived (OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1);</del></p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<a href="#"><u>62. Regulation (EU) 223/2014 on the Fund for European Aid on the Most Deprived (OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1).</u></a>		
Recital 18a				
28a			(18a) The flexibilities provided for the 2014-2020 programming period have helped Member States in their crisis response and recovery efforts, as well as to face the additional strain on public budgets caused by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. In order to allow Member States dealing with the continued budget pressure, in line with the possibility provided for in Article 25a of Regulation (EU) No	

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			<p><b>1303/2013, the extension of the possibility to apply a co-financing rate of 100 % to cohesion programmes should be retroactively provided for to the final accounting year 2023-2024, in case Member States notify the Commission before the submission of the final application for an interim payment for the last accounting year, in accordance with budget appropriations and subject to available funding.</b></p>	
Recital 19				
29	(19) InvestEU is the EU flagship programme to boost investment, especially the green and digital	(19) InvestEU is the EU flagship programme to boost investment, especially the green and digital	(19) InvestEU is the EU flagship programme to boost investment, especially the green and digital	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>transition, by providing demand-driven financing, including through blending mechanisms, and technical assistance. Such approach contributes to crowd in additional public and private capital. Given the high market demand of InvestEU guarantee, the EU compartment of InvestEU should be reinforced to correspond to the objectives of the STEP. This will, among other things, reinforce InvestEU's existing possibility to invest in projects forming part of an IPCEI, within the identified critical technology sectors. In addition, Member States are encouraged to contribute to the InvestEU Member State compartment to support financial products in line with the STEP objectives, without prejudice to applicable State aid rules. It should</p>	<p>transition, by providing demand-driven financing, including through blending mechanisms, and technical assistance. Such approach contributes to crowd in additional public and private capital. Given the high market demand of InvestEU guarantee, the EU compartment of InvestEU should be reinforced to correspond to the objectives of the STEP. This will, among other things, reinforce InvestEU's existing possibility to invest in projects forming part of an IPCEI, within the identified <del>critical</del> <u>relevant</u> technology sectors. <u>To ensure a full absorption of available funds and provided that implementing partners do not have sufficient capacity to absorb the 25 % of the EU guarantee that is earmarked for them, the Commission may</u></p>	<p>transition, by providing demand-driven financing, including through blending mechanisms, and technical assistance. Such approach contributes to crowd in additional public and private capital. <del>Given the high market demand of InvestEU guarantee, the EU compartment of InvestEU should be reinforced to correspond to the objectives of the STEP. This will, among other things, reinforce InvestEU's existing possibility to invest in projects forming part of an IPCEI, within the identified critical technology sectors.</del> <b>In addition, under the current policy windows.</b> Member States are encouraged to contribute to the InvestEU Member State compartment to support financial products in line with the STEP objectives <b>under the current policy</b></p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>be possible for Member States to include as a measure in their recovery and resilience plans a cash contribution for the purpose of the Member State compartment of InvestEU to support objectives of the STEP. That additional contribution to support objectives of the STEP could reach up to 6% of their recovery and resilience plan's total financial allocation to the Member State compartment of InvestEU. Additional flexibility and clarifications should also be introduced to better pursue the objectives of the STEP.</p>	<p><u>exceptionally grant more than 75 % of the EU guarantee to the EIB Group. In this context, the Commission should encourage and assist the implementing partners other than the EIB Group to absorb in full the funding that is available to them.</u> In addition, Member States are encouraged to contribute to the InvestEU Member State compartment to support financial products in line with the STEP objectives, without prejudice to applicable State aid rules. It should be possible for Member States to include as a measure in their recovery and resilience plans a cash contribution for the purpose of the Member State compartment of InvestEU to support objectives of the STEP. That additional contribution to support objectives of</p>	<p><b>windows</b>, without prejudice to applicable State aid rules. It should be possible for Member States to include as a measure in their recovery and resilience plans a cash contribution for the purpose of the Member State compartment of InvestEU to support objectives of the STEP <b>under the current policy windows</b>. That additional contribution to support objectives of the STEP could reach up to 6% of their recovery and resilience plan's total financial allocation to the Member State compartment of InvestEU. Additional flexibility and clarifications should also be introduced to better pursue the objectives of the STEP.</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p>the STEP could reach up to 6% of their recovery and resilience plan's total financial allocation to the Member State compartment of InvestEU. Additional flexibility and clarifications should also be introduced to better pursue the objectives of the STEP. <u><i>In general, the Commission and all authorities in charge of programmes contributing to the implementation of STEP should be encouraged to ensure consistency, coherence, complementarity and synergy among sources of funding with the STEP objectives.</i></u></p>		
Recital 20				
30				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>(20) Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation, and its European Innovation Council (EIC) provides for support for innovations with potential breakthrough and disruptive nature with scale-up potential that may be too risky for private investors. Additional flexibility should be provided for under Horizon Europe, so that the EIC Accelerator can provide equity-only support to non-bankable SMEs, including start-ups, and non-bankable SMEs and small mid-caps, carrying out innovation in the technologies supported by the STEP and regardless of whether they previously received other types of support from the EIC Accelerator. The implementation of the EIC Fund</p>	<p>(20) Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation, and its European Innovation Council (EIC) provides for support, <u>in particular</u> for innovations with potential breakthrough and disruptive nature with scale-up potential that may be too risky for private investors. Additional flexibility should be provided for under Horizon Europe, so that the EIC Accelerator can provide equity-only support to non-bankable SMEs, including start-ups, and non-bankable SMEs and small mid-caps, carrying out innovation, <u>in particular to those working on</u> <del>in</del> the technologies supported by the STEP, and regardless of whether they previously received other types of support from the EIC Accelerator.</p>	<p>(20) Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation, and its European Innovation Council (EIC) provides for support for innovations with potential breakthrough and disruptive nature with scale-up potential that may be too risky for private investors. Additional flexibility should be provided for under Horizon Europe, so that the EIC Accelerator can provide equity-only support to non-bankable SMEs, including start-ups, and non-bankable SMEs and small mid-caps, carrying out innovation in the technologies supported by the STEP and regardless of whether they previously received other types of support from the EIC Accelerator. The implementation of the EIC Fund</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>is currently limited to a maximum investment amount of EUR 15 million except in exceptional cases and cannot accommodate follow-on financing rounds or larger investment amounts. Allowing for equity-only support for non-bankable SMEs and small mid-caps would address the existing market gap with investments needs in the range of EUR 15 to 50 million. Moreover, experience has shown that the amounts committed for the EIC Pilot under Horizon2020 are not fully used. These unused funds should be made available for the purposes of the EIC Accelerator under Horizon Europe. The Horizon Europe Regulation should also be amended to reflect the increased envelope for the European Defence</p>	<p><u>In</u> the implementation of the EIC Fund <del>is currently</del> <u>the Commission</u> limited <u>the investments of the Fund</u> to a maximum investment amount of EUR 15 million except in exceptional cases and <del>cannot accommodate</del> <u>this limited the Fund from effectively accommodating</u> follow-on financing rounds or larger investment amounts. Allowing for equity-only support for non-bankable SMEs and small mid-caps would address the existing market gap, <u>in particular for</u> <del>with</del> investments needs in the range of EUR 15 to 50 million. Moreover, experience has shown that the amounts committed for the EIC Pilot under Horizon2020 are not fully used. <del>These</del> <u>In accordance with Article 15(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1046, those</u> unused funds</p>	<p>is currently limited to a maximum investment amount of EUR 15 million except in exceptional cases and cannot accommodate follow-on financing rounds or larger investment amounts. Allowing for equity-only support for non-bankable SMEs and small mid-caps would address the existing market gap with investments needs in the range of EUR 15 to 50 million. <del>Moreover, experience has shown that the amounts committed for the EIC Pilot under Horizon2020 are not fully used. These unused funds should be made available for the purposes of the EIC Accelerator under Horizon Europe.</del> The Horizon Europe Regulation should also be amended to reflect the increased envelope for the European Defence</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	Fund.	should be made available for the purposes of the EIC Accelerator under Horizon Europe. The Horizon Europe Regulation should also be amended to reflect the increased envelope for the European Defence Fund.	Fund.	
Recital 20a				
30a		<u>(20a) <i>The EIC plays a pivotal role in offering initial funding to fast growing startups and small mid-caps. With its specialised knowledge, the EIC is ideally positioned to enhance funding opportunities for companies seeking capital for scaling up beyond the initial innovation stage.</i></u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u>However, the implementation of the EIC Accelerator so far has shown that the ambitious and transformative nature of the EIC as the investor of reference for breakthrough innovation in Europe through the EIC Fund, has created implementation challenges and legal uncertainty for the implementing entities, in particular regarding the role of the EIC and the SME Executive Agency.</u></p> <p><u>Considering the central role of the EIC Fund in the success of STEP, the relevant legislative provisions on the functioning of the EIC should be clarified. In the process of further improving the functioning of the EIC, establishment of an independent Union body pursuant to Article 187 TFEU as the main entity</u></p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u><i>responsible for implementing the EIC should be considered.</i></u>		
Recital 21				
31	(21) The European Defence Fund is the leading programme for enhancing the competitiveness, innovation, efficiency and technological autonomy of the Union's defence industry, thereby contributing to the Union's open strategic autonomy. The development of defence capabilities is crucial, as it underpins the capacity and the autonomy of the European industry to develop defence products and the independence of Member States as	(21) The European Defence Fund is the leading programme for enhancing the competitiveness, innovation, efficiency and technological autonomy of the Union's defence industry, thereby contributing to the Union's open strategic autonomy. The development of defence capabilities is crucial, as it underpins the capacity and the autonomy of the European industry to develop defence products and the independence of Member States as	(21) The European Defence Fund is the leading programme for enhancing the competitiveness, innovation, efficiency and technological autonomy of the Union's defence industry, thereby contributing to the Union's open strategic autonomy. The development of defence capabilities is crucial, as it underpins the capacity and the autonomy of the European industry to develop defence products and the independence of Member States as	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	the end-users of such products. The additional envelope should therefore be made available to support actions in the field of deep and digital technologies contributing to the development of defence applications.	the end-users of such products. The additional envelope should therefore be made available to support <del>actions</del> <u>projects</u> in the field of deep and digital technologies contributing to the development of defence applications.	the end-users of such products. The additional envelope should therefore be made available to support actions in the field of deep and digital technologies contributing to the development of defence applications.	
Recital 21a				
31a		<u>(21a) To maximise the impact of the loan support available under Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council [RRF] in pursuit of the objectives laid down in Article 4 of that Regulation, Member States should be able to request additional funding in the form of loans, drawn</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>from the loan support remaining available under that Regulation after 1 September 2023, with a view to contributing the proceeds of those loans in the form of cash to the Member State compartment of InvestEU to support objectives of the STEP. Member States should be able to request such loan support until 15 December 2023.</u>		
Recital 22				
32	(22) Since the objectives of this Regulation, namely to strengthen European sovereignty, accelerate the Union's green and digital transitions and enhance its competitiveness, and reduce its strategic dependencies	(22) Since the objectives of this Regulation, namely to strengthen European sovereignty, accelerate the Union's green and digital transitions and enhance its competitiveness, and reduce its strategic dependencies	(22) Since the objectives of this Regulation, namely to strengthen European sovereignty, accelerate the Union's green and digital transitions and enhance its competitiveness, and reduce its strategic dependencies,	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, but can rather be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary to achieve those objectives.	cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, but can rather be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary to achieve those objectives.	cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, but can rather be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary to achieve those objectives.	
Formula				
33	HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:	HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:	HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
CHAPTER 1				
34	CHAPTER 1 STEP	CHAPTER 1 STEP	CHAPTER 1 STEP	
Article 1				
35	Article 1 Subject matter	Article 1 Subject matter	Article 1 Subject matter	
Article 1, first paragraph				
36				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>This Regulation establishes a Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform ('STEP' or 'the Platform') to support critical and emerging strategic technologies .</p>	<p>This Regulation establishes a Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform ('STEP' or 'the Platform') to support <del>critical and emerging strategic technologies</del> <u>strategic technologies and their respective supply chains in relevant sectors, thereby supporting the implementation of the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030 established by Decision EU) 2022/2481 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>1a</sup>, Regulation (EU) .../... [Net-Zero Industry Act ] and Regulation (EU) .../... [Critical Raw Materials Act].</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p><u>1a. Decision (EU) 2022/2481 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 establishing the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030</u></p>	<p>This Regulation establishes a Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform ('STEP' or 'the Platform') to support critical and emerging strategic technologies .</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 1, second paragraph				
37	It lays down the objectives of the Platform, the amount of financial support available under the Platform, and rules for the implementation of the Sovereignty Seal and Sovereignty portal and for reporting on the Platform objectives.	It lays down the objectives of the Platform, the amount of financial support available under the Platform, and rules for the implementation of the Sovereignty Seal and Sovereignty portal and for reporting on the Platform objectives.	It lays down the objectives of the Platform, the amount of <b>additional</b> financial support available under the Platform, and rules for the implementation of the Sovereignty Seal and Sovereignty portal and for reporting on the Platform objectives.	
Article 2				
38	Article 2  STEP objectives	Article 2  STEP objectives	Article 2  STEP objectives	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 2(1)				
39	<p>1. To strengthen European sovereignty and security, accelerate the Union's green and digital transitions and enhance its competitiveness, reduce its strategic dependencies, favour a level playing field in the Single Market for investments throughout the Union, and promote inclusive access to attractive, quality jobs, the Platform shall pursue the following objectives:</p>	<p>1. To strengthen European <u>industrial</u> sovereignty and security, <u>reduce the Union's strategic dependencies</u>, accelerate the Union's green and digital transitions and enhance its competitiveness, <del>reduce its strategic dependencies</del>, favour a level playing field in the Single Market for investments throughout the Union, <u>foster cross-border participation, including of SMEs, strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion and solidarity among Member States and regions</u>, <del>and</del> promote inclusive access to attractive, quality jobs <u>and</u></p>	<p>1. To <del>strengthen European</del> <b>ensure</b> sovereignty and security, <del>accelerate the competitiveness of the European Union's green and digital transitions and enhance its competitiveness, reduce in strategic sectors by strengthening the Union's resilience and productivity, mobilising financing, reducing</del> its strategic dependencies, favour a level playing field in the Single Market for investments throughout the Union, and promote inclusive access to attractive, quality jobs <b>investing in the skills of the future and making its economic,</b></p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u>to facilitate access to finance for project promoters, streamlining the procedures and reducing the administration burden thereof.</u> the Platform shall pursue the following objectives:</p>	<p><b>industrial and technological base fit for the green and digital transitions, safeguarding cohesion and the level playing field in the Single Market,</b> the Platform shall pursue the following objectives:</p>	
Article 2(1), point (a)				
40	<p>(a) supporting the development or manufacturing throughout the Union, or safeguarding and strengthening the respective value chains, of critical technologies in the following fields:</p>	<p>(a) supporting the development or manufacturing throughout the Union, or safeguarding and strengthening the respective <u>value supply</u> chains, <del>of critical</del> <u>as referred to in paragraph 4 of fields sectors</u>:</p>	<p>(a) supporting the development, <b>manufacturing or their deployment</b> <del>or manufacturing</del> throughout the Union, or safeguarding and strengthening the respective value chains, of critical technologies <b>or related services</b> in the following fields:</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 2(1), point (a)(i)				
41	(i) deep and digital technologies	(i) <del>deep and</del> <u>digital technologies, including multi-country projects as defined in Article 2, point (2) of Decision (EU) 2022/2481 of the European Parliament and of the Council and contributing to the targets and objectives of the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030 established by that Decision;</u> <del>Digital technologies</del>	(i) deep and digital technologies	
Article 2(1), point (a)(ii)				
42	(ii) clean technologies	(ii) <del>clean</del> <u>net-zero</u> technologies <u>as defined in Article 3, point (...) of</u>	(ii) clean <b>and resource efficient</b> technologies	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u><i>Regulation (EU) .../...[Net-Zero Industry Act];</i></u>		
Article 2(1), point (a)(iii)				
43	(iii) biotechnologies	(iii) biotechnologies, <u><i>as defined in the Annex to this Regulation and life science, including medicinal products on the Union List of Critical Medicinal Products and their components;</i></u>	(iii) biotechnologies	
Article 2(1), point (b)				
44	(b) addressing shortages of labour	(b) addressing shortages of labour	(b) addressing shortages of labour	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	and skills critical to all kinds of quality jobs in support of the objective under point (a).	and skills critical to all kinds of quality jobs in support of the objective <del>under</del> <u>set out in</u> point (a), <u>in particular through lifelong learning and in close cooperation with social partners and education and training initiatives already in place, including the European Net Zero Industry Academies established pursuant to Article 23 of Regulation (EU) .../... [Net-Zero Industry Act];</u>	and skills critical to all kinds of quality jobs in support of the objective under point (a).	
Article 2(1), point (ba)				
44a		<u>(ba) fostering deep-tech innovation, in support of the objective set out in point (a), which has the potential to deliver</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>transformative solutions, rooted in cutting edge science, technology and engineering, including innovation combining advances in the physical, biological and digital spheres.</u>		
Article 2(2)				
45	2. The technologies referred to in point (a) of the first paragraph, shall be deemed to be critical where they meet at least one of the following conditions:	2. The technologies, <u>including their supply chains,</u> referred to in point (a) of the first paragraph, shall be deemed to be critical where they meet at least one of the following conditions:	2. The technologies referred to in point (a) of the first paragraph, shall be deemed to be critical where they meet at least one of the following conditions:	
Article 2(2a)				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
45a		<p><u>2a. By ... [two months after the entry into force of this Regulation], the Commission shall adopt a delegated act, to supplement this Regulation by defining how the technologies, including their supply chains, referred to in paragraph 1, point (a), of this Article can meet the conditions of this paragraph. The delegated act shall be reviewed in light of the interim evaluation report referred to in Article 8.</u></p>		
Article 2(2), point (a)				
46	(a) bring an innovative, cutting-edge element with significant economic	(a) bring an innovative, cutting-edge element with significant economic	(a) bring an innovative, <b>emerging and</b> cutting-edge element with	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	potential to the Single Market;	potential to the Single Market;	significant economic potential to the Single Market <b>or to the Member States where the investment is carried out;</b>	
Article 2(2), point (b)				
47	(b) contribute to reduce or prevent strategic dependencies of the Union.	(b) contribute to reduce or prevent strategic dependencies of the Union.	(b) contribute to reduce or prevent strategic dependencies <del>of the Union.</del>	
Article 2(3)				
48	3. Where an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission	3. <del>Where an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission</del>	3. Where an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU relates to any of the technology fields referred to in point (a) of paragraph 1, the relevant technologies shall be deemed to be critical.	<del>pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU relates to any of the technology fields referred to in point (a) of paragraph 1, the relevant technologies shall be deemed to be critical.</del>	pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU relates to any of the technology fields referred to in point (a) of paragraph 1, the relevant technologies shall be deemed to be critical.	
Article 2(4)				
49	4. The value chain for the manufacturing of critical technologies referred to in the first paragraph relates to final products, as well as key components, specific machinery and critical raw materials primarily used for the production of those products.	4. The <del>value</del> <u>supply</u> chain for the manufacturing of <del>critical</del> technologies referred to in <del>the first paragraph</del> <u>paragraph 1</u> relates to final products, as well as <del>key</del> components, <del>specific</del> machinery and critical raw materials <del>primarily</del> <u>used as set out in Annex II to Regulation (EU) .../... [Critical Raw Materials Act] which are</u>	4. The value chain for the <b>development, manufacturing and deployment</b> of critical technologies referred to in the first paragraph relates to final products, as well as key components, specific machinery and critical raw materials primarily used for the production of those products, <b>as well as related</b>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>indispensable</u> for the production <u>and</u> <u>functioning</u> of those products.	services.	
Article 2(4a)				
49a		<u>4a. Strategic projects as identified under Regulation (EU) .../... [Net-Zero Industry Act], that comply with either the resilience criteria as defined in Article 10(1)(a) of that Regulation or with the competitiveness criteria as defined in Article 10(1)(b) of that Regulation in the selection process of net-zero strategic projects, and and (EU) .... [Critical Raw Materials Act]) shall be considered to fulfil the objectives of the STEP Platform as referred to in</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u><i>paragraph 1 of this Article.</i></u>		
Article 2(4b)				
49b		<u><i>4b. When implementing programmes and activities to achieve the objectives under this Regulation, the Commission and Member States shall put specific emphasis on supporting Net-Zero Industry Valleys as defined in Regulation (EU) .../... [Net-Zero Industry Act] projects in territories included in the Territorial just transition plans as referred to in Article 11 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1056. and in less developed and transition regions, as well as more developed regions in Member</i></u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017.</u>		
Article 3				
50	Article 3  Financial Support	Article 3  Financial Support	Article 3  <b>Additional</b> financial Support	
Article 3(1)				
51	1. Implementation of the Platform	1. <u>Financial support for the</u>	1. Implementation of the Platform	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	shall be supported, in particular, through:	implementation of the Platform shall be <del>supported, in particular, through</del> <u>provided from existing Union programmes and funds. To reinforce their ability to deliver on the STEP objectives, additional funding shall be provided to the following Union programmes and funds:</u>	shall be supported, in particular, through:	
Article 3(1), point (a)				
52	(a) a Union guarantee referred to in Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/523 with the indicative amount of EUR 7 500 000 000 That guarantee shall be implemented in accordance with Regulation (EU)	(a) a Union guarantee referred to in Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/523 with the indicative amount of EUR <del>7 500 000 000 That</del> <u>guarantee 10 500 000 000, which</u> shall be implemented in accordance with <del>Regulation (EU) 2021/523 that</del>	(a) <del>a Union guarantee referred to in Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/523 with the indicative amount of EUR 7 500 000 000 That</del> guarantee shall be implemented in accordance with Regulation (EU)	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	2021/523;	<u>Regulation</u> ;	<del>2021/523</del> ;	
Article 3(1), point (b)				
53	(b) an amount of EUR 500 000 000 in current prices of the financial envelope referred to in point (i) of Article 12(2)(c) of Regulation (EU) 2021/695. That amount shall be implemented in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/695;	(b) an amount of EUR <del>500 000 000</del> <u>300 000 000</u> in current prices of the financial envelope referred to in point (i) of Article 12(2)(c) of Regulation (EU) 2021/695. <del>That</del> <u>amount, which</u> shall be implemented in accordance with <del>Regulation (EU) 2021/695</del> <u>that Regulation</u> ;	(b) <del>an amount of EUR 500 000 000 in current prices of the financial envelope referred to in point (i) of Article 12(2)(c) of Regulation (EU) 2021/695. That amount shall be implemented in accordance with</del> Regulation (EU) 2021/695;	
Article 3(1), point (c)				
54				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	(c) an amount of EUR 5 000 000 000 in current prices of the financial envelope referred to in the sixth subparagraph of Article 10a(8) of Directive 2003/87/EC. That amount shall be implemented within the Innovation Fund in accordance with the rules of Article 10a(8) of Directive 2003/87/EC and Commission Delegated Regulation [2019/856].	(c) an amount of EUR 5 000 000 000 in current prices of the financial envelope referred to in the sixth subparagraph of Article 10a(8) of Directive 2003/87/EC. <del>That amount,</del> <b>which</b> shall be implemented within the Innovation Fund in accordance with the rules of Article 10a(8) of Directive 2003/87/EC and Commission Delegated Regulation <del>[2019/856]</del> <b>(EU) 2019/856</b> .	(c) <del>an amount of EUR 5 000 000 000 in current prices of the financial envelope referred to in the sixth subparagraph of Article 10a(8) of Directive 2003/87/EC. That amount shall be implemented within the Innovation Fund in accordance with the rules of Article 10a(8) of Directive 2003/87/EC and Commission Delegated Regulation [2019/856].</del>	
Article 3(1), point (d)				
55	(d) An amount of EUR 1 500 000 000 in current prices of the financial envelope referred to in Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/697. That	(d) An amount of EUR <del>1 500 000 000</del> <b>2 500 000 000</b> in current prices of the financial envelope <del>referred</del> <b>referred</b> to in Article 4(1) of	(d) An amount of [EUR 1 500 000 000] in current prices of the financial envelope <del>referred</del> <b>referred</b> to in Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU)	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	amount shall be implemented in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/697.	Regulation (EU) 2021/697. <del>That amount, which</del> shall be implemented in accordance with <u>that</u> Regulation <del>(EU) 2021/697.</del>	2021/697 <b>shall support the implementation of the Platform.</b> That amount shall be implemented in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/697: <b>and</b>	
Article 3(2)				
56	2. The amounts referred to in the paragraph 1 shall be used with the aim of achieving the objectives referred to in Article 2.	2. The amounts referred to in the paragraph 1 shall be used with the aim of achieving the objectives referred to in Article 2.	2. <del>The amounts referred to in the paragraph 1</del> shall be used with the aim of achieving the objectives referred to in Article 2.	
Article 4				
57				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	Article 4  Sovereignty Seal and cumulative funding	Article 4  Sovereignty Seal, <u>combined</u> and cumulative funding	Article 4  Sovereignty Seal and cumulative funding	
Article 4(1)				
58	1. The Commission shall award a Sovereignty Seal to any action contributing to any of the Platform objectives, provided the action has been assessed and complies with the minimum quality requirements, in particular eligibility, exclusion and award criteria, provided by a call for proposals under Regulation (EU) 2021/695, Regulation (EU) 2021/694, Regulation (EU) 2021/697, Regulation (EU)	1. The Commission shall award a Sovereignty Seal to any <del>action</del> <u>project</u> contributing to any of the Platform objectives, provided <u>that the project</u> <del>the action</del> has been assessed and complies with the minimum quality requirements, in particular eligibility, exclusion and award criteria, provided by a call for proposals under Regulation (EU) 2021/695, Regulation (EU) 2021/694, Regulation (EU)	1. The Commission shall award a Sovereignty Seal to any action contributing to any of the Platform objectives, provided the action has been assessed and complies with the minimum quality requirements, in particular eligibility, exclusion and award criteria, provided by a call for proposals under Regulation (EU) 2021/695, Regulation (EU) 2021/694, Regulation (EU) 2021/697, Regulation (EU)	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	2021/522, or Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/856.	2021/697, Regulation (EU) 2021/522, <u><a href="#">Regulation (EU) 2021/1060</a></u> or Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/856, <u><a href="#">or has been identified as a strategic project as defined in Regulation (EU) .../... ('Net Zero Industry Act')</a></u> , <u><a href="#">if that project complies with either the resilience criteria as defined in Article 10(1), point (a), of that Regulation or with the competitiveness criteria as defined in Article 10(1)(b) of the NZIA Regulation in the selection process of net-zero strategic projects, or as defined in Regulation (EU) .../... ('Critical Raw Materials Act'). Those calls for proposals shall be continuously open.</a></u>	2021/522, or Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/856.	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 4(1a)				
58a		<u>1a. When assessing whether a project contributes to any of the Platform objectives in accordance with paragraph 1, the Commission shall take into account the contribution of the project to the strengthening and structuring of local networks of industrial actors and its contribution to the creation of jobs.</u>		
Article 4(1b)				
58b		<u>1b. The Sovereignty Seal shall be valid for the period of the</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u>implementation of the project, during which there shall be a commitment from the company not to relocate the project outside of the Union. If a project has not started within</u></p> <p><u>five years of the award of the Sovereignty Seal, it can be reviewed for the purpose of compatibility with STEP strategic priorities.</u></p> <p><u>When conducting the above-mentioned review, the Commission shall ensure that all projects comply with Union's and national labour law, social rights and workers' rights, as well as applicable collective agreements.</u></p>		
Article 4(1c)				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
58c		<u>1c. The Sovereignty Seal shall not be awarded to projects managed by a legal entity established in a third country that is not associated to the Union programme concerned or, where it is established in the Union or in an associated country that has its executive management structures in a non-associated country.</u>		
Article 4(1d)				
58d		<u>1d. Projects managed by legal entities forming a consortium shall be awarded a Sovereignty Seal only if at least one independent legal</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>entity forming that consortium is established in a Member State and at least two other independent legal entities forming that consortium are established in different Member States or associated countries.</u>		
Article 4(2)				
59	2. The Sovereignty Seal may be used as a quality label, in particular for the purposes of:	2. The Sovereignty Seal <del>may</del> <u>shall</u> be used as a quality label, in particular for the purposes of:	2. The Sovereignty Seal may be used as a quality label, in particular for the purposes of:	
Article 4(2), point (a)				
60				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	(a) receiving support for the action under another Union fund or programme in accordance with the rules applicable to that fund or programme, or	(a) receiving support for the <del>action</del> <u>project</u> under another Union fund or programme in accordance with the rules applicable to that fund or programme, or	(a) receiving support for the action under another Union fund or programme in accordance with the rules applicable to that fund or programme, or	
Article 4(2), point (b)				
61	(b) financing the action through cumulative or combined funding with another Union instrument in line with the rules of the applicable basic acts.	(b) financing the <del>action</del> <u>project</u> through cumulative or combined funding with another Union instrument in line with the rules of the applicable basic acts.	(b) financing the action through cumulative or combined funding with another Union instrument in line with the rules of the applicable basic acts.	
Article 4(3)				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
62	3. When revising their recovery and resilience plans in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/241, Member States shall, without prejudice to the provisions of that Regulation, consider as a priority action which have been awarded a Sovereignty Seal in accordance with paragraph 1.	3. When revising their recovery and resilience plans in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/241, Member States shall, without prejudice to the provisions of that Regulation, consider as a priority <del>action</del> <u>projects</u> , which have been awarded a Sovereignty Seal in accordance with paragraph 1.	3. When revising their recovery and resilience plans in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/241, Member States <del>shall</del> <b>may</b> , without prejudice to the provisions of that Regulation, consider as a priority <del>action</del> <b>actions</b> which have been awarded a Sovereignty Seal in accordance with paragraph 1.	
Article 4(4)				
63	4. When deciding on investment projects to finance from their respective shares of the Modernisation Fund in accordance with Article 10d of Directive	4. When deciding on investment projects to finance from their respective shares of the Modernisation Fund in accordance with Article 10d of Directive	4. When deciding on investment projects to finance from their respective shares of the Modernisation Fund in accordance with Article 10d of Directive	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	2003/87/EC, Member States shall consider as a priority project for critical clean technologies which have received the Sovereignty Seal in accordance with paragraph 1. In addition, Member States may decide to grant national support to projects with a Sovereignty Seal contributing to the Platform objective referred to in Article 2(1), point (a)(ii).	2003/87/EC, Member States shall consider <u>those projects for net-zero technologies</u> as a priority <del>project for critical clean technologies as defined in the Regulation (EU) .../... [Net-Zero Industry Act]</del> which have received the Sovereignty Seal in accordance with paragraph 1. In addition, Member States may decide to grant national support to projects with a Sovereignty Seal contributing to the Platform objective <del>referred to in Article 2(1), point (a)</del> <u>for net-zero technologies as defined in the Regulation Regulation (EU) .../... [Net-Zero Industry Act].-</u>	2003/87/EC, Member States <del>shall</del> <b>may</b> consider as a priority <del>project</del> <b>projects</b> for critical clean technologies which have received the Sovereignty Seal in accordance with paragraph 1. In addition, Member States may decide to grant national support to projects with a Sovereignty Seal contributing to the Platform objective referred to in Article 2(1), point (a)(ii).	
Article 4(5)				
64				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>5. Under Regulation (EU) 2021/523, the Sovereignty Seal shall be taken into account in the context of the procedure provided for in Article 19 of the European Investment Bank Statute and of the policy check as laid down in Article 23(3) of that Regulation. In addition, the implementing partners shall examine projects having been awarded the Sovereignty Seal in case they fall within their geographic and activity scope as laid down in Article 26(5) of that Regulation.</p>	<p>5. Under Regulation (EU) 2021/523, the Sovereignty Seal shall be taken into account in the context of the procedure provided for in Article 19 of the European Investment Bank Statute and of the policy check as laid down in Article 23(3) of that Regulation. In addition, the implementing partners shall examine <i>in a timely manner</i> projects having been awarded the Sovereignty Seal in case they fall within their geographic and activity scope as laid down in Article 26(5) of that Regulation.</p>	<p>5. Under Regulation (EU) 2021/523, the Sovereignty Seal <del>shall</del><i>may</i> be taken into account in the context of the procedure provided for in Article 19 of the European Investment Bank Statute and of the policy check as laid down in Article 23(3) of that Regulation. In addition, the implementing partners shall examine projects having been awarded the Sovereignty Seal in case they fall within their geographic and activity scope as laid down in Article 26(5) of that Regulation.</p>	
Article 4(6)				
65				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>6. Strategic projects identified in accordance with the [Net Zero Industry Act] and the [Critical Raw Materials Act] within the scope of Article 2 that receive a contribution under the Programmes referred to in Article 3 may also receive a contribution from any other Union programme, including Funds under shared management, provided that the contributions do not cover the same costs. The rules of the relevant Union programme shall apply to the corresponding contribution to the strategic project. The cumulative funding shall not exceed the total eligible costs of the strategic project. The support from the different Union programmes may be calculated on a pro-rata basis in accordance with the documents</p>	<p>6. Strategic projects identified in accordance with the [Net Zero Industry Act] and the [Critical Raw Materials Act] within the scope of Article 2 that receive a contribution under the Programmes referred to in Article 3 may also receive a contribution from any other Union programme, including Funds under shared management, provided that the contributions do not cover the same costs. The rules of the relevant Union programme shall apply to the corresponding contribution to the strategic project. The cumulative funding shall not exceed the total eligible costs of the strategic project. The support from the different Union programmes may be calculated on a pro-rata basis in accordance with the documents</p>	<p>6. Strategic projects identified in accordance with the [Net Zero Industry Act] and the [Critical Raw Materials Act] within the scope of Article 2 that receive a contribution under the Programmes referred to in Article 3 may also receive a contribution from any other Union programme, including Funds under shared management, provided that the contributions do not cover the same costs. The rules of the relevant Union programme shall apply to the corresponding contribution to the strategic project. The cumulative funding shall not exceed the total eligible costs of the strategic project. The support from the different Union programmes may be calculated on a pro-rata basis in accordance with the documents</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	setting out the conditions for support.	setting out the conditions for support.	setting out the conditions for support.	
Article 4(7)				
66	7. The award of a Sovereignty Seal and provision of cumulative funding is without prejudice to applicable State aid rules and to the Union's international obligations.	7. The award of a Sovereignty Seal and provision of cumulative funding is without prejudice to applicable State aid rules and to the Union's international obligations.	7. The award of a Sovereignty Seal and <b>the</b> provision of cumulative funding is without prejudice to applicable State aid rules and to the Union's international obligations.	
Article 4a				
66a		<a href="#"><u>Article 4a</u></a>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u><a href="#">STEP Committee</a></u>		
Article 4a(1), first subparagraph				
66b		<u><a href="#">1. 1. The Commission shall set up a STEP Committee composed of Commission experts on the technologies referred to in Article 2(1), point (a) and on the Union programmes and funds from which the Platform is financially supported.</a></u>		
Article 4a(1), second subparagraph				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
66c		<u>2. The STEP Committee shall have the following tasks:</u>		
Article 4a(1), second subparagraph, point (a)				
66d		<u>(a) to award and promote the Sovereignty Seal referred to in Article 4(1) and to liaise with managing authorities responsible for calls for proposals and calls for tender to increase the funding opportunities across programmes for projects that have been awarded the Sovereignty Seal, without interfering in the selection procedures;</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 4a(1), second subparagraph, point (b)				
66e		<u>(b) to award the Sovereignty Seal to projects funded by the Cohesion policy funds that contribute to the Platform objectives as set out in Article 2 of this Regulation;</u>		
Article 4a(1), second subparagraph, point (c)				
66f		<u>(c) to set up and manage the Sovereignty portal in accordance with Article 6;</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 4a(1), second subparagraph, point (d)				
66g		<p><u>(d) to liaise with other existing structures, especially the Net-Zero Europe Platform established in accordance with Regulation (EU) .../... [Net Zero Industry Act] and the Critical Raw Materials Board established pursuant to Regulation (EU) .../... [Critical Raw Materials Act], national competent authorities designated in accordance with Article 6(4) of this Regulation, implementing partners and the Industrial Advisory Group referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article, with a view to coordinating and exchanging information about the financial needs of, the existing bottlenecks and the best practices</u></p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>for projects across the Union;</u>		
Article 4a(1), second subparagraph, point (e)				
66h		<u>(e) to foster contacts across sectors referred to in Article 2, making particular use of existing industrial alliances, networks and structures, such as the European Institute of Innovation &amp; Technology (EIT) and the Joint Undertakings.</u>		
Article 4a(1), third subparagraph				
66i		<u>3. The Commission shall set up an</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>Industrial Advisory Group on Strategic Technologies composed of representatives of Union industry to advise and assist it on the implementation of the Platform in the relevant sectors.</u>		
Article 5				
67	Article 5 Monitoring of implementation	Article 5 <del>Monitoring of implementation</del>	Article 5 Monitoring of implementation	
Article 5(1)				
68	1. The Commission shall monitor	1. <del>The Commission shall monitor</del>	1. The Commission shall monitor	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	the implementation of the Platform and measure the achievement of the Platform objectives set out in Article 2. The monitoring of implementation shall be targeted and proportionate to the activities carried out under the Platform.	<del>the implementation of the Platform and measure the achievement of the Platform objectives set out in Article 2. The monitoring of implementation shall be targeted and proportionate to the activities carried out under the Platform.</del>	the implementation of the Platform and measure the achievement of the Platform objectives set out in Article 2. The monitoring of implementation shall be targeted and proportionate to the activities carried out under the Platform.	
Article 5(2)				
69	2. The monitoring system of the Commission shall ensure that data for monitoring the implementation of the activities carried out under the Platform and the results of those activities are collected efficiently, effectively and in a timely manner.	2. <del>The monitoring system of the Commission shall ensure that data for monitoring the implementation of the activities carried out under the Platform and the results of those activities are collected efficiently, effectively and in a timely manner.</del>	2. The monitoring system of the Commission shall ensure that data for monitoring the implementation of the activities carried out under the Platform and the results of those activities are collected efficiently, effectively and in a timely manner.	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 5(3)				
70	3. The Commission shall report on the expenditure financed by the Platform. It shall, as appropriate, report on the achievements related to each of the specific Platform objectives.	3. <del>The Commission shall report on the expenditure financed by the Platform. It shall, as appropriate, report on the achievements related to each of the specific Platform objectives.</del>	3. The Commission shall report on the expenditure financed by the Platform. It shall, as appropriate, report on the achievements related to each of the specific Platform objectives.	
Article 6				
71	Article 6 Sovereignty portal	Article 6 Sovereignty portal	Article 6 Sovereignty portal	
Article 6(1)				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
72	1. The Commission shall establish a dedicated publicly available website (the ‘Sovereignty portal’), providing investors with information about funding opportunities for projects linked to the Platform objectives and grant visibility to those projects, in particular by displaying the following information:	1. The Commission shall establish a dedicated publicly available website (the ‘Sovereignty portal’), providing <del>investors with</del> information about funding opportunities for projects linked to the Platform objectives and <del>grant</del> <u>granting</u> visibility to those projects, in particular by displaying the following information:	1. The Commission shall establish a dedicated publicly available website (the ‘Sovereignty portal’), providing investors with information about funding opportunities for projects linked to the Platform objectives and grant visibility to those projects, in particular by displaying the following information:	
Article 6(1), point (a)				
73	(a) ongoing and upcoming calls for proposals and calls for tender linked to the Platform objectives under the respective programmes and funds;	(a) <u>information about Union programmes and funds within the scope of this Regulation and</u> ongoing and upcoming calls for proposals and calls for tender linked	(a) ongoing and upcoming calls for proposals and calls for tender linked to the Platform objectives under the respective programmes and funds;	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		to the Platform objectives under the respective programmes and funds;		
Article 6(1), point (b)				
74	(b) projects that have been awarded a Sovereignty Seal quality label in accordance with Article 4;	(b) projects that have been awarded a Sovereignty Seal quality label in accordance with Article 4;	(b) projects that have been awarded a Sovereignty Seal quality label in accordance with Article 4;	
Article 6(1), point (c)				
75	(c) projects that have been identified as strategic projects under the [Net-Zero Industry Act] and the [Critical Raw Materials Act], to the extent	(c) projects that have been identified as strategic projects under the [Net-Zero Industry Act] and the [Critical Raw Materials Act], to the extent	(c) projects that have been identified as strategic projects under the [Net-Zero Industry Act] and the [Critical Raw Materials Act], to the extent	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	that they fall within the scope of Article 2;	that they fall within the scope of Article 2;	that they fall within the scope of Article 2;	
Article 6(1), point (d)				
76	(d) contacts to the national competent authorities designated in accordance with paragraph 4;	(d) <del>contacts to</del> <u>contact details of</u> the national competent authorities designated in accordance with paragraph 4;	(d) contacts to the national competent authorities designated in accordance with paragraph 4.	
Article 6(2)				
77	2. The Sovereignty portal shall also display information about the implementation of the Platform and	2. The Sovereignty portal shall also display information about the implementation of the Platform and	2. The Sovereignty portal shall also display information about the implementation of the Platform and	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	in relation to Union budget expenditure as referred to in Article 5, as well as the performance indicators defined under the respective programmes.	in relation to Union budget expenditure as referred to in Article 5, as well as the performance indicators defined under the respective programmes.	in relation to Union budget expenditure as referred to in Article 5, as well as the performance indicators defined under the respective programmes.	
Article 6(3)				
78	3. The Sovereignty portal shall be launched at the [date of the entry into force of this Regulation] and shall be updated by the Commission regularly.	3. The Sovereignty portal shall be launched at the [date of the entry into force of this Regulation] and shall be updated by the Commission regularly.	3. The Sovereignty portal shall be launched at the [date of the entry into force of this Regulation] and shall be updated by the Commission regularly.	
Article 6(3a)				
78a				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u>3a. The Sovereignty Portal shall include a rapid simulator to provide project promoters, especially SMEs, guidance on the Union programme or fund for which their particular project may be eligible. The simulator shall not require project promoters to provide confidential business information and its results shall not be legally binding on the authorities responsible for the awarding of funding.</u></p>		
Article 6(4)				
79	4. By [3 months after the entry into force of this Regulation], Member State shall designate one national	4. By [3 months after the entry into force of this Regulation], Member State shall designate one national	4. By [3 months after the entry into force of this Regulation], Member <del>State</del> States shall designate one	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	competent authority to act as the main point of contact for the implementation of the Platform at national level.	competent authority to act as the main point of contact for the implementation of the Platform at national level.	national competent authority to act as the main point of contact for the implementation of the Platform at national level.	
Article 6(4a)				
79a		<u>4a. For projects related to security and defence, information shall be displayed only on a case-by-case basis, if deemed necessary by the project promoter or the Commission, taking into consideration the confidentiality of security of information in defence matters.</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 7				
80	Article 7 Annual report	Article 7 <u>Monitoring and</u> annual <del>report</del> <u>reporting</u>	Article 7 Annual report	
Article 7(1)				
81	1. The Commission shall provide an annual report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the Platform.	1. The Commission shall <del>provide an annual report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation</del> <u>monitor the implementation of the Platform and measure the achievement of the objectives of the Platform laid down in Article 2. The monitoring of the</u>	1. The Commission shall provide an annual report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the Platform.	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>implementation shall be targeted and proportionate to the activities carried out under the Platform.</u> <del>of the Platform.</del>		
Article 7(1a)				
81a		<u>1a. The Commission shall design the monitoring system in such a way that data for monitoring the implementation of activities carried out under the Platform and the results of those activities is collected efficiently, effectively and in a timely manner. To that end, proportionate reporting requirements shall be imposed on the beneficiaries of funding.</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 7(1b)				
81b		<p><u><i>1b. The Commission shall provide an annual report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the implementation of the Platform. The annual report shall be made publicly available.</i></u></p>		
Article 7(2)				
82	2. The annual report shall include consolidated information on the progress made in implementing the Platform objectives under each of	2. The annual report shall include consolidated information on the progress made in implementing the Platform objectives under each of	2. The annual report shall include consolidated information on the progress made in implementing the Platform objectives under each of	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	the programmes and funds.	the programmes and funds <u>as well as qualitative and quantitative information on the Platform's contribution to cross-border projects and to projects per Member State.</u>	the programmes and funds.	
Article 7(3)				
83	3. The annual report shall also include the following information:	3. The annual report shall also include the following information:	3. The annual report shall also include the following information:	
Article 7(3), point (a)				
84	(a) overall expenditure of the STEP	(a) overall expenditure of the STEP	(a) overall expenditure of the	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	financed under the respective programmes;	financed under the respective programmes <u>and funds</u> ;	<del>STEP</del> On STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 financed under the respective programmes;	
Article 7(3), point (b)				
85	(b) the performance of the STEP based on the performance indicators defined under the respective programmes.	(b) the performance of the STEP based on the performance indicators defined under the respective programmes.	(b) the performance of <del>the</del> STEP based on the performance indicators defined under the respective programmes.	
Article 7(3), point (ba)				
85a		<u>(ba) an impact assessment determining how the accumulated</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>projects under STEP contribute to the Union's strategic objectives on ensuring long-term competitiveness;</u>		
Article 7(3), point (bb)				
85b		<u>(bb) an analysis of the geographical and technological distribution of the projects that have been awarded the Sovereignty Seal.</u>		
Article 8				
86				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	Article 8  Evaluation of the Platform	Article 8  Evaluation of the Platform	Article 8  Evaluation of the Platform	
Article 8(1)				
87	1. By 31 December 2025, the Commission shall provide the European Parliament and the Council with an evaluation report on the implementation of the Platform.	1. By 31 December 2025, the Commission shall provide the European Parliament and the Council with an <u>interim</u> evaluation report on the implementation of the Platform, <u>on the state of dependencies of the Union, and on the sectors of strategic importance for its sovereignty, for the purpose of informing the decision-making process on the post-2027 multiannual financial framework</u>	1. By 31 December 2025, the Commission shall provide the European Parliament and the Council with an evaluation report on the implementation of the Platform.	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>in a timely manner.</u>		
Article 8(2)				
88	2. The evaluation report shall, in particular, assess to which extent the objectives have been achieved, the efficiency of the use of the resources and the European added value. It shall also consider the continued relevance of all objectives and actions, in view of their potential upscaling.	2. The <u>interim</u> evaluation report shall, in particular, assess to which extent the <del>objectives have been achieved</del> <u>STEP has contributed to the achievement of the objectives</u> , the efficiency of the use of the resources and the European added value <u>of the Platform</u> . It shall also <u>provide an overview of the regions for which the programmes have been amended, including information on relevant aspects of the partnership principle</u> , consider the continued relevance of all objectives and <del>actions</del> <u>projects</u> , in	2. The evaluation report shall, in particular, assess to which extent the objectives have been achieved, the efficiency of the use of the resources and the European added value. It shall also consider the continued relevance of all objectives and actions, <del>in view of their potential upscaling.</del>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		view of their potential upscaling, <u>and assess the feasibility of combining all existing publicly available websites managed by the Commission and providing information on Union programmes and funds under direct, shared and indirect management in a single portal, to bring Union funding opportunities closer to potential beneficiaries and enhance transparency towards Union citizens.</u>		
Article 8(3)				
89	3. Where appropriate, the evaluation shall be accompanied by a proposal	3. Where appropriate, the <u>interim</u> evaluation <u>report</u> shall be accompanied by a proposal for	3. Where appropriate, the evaluation shall be accompanied by a proposal	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	for amendments of this Regulation.	amendments of this Regulation <u>or by</u> <u>a legislative proposal for a fully-</u> <u>fledged European Sovereignty</u> <u>Fund, with the aim of helping to</u> <u>shape and strengthen a European</u> <u>industrial policy and to reduce</u> <u>strategic dependencies of the</u> <u>Union, and which ensures the</u> <u>correct functioning of the single</u> <u>market, while avoiding market</u> <u>distortions and creating a level</u> <u>playing field in the Union and third</u> <u>countries. Where the Commission</u> <u>chooses not to present a legislative</u> <u>proposal for a European</u> <u>Sovereignty Fund, it shall provide</u> <u>reasons for its decision in its</u> <u>interim evaluation report.</u>	for amendments of this Regulation.	
Article 8(3a)				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
89a		<p><u>3a. At the end of the implementation of the Union programmes and funds from which the Platform is financially supported, but no later than 31 December 2031, the Commission shall provide the European Parliament and the Council with a final evaluation report on implementation of the Platform. The final evaluation report shall be accompanied by a thorough assessment of differentiated territorial impacts and effects on cohesion resulting from the implementation of the Platform.</u></p>		
CHAPTER 2				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
90	CHAPTER 2 AMENDMENTS	CHAPTER 2 AMENDMENTS	CHAPTER 2 AMENDMENTS	
Article 9				
91	Article 9 Amendments to Directive 2003/87/EC [ETS]	Article 9 Amendments to Directive 2003/87/EC [ETS]	Article 9 <del>Amendments to Directive 2003/87/EC [ETS]</del>	
Article 9, first paragraph				
92	Directive 2003/87/EC is amended as	Directive 2003/87/EC is amended as	<del>Directive 2003/87/EC is amended as</del>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	follows:	follows:	<del>follows:</del>	
Article 9, first paragraph, point (1)				
93	(1) In Article 10a(8), the following sixth subparagraph is inserted:	(1) In Article 10a(8), the following sixth subparagraph is inserted:	(1) <del>In Article 10a(8), the following sixth subparagraph is inserted:</del>	
Article 9, first paragraph, point (1), amending provision, first paragraph				
94	‘ In addition to the allowances referred to in the first to fifth subparagraphs of this paragraph, the Innovation Fund shall also implement a financial envelope for	‘ In addition to the allowances referred to in the first to fifth subparagraphs of this paragraph, the Innovation Fund shall also implement a financial envelope for	‘ <del>In addition to the allowances referred to in the first to fifth subparagraphs of this paragraph, the Innovation Fund shall also implement a financial envelope for</del>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2027 of EUR 5 000 000 000 in current prices for supporting investments contributing to the STEP objective referred to in Article 2, point (a)(ii) of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEP Regulation]. This financial envelope shall be made available to support investments only in Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</p>	<p>the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2027 of EUR 5 000 000 000 in current prices for supporting investments contributing to the STEP objective <del>referred to in</del> <u>for net-zero technologies as defined in [Article 3, point (a)] of Article 2, point (a)(ii) of Regulation (EU) .../...<sup>‡</sup> [Net-Zero Industry Act]</u> <del>[STEP Regulation]</del> <u>by making this financial envelope available for Strategic Projects as defined in [Article 2, point (e)] the Regulation (EU) .../... [Net-Zero Industry Act], provided that they comply with the resilience or competitiveness criteria laid down in Article 10 (1), point (a) or (b), of Regulation (EU) .../... [Net-Zero Industry Act]. Until 31 December 2025, the financial envelope shall be made available in equal parts to support investments</u></p>	<p><del>the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2027 of EUR 5 000 000 000 in current prices for supporting investments contributing to the STEP objective referred to in Article 2, point (a)(ii) of Regulation .../...<sup>‡</sup> [STEP Regulation]. This financial envelope shall be made available to support investments only in Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017</del></p> <p>_____</p> <p><del>‡. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</del></p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><del>in: this financial envelope shall be made available to support investments only in Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU 27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017</del></p> <p>_____</p> <p><del>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</del></p>		
Article 9, first paragraph, point (1), amending provision, first paragraph, point (a)				
94a		<p><u>(a) Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the Union</u></p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017; and</u>		
Article 9, first paragraph, point (1), amending provision, first paragraph, point (b)				
94b		<u>(b) all Member States.</u>  <u>From 1 January 2026, unused funds of the financial envelope shall be made available to support these investments in all Member States.</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 10				
95	Article 10 Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 [ERDF and CF]	Article 10 Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 [ERDF and CF]	Article 10 Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 [ERDF and CF]	
Article 10, first paragraph				
96	Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 is amended as follows:	Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 is amended as follows:	Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 is amended as follows:	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (1)				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
97	(1) In Article 3(1), point (a), the following point is added:	(1) In Article 3(1), point (a), the following point is added:	(1) In Article 3(1), point (a), the following point is added:	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (1), amending provision, numbered paragraph (vi)				
98	<p>‘</p> <p>(vi) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEP Regulation]</p> <p>’</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>(vi) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEP Regulation]</p> <p>’</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>(vi) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEP Regulation]</p> <p>’</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	title and OJ reference].	title and OJ reference].	title and OJ reference].	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (2)				
99	(2) In Article 3(1), point (b), the following point is added:	(2) In Article 3(1), point (b), the following point is added:	(2) In Article 3(1), point (b), the following point is added:	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, numbered paragraph (ix)				
100	‘ (ix) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objective referred to in Article 2(1), point (a)(ii) of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]	‘ (ix) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objective referred to in Article <del>2(1), point</del> <del>(a)(ii)</del> 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]	‘ (ix) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objective referred to in Article 2(1), point (a)(ii) of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	,	,	,	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (3)				
101	(3) In Article 3, the following paragraph 1a is inserted:	(3) In Article 3, the following paragraph 1a is inserted:	(3) In Article 3, the following paragraph 1a is inserted:	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (3), amending provision, first subparagraph				
102	‘ The resources under the specific objective referred to in Article 3(1), first subparagraph, points (a)(vi) and (b)(ix) shall be programmed under	‘ The resources under the specific objective referred to in Article 3(1), <del>first subparagraph,</del> points (a)(vi) and (b)(ix) shall be programmed	‘ The resources under the specific objective referred to in Article 3(1), first subparagraph, points (a)(vi) and (b)(ix) shall be programmed under	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	dedicated priorities corresponding to the respective policy objective.	under dedicated priorities corresponding to the respective policy objective <u>and shall be limited to a maximum of 20% of the initial allocation of the ERDF.</u>	dedicated priorities corresponding to the respective policy objective.	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (3), amending provision, second subparagraph				
103	The Commission shall pay 30 % of the ERDF allocation to that priority as set out in the decision approving the programme amendment as exceptional one-off pre-financing in addition to the yearly pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 or in Article 51(2), (3) and (4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059. The exceptional pre-	The Commission shall pay 30 % of the ERDF allocation to <del>that priority</del> <u>the priorities referred to in the first subparagraph</u> as set out in the decision approving the programme amendment as <del>exceptional one-off</del> pre-financing in addition to the yearly pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 or in Article 51(2), (3)	The Commission shall pay 30 % of the <del>ERDF</del> allocation to that priority as set out in the decision approving the programme amendment as exceptional one-off pre-financing in addition to the yearly pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 or in Article 51(2), (3) and (4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059. The exceptional pre-	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	financing shall be paid by 31 December 2024, provided the Commission has adopted the decision approving the programme amendment by 31 October 2024.	and (4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059. The exceptional pre-financing shall be paid by 31 December 2024, provided the Commission has adopted the decision approving the programme amendment by 31 October 2024.	financing shall be paid by 31 December 2024, provided the Commission has adopted the decision approving the programme amendment by 31 October 2024.	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (3), amending provision, third subparagraph				
104	In accordance with Article 90 (5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 and Article 51(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, the amount paid as exceptional pre-financing shall be cleared no later than with the final accounting year.	In accordance with Article 90 (5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 and Article 51(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, the amount paid as exceptional pre-financing shall be cleared no later than with the final accounting year.	In accordance with Article 90 (5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 and Article 51(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, the amount paid as exceptional pre-financing shall be cleared no later than with the final accounting year.	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 10, first paragraph, point (3), amending provision, fourth subparagraph				
105	In accordance with Article 90(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, any interest generated by the exceptional pre-financing shall be used for the programme concerned in the same way as the ERDF and shall be included in the accounts for the final accounting year.	In accordance with Article 90(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, any interest generated by the exceptional pre-financing shall be used for the programme concerned in the same way as the ERDF and shall be included in the accounts for the final accounting year.	In accordance with Article 90(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, any interest generated by the exceptional pre-financing shall be used for the programme concerned in the same way as the ERDF and shall be included in the accounts for the final accounting year.	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (3), amending provision, fifth subparagraph				
106	In accordance with Article 97(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the exceptional pre-financing shall not be suspended.	In accordance with Article 97(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the exceptional pre-financing shall not be suspended.	In accordance with Article 97(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the exceptional pre-financing shall not be suspended.	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 10, first paragraph, point (3), amending provision, sixth subparagraph				
107	In accordance with Article 105 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the pre-financing to be taken into account for the purposes of calculating amounts to be de-committed shall include the exceptional pre-financing paid.	In accordance with Article 105 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the pre-financing to be taken into account for the purposes of calculating amounts to be de-committed shall include the exceptional pre-financing paid.	In accordance with Article 105 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the pre-financing to be taken into account for the purposes of calculating amounts to be de-committed shall include the exceptional pre-financing paid.	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (3), amending provision, seventh subparagraph				
108	By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for	By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the <del>maximum</del> co-financing rates for	By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.	dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives <del>shall</del> <u>referred to in Article 2 of Regulation.../... [STEP Regulation] may all</u> be increased <u>up</u> to 100 %.	dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (4)				
109	(4) In Article 5(2), the following point (e) is inserted:	(4) In Article 5(2), the following point (e) is inserted:	(4) In Article 5(2), the following point (e) is inserted:	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, numbered paragraph (e), first subparagraph				
110				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>(e) when they contribute to the specific objective under PO 1 set out in Article 3(1), first subparagraph, point (a)(vi) or to the specific objective under PO 2 set out in point (b)(ix) of that subparagraph, in less developed and transition regions, as well as more developed regions in Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017.</p>	<p>(e) when they contribute to the specific objective under PO 1 set out in Article 3(1), first subparagraph, point (a)(vi) or to the specific objective under PO 2 set out in point (b)(ix) of that subparagraph, in less developed and transition regions, as well as more developed regions in Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017, <u>while preserving a focus on SMEs and mid-caps</u>.</p>	<p>(e) when they contribute to the specific objective under PO 1 set out in Article 3(1), first subparagraph, point (a)(vi) or to the specific objective under PO 2 set out in point (b)(ix) of that subparagraph, in less developed and transition regions, as well as more developed regions in Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017.</p>	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, numbered paragraph (e), second subparagraph				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
111	Point (e) shall apply to Interreg programmes where the geographical coverage of the programme within the Union consists exclusively of categories of regions set out in that point.	Point (e) shall apply to Interreg programmes where the geographical coverage of the programme within the Union consists exclusively of categories of regions set out in that point.	Point (e) shall apply to Interreg programmes where the geographical coverage of the programme within the Union consists exclusively of categories of regions set out in that point.	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (5)				
112	(5) In Article 5, the following new paragraph 3a is inserted:	(5) In Article 5, the following new paragraph 3a is inserted:	(5) In Article 5, the following new paragraph 3a is inserted:	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (5), amending provision, numbered paragraph (3a)				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
113	<p>3a. In order to contribute to the specific objectives under PO 1 set out in Article 3(1), first subparagraph, point (a)(vi) and under PO 2 set out in point (b)(ix) of that subparagraph, the ERDF shall also support training, life-long learning, reskilling and education activities.</p>	<p>3a. In order to contribute to the specific objectives under PO 1 set out in Article 3(1), first subparagraph, point (a)(vi) and under PO 2 set out in point (b)(ix) of that subparagraph, the ERDF shall also support training, life-long learning, reskilling and education activities.</p>	<p>3a. In order to contribute to the specific objectives under PO 1 set out in Article 3(1), first subparagraph, point (a)(vi) and under PO 2 set out in point (b)(ix) of that subparagraph, the ERDF shall also support training, life-long learning, reskilling and education activities.</p>	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (6)				
114	<p>(6) In Annex I, Table I, the</p>	<p>(6) In Annex I, Table I, the</p>	<p>(6) In Annex I, Table I, the</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	following row is added under policy objective 1:	following row is added under policy objective 1:	following row is added under policy objective 1:	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (6), amending provision, Table 1, Column 1, Row 1				
115	,			
Article 10, first paragraph, point (6), amending provision, Table 1, Column 2, Row 1				
116	(vi) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]	, (vi) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation	, (vi) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		.../... [STEP Regulation]	.../... [STEP Regulation]	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (6), amending provision, Table 1, Column 3, Row 1				
117	<p>Any RCO listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv)</p> <p>RCO125 Firms: Enterprises supported linked primarily to deep and digital technologies productive investments</p> <p>RCO126 Firms: Enterprises supported linked primarily to clean technologies productive investments</p> <p>RCO127 Firms: Enterprises supported linked primarily to</p>	<p>Any RCO listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv)</p> <p>RCO125 Firms: Enterprises supported linked primarily to <del>deep</del> <del>and</del> digital technologies productive investments</p> <p>RCO126 Firms: Enterprises supported linked primarily to <del>clean</del> <u>net-zero</u> technologies productive investments</p> <p>RCO127 Firms: Enterprises</p>	<p>Any RCO listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv)</p> <p>RCO125 Firms: Enterprises supported linked primarily to deep and digital technologies productive investments</p> <p>RCO126 Firms: Enterprises supported linked primarily to clean technologies productive investments</p> <p>RCO127 Firms: Enterprises supported linked primarily to</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	biotechnologies productive investments  [These indicators are to be reported as subsets of RC001-RCO04]	supported linked primarily to biotechnologies productive investments  [These indicators are to be reported as subsets of RC001-RCO04]	biotechnologies productive investments  [These indicators are to be reported as subsets of RC001-RCO04]	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (6), amending provision, Table 1, Column 4, Row 1				
118	Any RCR listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv)	Any RCR listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv)	Any RCR listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv)	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (7)				
119				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	(7) In Annex I, Table I, the following row is added under policy objective 2:	(7) In Annex I, Table I, the following row is added under policy objective 2:	(7) In Annex I, Table I, the following row is added under policy objective 2:	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (7), amending provision, Table 2, Column 1, Row 1				
120	‘			
Article 10, first paragraph, point (7), amending provision, Table 2, Column 2, Row 1				
121	(ix) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation	‘  (ix) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives	‘  (ix) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	.../... [STEP Regulation]	referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]	referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (7), amending provision, Table 2, Column 3, Row 1				
122	<p>Any RCO listed for specific objectives (i), (iii), (iv) and (vi) under policy objective 1</p> <p>RCO125 Firms: Enterprises supported linked primarily to deep and digital technologies productive investments</p> <p>RCO126 Firms: Enterprises supported linked primarily to clean technologies productive investments</p>	<p>Any RCO listed for specific objectives (i), (iii), (iv) and (vi) under policy objective 1</p> <p>RCO125 Firms: Enterprises supported linked primarily to <del>deep</del> <del>and</del> digital technologies productive investments</p> <p>RCO126 Firms: Enterprises supported linked primarily to <del>clean</del> <u>net-zero</u> technologies</p>	<p>Any RCO listed for specific objectives (i), (iii), (iv) and (vi) under policy objective 1</p> <p>RCO125 Firms: Enterprises supported linked primarily to deep and digital technologies productive investments</p> <p>RCO126 Firms: Enterprises supported linked primarily to clean technologies productive investments</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>RCO127 Firms: Enterprises supported linked primarily to biotechnologies productive investments</p> <p>[These indicators are to be reported as subsets of RC001-RCO04]</p>	<p>productive investments</p> <p>RCO127 Firms: Enterprises supported linked primarily to biotechnologies productive investments</p> <p>[These indicators are to be reported as subsets of RC001-RCO04]</p>	<p>RCO127 Firms: Enterprises supported linked primarily to biotechnologies productive investments</p> <p>[These indicators are to be reported as subsets of RC001-RCO04]</p>	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (7), amending provision, Table 2, Column 4, Row 1				
123	<p>Any RCR listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv) under policy objective 1</p> <p>,</p>	<p>Any RCR listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv) under policy objective 1</p> <p>,</p>	<p>Any RCR listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv) under policy objective 1</p> <p>,</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 10, first paragraph, point (8)				
124	(8) In the Table of Annex II, the following row is added under policy objective 1:	(8) In the Table of Annex II, the following row is added under policy objective 1:	(8) In the Table of Annex II, the following row is added under policy objective 1:	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (8), amending provision, Table 3, Column 1, Row 1				
125				
Article 10, first paragraph, point (8), amending provision, Table 3, Column 2, Row 1				
126				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	(vi) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]	(vi) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]	(vi) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (8), amending provision, Table 3, Column 3, Row 1				
127	Any CCO listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv) under policy objective 1	Any CCO listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv) under policy objective 1	Any CCO listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv) under policy objective 1	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (8), amending provision, Table 3, Column 4, Row 1				
128				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	Any CCR listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv) under policy objective 1	Any CCR listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv) under policy objective 1	Any CCR listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv) under policy objective 1	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (9)				
129	(9) In the Table of Annex II, the following row is added under policy objective 2:	(9) In the Table of Annex II, the following row is added under policy objective 2:	(9) In the Table of Annex II, the following row is added under policy objective 2:	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (9), amending provision, Table 4, Column 1, Row 1				
130	,			

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 10, first paragraph, point (9), amending provision, Table 4, Column 2, Row 1				
131	(ix) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]	(ix) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]	(ix) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (9), amending provision, Table 4, Column 3, Row 1				
132	Any CCO listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv) under	Any CCO listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv) under	Any CCO listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv) under	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	policy objective 1	policy objective 1	policy objective 1	
Article 10, first paragraph, point (9), amending provision, Table 4, Column 4, Row 1				
133	Any CCR listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv) under policy objective 1	Any CCR listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv) under policy objective 1	Any CCR listed for specific objectives (i), (iii) and (iv) under policy objective 1	
Article 11				
134	Article 11 Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 [JTF]	Article 11 Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 [JTF]	Article 11 Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 [JTF]	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 11, first paragraph				
135	Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 is amended as follows:	Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 is amended as follows:	Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 is amended as follows:	
Article 11, first paragraph, point (1)				
136	(1) Article 2 is replaced by the following:	(1) Article 2 is replaced by the following:	(1) Article 2 is replaced by the following:	
Article 11, first paragraph, point (1), amending provision, first paragraph				
137				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>‘</p> <p>In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the JTF shall contribute to the specific objective of enabling regions and people to address the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition towards the Union’s 2030 targets for energy and climate and a climate-neutral economy of the Union by 2050, based on the Paris Agreement. The JTF may also support investments contributing to the STEP objective referred to in Article 2(1), point (a)(ii) of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation].</p> <p>’</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the JTF shall contribute to the specific objective of enabling regions and people to address the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition towards the Union’s 2030 targets for energy and climate and a climate-neutral economy of the Union by 2050, based on the Paris Agreement. The JTF may also support investments contributing to the STEP objective referred to in Article <del>2(1), point (a)(ii)</del><sup>2</sup> of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation].</p> <p>’</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the JTF shall contribute to the specific objective of enabling regions and people to address the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition towards the Union’s 2030 targets for energy and climate and a climate-neutral economy of the Union by 2050, based on the Paris Agreement. The JTF may also support investments contributing to the STEP objective referred to in Article 2(1), point (a)(ii) of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation].</p> <p>’</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 11, first paragraph, point (2)				
138	(2) In Article 8(2) the following subparagraph is inserted:	(2) In Article 8(2) the following subparagraph is inserted:	(2) In Article 8(2) the following subparagraph is inserted:	
Article 11, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, first paragraph				
139	<p>‘</p> <p>The JTF may also support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEPRegulation]. That</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>The JTF <del>may also support</del> <u>also supports</u> productive investments in enterprises, <u>with a focus on SMEs and mid-caps,</u> <del>other than SMEs</del> contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>The JTF may also support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEPRegulation] <b>STEP</b></p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>support may be provided irrespective of whether the gap analysis was carried out in accordance with Article 11(2)(h) and irrespective of its outcome. Such investments shall only be eligible where they do not lead to relocation as defined in point (27) of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. The provision of such support shall not require a revision of the territorial just transition plan where that revision would be exclusively linked to the gap analysis.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</p>	<p>.../...<sup>4</sup> <del>[STEP</del><u>Regulation</u><sup>65</sup> <u>[STEP Regulation]</u>. That support may be provided irrespective of whether the gap analysis was carried out in accordance with Article 11(2)(h) and irrespective of its outcome. Such investments shall only be eligible where they do not lead to relocation as defined in point (27) of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.</p> <p><u>Apprenticeships and jobs, education or training for new skills shall be considered in the awarding decision.</u> The provision of such support shall not require a revision of the territorial just transition plan <del>where that revision would be exclusively linked to the gap analysis.</del></p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</p>	<p><b>Regulation]</b>. That support may be provided irrespective of whether the gap analysis was carried out in accordance with Article 11(2)(h) and irrespective of its outcome. Such investments shall only be eligible where they do not lead to relocation as defined in point (27) of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. The provision of such support shall not require a revision of the territorial just transition plan where that revision would be exclusively linked to the gap analysis.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p>_____</p> <p><del>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</del></p> <p><u>65. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</u></p>		
Article 11, first paragraph, point (3)				
140	(3) In Article 10, the following paragraph 4 is added:	(3) In Article 10, the following paragraph 4 is added:	(3) In Article 10, the following paragraph 4 is added:	
Article 11, first paragraph, point (3), amending provision, first paragraph				
141				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>‘</p> <p>The Commission shall pay 30% of the JTF allocation, including amounts transferred in line with Article 27 of Regulation EU 2021/1060, to a programme as set out in the decision approving the programme as exceptional one-off pre-financing in addition to the yearly pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. The exceptional pre-financing shall be paid as from [entry into force of this Regulation].</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>The Commission shall pay 30% of the JTF allocation, including amounts transferred in line with Article 27 of Regulation EU 2021/1060, to a programme as set out in the decision approving the programme as exceptional one-off pre-financing in addition to the yearly pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. The exceptional pre-financing shall be paid as from [entry into force of this Regulation].</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>The Commission shall pay 30% of the JTF allocation, including amounts transferred in line with Article 27 of Regulation EU 2021/1060, to a programme as set out in the decision approving the programme as exceptional one-off pre-financing in addition to the yearly pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. The exceptional pre-financing shall be paid as from [entry into force of this Regulation].</p>	
Article 11, first paragraph, point (3), amending provision, second paragraph				
142				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	In accordance with Article 90(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the amount paid as exceptional pre-financing shall be cleared no later than with the final accounting year.	In accordance with Article 90(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the amount paid as exceptional pre-financing shall be cleared no later than with the final accounting year.	In accordance with Article 90(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the amount paid as exceptional pre-financing shall be cleared no later than with the final accounting year.	
Article 11, first paragraph, point (3), amending provision, third paragraph				
143	In accordance with Article 90(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, any interest generated by the exceptional pre-financing shall be used for the programme concerned in the same way as the ERDF and shall be included in the accounts for the final accounting year.	In accordance with Article 90(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, any interest generated by the exceptional pre-financing shall be used for the programme concerned in the same way as the ERDF and shall be included in the accounts for the final accounting year.	In accordance with Article 90(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, any interest generated by the exceptional pre-financing shall be used for the programme concerned in the same way as the ERDF and shall be included in the accounts for the final accounting year.	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 11, first paragraph, point (3), amending provision, fourth paragraph				
144	In accordance with Article 97(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the exceptional pre-financing shall not be suspended.	In accordance with Article 97(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the exceptional pre-financing shall not be suspended.	In accordance with Article 97(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the exceptional pre-financing shall not be suspended.	
Article 11, first paragraph, point (3), amending provision, fifth paragraph				
145	In accordance with Article 105(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the pre-financing to be taken into account for the purposes of calculating amounts to be de-committed shall include the exceptional pre-financing paid.	In accordance with Article 105(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the pre-financing to be taken into account for the purposes of calculating amounts to be de-committed shall include the exceptional pre-financing paid.	In accordance with Article 105(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the pre-financing to be taken into account for the purposes of calculating amounts to be de-committed shall include the exceptional pre-financing paid.	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 11, first paragraph, point (3), amending provision, sixth paragraph				
146	By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.	By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives <u>referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation] may <del>shall</del> be increased up</u> to 100 %.	By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.	
Article 12				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
147	Article 12 Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 [ESF+]	Article 12 Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 [ESF+]	Article 12 Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 [ESF+]	
Article 12, first paragraph				
148	Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 is amended as follows:	Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 is amended as follows:	Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 is amended as follows:	
Article 12, first paragraph, point (1)				
149	(1) A new article 12a is inserted:	(1) A new article 12a is inserted:	(1) A new article 12a is inserted:	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 12, first paragraph, point (1), amending provision, first paragraph				
150	Article 12a	Article 12a	Article 12a	
Article 12, first paragraph, point (1), amending provision, second paragraph				
151	In addition to the pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, where the Commission approves an amendment of a programme including one or more priorities	In addition to the pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, where the Commission approves an amendment of a programme including one or more priorities	In addition to the pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, where the Commission approves an amendment of a programme including one or more priorities	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>dedicated to operations supported by the ESF+ contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEP Regulation], it shall make an exceptional pre-financing of 30% on the basis of the allocation to those priorities. The exceptional pre-financing shall be paid by 31 December 2024, provided the Commission has adopted the decision approving the programme amendment by 31 October 2024.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</p>	<p>dedicated to operations supported by the ESF+ contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...<sup>166</sup> [STEP Regulation], it shall make an exceptional pre-financing of 30% on the basis of the allocation to those priorities. <u><i>This exceptional pre-financing shall also benefit operations which contribute to the deployment of the learning programmes of the European Net Zero Industry Academies as well as the training of young people and the skilling, upskilling and reskilling of workers in net-zero technologies.</i></u> The exceptional pre-financing shall be paid by 31 December 2024, provided the Commission has adopted the decision approving the programme</p>	<p>dedicated to operations supported by the ESF+ contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEP Regulation], it shall <del>make</del><b>pay</b> an exceptional pre-financing of 30% on the basis of the allocation to those priorities. The exceptional pre-financing shall be paid by 31 December 2024, provided the Commission has adopted the decision approving the programme amendment by 31 October 2024.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p>amendment by 31 October 2024.</p> <p>_____</p> <p><del>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</del></p> <p><u>66. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</u></p>		
Article 12, first paragraph, point (1), amending provision, third paragraph				
152	In accordance with Article 90(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the amount paid as exceptional pre-financing shall be cleared no later than with the final accounting year.	In accordance with Article 90(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the amount paid as exceptional pre-financing shall be cleared no later than with the final accounting year.	In accordance with Article 90(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the amount paid as exceptional pre-financing shall be cleared no later than with the final accounting year.	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 12, first paragraph, point (1), amending provision, fourth paragraph				
153	In accordance with Article 90(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, any interest generated by the exceptional pre-financing shall be used for the programme concerned in the same way as the ESF+ and shall be included in the accounts for the final accounting year.	In accordance with Article 90(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, any interest generated by the exceptional pre-financing shall be used for the programme concerned in the same way as the ESF+ and shall be included in the accounts for the final accounting year.	In accordance with Article 90(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, any interest generated by the exceptional pre-financing shall be used for the programme concerned in the same way as the ESF+ and shall be included in the accounts for the final accounting year.	
Article 12, first paragraph, point (1), amending provision, fifth paragraph				
154	In accordance with Article 97(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the exceptional pre-financing shall not be suspended.	In accordance with Article 97(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the exceptional pre-financing shall not be suspended.	In accordance with Article 97(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the exceptional pre-financing shall not be suspended.	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 12, first paragraph, point (1), amending provision, sixth paragraph				
155	In accordance with Article 105(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the pre-financing to be taken into account for the purposes of calculating amounts to be de-committed shall include the exceptional pre-financing paid.	In accordance with Article 105(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the pre-financing to be taken into account for the purposes of calculating amounts to be de-committed shall include the exceptional pre-financing paid.	In accordance with Article 105(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the pre-financing to be taken into account for the purposes of calculating amounts to be de-committed shall include the exceptional pre-financing paid.	
Article 12, first paragraph, point (1), amending provision, seventh paragraph				
156	By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for	By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the <del>maximum</del> co-financing rates for	By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.	dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives <del>shall</del> <u>referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]</u> <u>may</u> be increased <u>up</u> to 100 %.	dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.	
Article 13				
157	Article 13 Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 [CPR]	Article 13 Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 [CPR]	Article 13 Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 [CPR]	
Article 13, first paragraph				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
158	Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 is amended as follows:	Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 is amended as follows:	Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 is amended as follows:	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (1)				
159	(1) In Article 2, point (45) is replaced by the following:	(1) In Article 2, point (45) is replaced by the following:	(1) In Article 2, point (45) is replaced by the following:	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (1), amending provision, numbered paragraph (45)				
160	‘  (45) ‘Seal of Excellence’ means the quality label attributed by the	‘  (45) ‘Seal of Excellence’ means the quality label attributed by the	‘  (45) ‘Seal of Excellence’ means the quality label attributed by the	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>Commission in respect of a proposal, which shows that the proposal which has been assessed in a call for proposals under a Union instrument is deemed to comply with the minimum quality requirements of that Union instrument, but could not be funded due to lack of budget available for that call for proposals, and might receive support from other Union or national sources of funding; or the ‘Sovereignty Seal’ referred to in Article 4 of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEP Regulation].</p> <p>,</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</p>	<p>Commission in respect of a proposal, which shows that the proposal which has been assessed in a call for proposals under a Union instrument is deemed to comply with the minimum quality requirements of that Union instrument, but could not be funded due to lack of budget available for that call for proposals, and might receive support from other Union or national sources of funding; or the ‘Sovereignty Seal’ referred to in Article 4 of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEP Regulation].</p> <p>,</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</p>	<p>Commission in respect of a proposal, which shows that the proposal which has been assessed in a call for proposals under a Union instrument is deemed to comply with the minimum quality requirements of that Union instrument, but could not be funded due to lack of budget available for that call for proposals, and might receive support from other Union or national sources of funding; or the ‘Sovereignty Seal’ referred to in Article 4 of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEP Regulation].</p> <p>,</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 13, first paragraph, point (1a), first subparagraph				
160a			(1a) In Article 6(1), the following sentence is added:	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (1a), second subparagraph				
160b			'Where, as a result of a programme amendment for STEP, the climate contribution of the Cohesion Fund would exceed the target of 37 % of its total allocation, the amount exceeding that target may be taken into account when calculating the	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
			<p>climate contribution of the ERDF for the purpose of reaching the target of 30 % of its total allocation. In the same vein, the amounts exceeding the ERDF climate contribution target of 30 % of its total allocation may be taken into account when calculating the climate contribution of the Cohesion Fund.'</p>	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (1b), first subparagraph				
160c			<p>(1b) In Article 13, the following paragraphs 5 and 6 are inserted:</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 13, first paragraph, point (1b), second subparagraph				
160d			<p><b>'5. Without prejudice to the possibility to amend the Partnership Agreement by 31 March 2025 referred to in paragraph 1, a Member State may submit to the Commission an amended Partnership Agreement to take into account the introduction in the programmes of priorities contributing to the STEP objectives as referred to in Article 10(1) and (2) of Regulation.../... [STEP Regulation].'</b></p>	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (1b), third subparagraph				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
160e			<b>'6. By way of derogation from paragraph 2 and 4, the Commission shall approve the amended Partnership Agreement referred to in paragraph 5 no later than three months after its first submission by the Member State.'</b>	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (2)				
161	(2) In Article 14(5), the first subparagraph is replaced by the following:	(2) In Article 14(5), the first subparagraph is replaced by the following:	(2) In Article 14(5), the first subparagraph is replaced by the following:	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, first paragraph				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
162	<p>‘</p> <p>In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 10(4) of the InvestEU Regulation, where a guarantee agreement has not been concluded within 12 months from the conclusion of the contribution agreement, the contribution agreement shall be terminated or prolonged by mutual agreement.</p> <p>’</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 10(4) of the InvestEU Regulation, where a guarantee agreement has not been concluded within 12 months from the conclusion of the contribution agreement, the contribution agreement shall be terminated or prolonged by mutual agreement.</p> <p>’</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 10(4) of the InvestEU Regulation, where a guarantee agreement has not been concluded within 12 months from the conclusion of the contribution agreement, the contribution agreement shall be terminated or prolonged by mutual agreement.</p> <p>’</p>	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (2a), first subparagraph				
162a			(2a) In Article 24, the following	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
			paragraphs 8 and 9 are inserted:	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (2a), second subparagraph				
162b			<p><b>'8. By way of derogation from Article 18, priorities dedicated to investments contributing to the STEP objectives as referred to in Article 10(1) and (2) of Regulation.../... [STEP Regulation] that have been included in a programme as a result of a programme amendment approved by the Commission by 31 October 2024 shall not be taken into account for the purposes of the mid-term review. The decision approving such programme amendments may include a</b></p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
			<p><b>definitive allocation of the totality or part of the flexibility amount for the years 2026 and 2027 to address priorities dedicated to investments contributing to the STEP objectives. Where the totality of the flexibility amount of a programme is definitively allocated to such priorities, the mid-term review shall not be carried out for that programme.'</b></p>	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (2a), third subparagraph				
162c			<p><b>'9. By way of derogation from paragraph 4, the Commission shall adopt the decision approving a programme amendment within two months of its submission by a</b></p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
			Member State provided that it concerns exclusively the introduction of dedicated priorities to investments contributing to the STEP objectives as referred to in Article 10(1) and (2) of Regulation.../... [STEP Regulation].'	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (3)				
163	(3) In Article 49, the following paragraph 2a is inserted:	(3) In Article 49, the following paragraph 2a is inserted:	(3) In Article 49, the following paragraph 2a is inserted:	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (3), amending provision, first paragraph				
164				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>‘</p> <p>Where support is programmed for the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation], the managing authority shall ensure that all the information to be published in accordance with paragraph 2 of this Article is also submitted to the Commission in the format set out in paragraph 4 of this Article for publication on the Sovereignty Portal set out in Article 6 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation], including a timetable of the planned calls for proposals that is updated at least three times a year, as well as the link to the calls for proposals on the day of their publication.</p> <p>’</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>Where support is programmed for the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation], the managing authority shall ensure that all the information to be published in accordance with paragraph 2 of this Article is also submitted to the Commission in the format set out in paragraph 4 of this Article for publication on the Sovereignty Portal set out in Article 6 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation], including a timetable of the planned calls for proposals that is updated at least three times a year, as well as the link to the calls for proposals on the day of their publication.</p> <p>’</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>Where support is programmed for the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation], the managing authority shall ensure that all the information to be published in accordance with paragraph 2 of this Article is also submitted to the Commission in the format set out in paragraph 4 of this Article for publication on the Sovereignty Portal set out in Article 6 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation], including a timetable of the planned calls for proposals that is updated at least three times a year, as well as the link to the calls for proposals on the day of their publication.</p> <p>’</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4)				
165	(4) In the Annex I, Table 1, the following rows are added:	(4) In the Annex I, Table 1, the following rows are added:	(4) In the Annex I, Table 1, the following rows are added:	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 1, Row 1				
166	‘ INTERVENTION FIELD	‘ INTERVENTION FIELD	‘ INTERVENTION FIELD	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 1, Row 2				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
167	145a	145a	145a	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 1, Row 3				
168	145b	145b	145b	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 1, Row 4				
169	188	188	188	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 1, Row 5				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
170	189	189	189	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 1, Row 6				
171	190	190	190	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 1, Row 7				
172	191	191	191	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 1, Row 8				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
173	192	192	192	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 1, Row 9				
174	193	193	193  <b>194</b>	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 2, Row 2				
175	Support for the development of skills or access to employment in	Support for the development of skills or access to employment in	Support for the development of skills or access to employment in	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	deep and digital technologies, biotechnologies.	<del>deep and</del> digital technologies, <del>biotechnologies.</del> <u>(contributing to STEP objectives in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]).</u>	deep and digital technologies, biotechnologies.	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 2, Row 3				
176	Support for the development of skills or access to employment in clean technologies.	Support for the development of skills or access to employment in <del>clean</del> <u>net-zero</u> technologies. <u>(contributing to STEP objectives in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]).</u>	Support for the development of skills or access to employment in clean technologies.	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 2, Row 4				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
177	Productive investments in large enterprises linked primarily to clean technologies.	Productive investments in large enterprises linked primarily to <del>clean</del> <u>net-zero</u> technologies. <u>(contributing to STEP objectives in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]).</u>	Productive investments in large enterprises linked primarily to clean technologies.	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 2, Row 5				
178	Productive investments in SMEs linked primarily to clean technologies.	Productive investments in SMEs linked primarily to <del>clean</del> <u>net-zero</u> technologies. <u>(contributing to STEP objectives in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]).</u>	Productive investments in SMEs linked primarily to clean technologies.	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 2, Row 6				
179	Productive investments in large enterprises linked primarily to biotechnologies.	Productive investments in large enterprises linked primarily to biotechnologies. <u>(contributing to STEP objectives in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]).</u>	Productive investments in large enterprises linked primarily to biotechnologies.	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 2, Row 7				
180	Productive investments in SMEs linked primarily to biotechnologies.	Productive investments in SMEs linked primarily to biotechnologies. <u>(contributing to STEP objectives in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]).</u>	Productive investments in SMEs linked primarily to biotechnologies.	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 2, Row 8				
181	Productive investments in large enterprises linked primarily to deep and digital technologies.	Productive investments in large enterprises linked primarily to <del>deep</del> <u>and digital technologies</u> <u>digital technologies (contributing to STEP objectives in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation])</u> .	Productive investments in large enterprises linked primarily to deep and digital technologies.	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 2, Row 9				
182	Productive investments in SMEs linked primarily to deep and digital technologies.	Productive investments in SMEs linked primarily to deep and digital technologies.	Productive investments in SMEs linked primarily to deep and digital technologies.	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
			<b>Digitising SMEs or large enterprises (including e-Commerce, e-Business and networked business processes, digital innovation hubs, living labs, web entrepreneurs and ICT start-ups, B2B) linked primarily to clean technologies.</b>	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 3, Row 1				
183	Coefficient for the calculation of support to climate change objectives	Coefficient for the calculation of support to climate change objectives	Coefficient for the calculation of support to climate change objectives	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 3, Row 2				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
184	0%	0%	<del>0%</del> 40%	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 3, Row 3				
185	100%	100%	100%	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 3, Row 4				
186	100%	100%	100%	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 3, Row 5				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
187	100%	100%	100%	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 3, Row 6				
188	0%	0%	<del>0%</del> 40%	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 3, Row 7				
189	0%	0%	<del>0%</del> 40%	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 3, Row 8				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
190	0%	0%	0%	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 3, Row 9				
191	0%	0%	0%  <b>40%</b>	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 4, Row 1				
192	Coefficient for the calculation of support to environmental objectives	Coefficient for the calculation of support to environmental objectives	Coefficient for the calculation of support to environmental objectives	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 4, Row 2				
193	0%	0%	<del>0%</del> 40%	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 4, Row 3				
194	40%	40%	40%	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 4, Row 4				
195	40%	40%	40%	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 4, Row 5				
196	40%	40%	40%	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 4, Row 6				
197	0%	0%	<del>0%</del> 40%	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 4, Row 7				
198	0%	0%	<del>0%</del> 40%	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 4, Row 8				
199	0%	0%	0%	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, Table 5, Column 4, Row 9				
200	0%	0%	0%  40%	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 13, first paragraph, point (5)				
201	(5) In Annex I, Table 6, the following row is added:	(5) In Annex I, Table 6, the following row is added:	(5) In Annex I, Table 6, the following row is added:	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (5), amending provision, Table 6, Column 1, Row 1				
202	‘  11	‘  11	‘  11	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (5), amending provision, Table 6, Column 2, Row 1				
203	Contributing to skills and jobs in	Contributing to skills and jobs in	Contributing to skills and jobs in	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, biotechnologies	<del>deep and</del> digital technologies, <del>clean</del> <u>net-zero</u> technologies, <del>biotechnologies</del> <u>(contributing to STEP objectives in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation])</u> .	deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, biotechnologies	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (5), amending provision, Table 6, Column 3, Row 1				
204	0%	0%	0%	
Article 13, first paragraph, point (5), amending provision, Table 6, Column 4, Row 1				
205	0%	0%	0%	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 14				
206	Article 14 Amendments to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 [CPR]	Article 14 Amendments to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 [CPR]	Article 14 Amendments to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 [CPR]	
Article 14, first paragraph				
207	Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 is amended as follows:	Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 is amended as follows:	Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 is amended as follows:	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 14, first paragraph, point (-1)				
207a		<u><i>(-1) In Article 2, point (29) is replaced by the following:</i></u>		
Article 14, first paragraph, point (-1), second subparagraph				
207b		<u><i>'(29) 'accounting year', means, for the purposes of Part Three and Part Four, the period from 1 July to 30 June, except for the first accounting year of the programming period, in respect of which it means the period from the start date for eligibility of expenditure until 30 June 2015. The final accounting year shall be</i></u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025;'</u>		
Article 14, first paragraph, point (-1a), first subparagraph				
207c		<u>(-1a) In Article 24 the following paragraph is inserted:</u>	<b>(-1) In Article 25a, the following paragraph 1b is added:</b>	
Article 14, first paragraph, point (-1a), second subparagraph				
207d		<u>'1a. By way of derogation from Article 60(1) and the first and fourth subparagraphs of Article 120(3), a co-financing rate of up to 100 % may be applied to expenditure declared in the final</u>	<b>'1b. By way of derogation from Article 60(1) and the first and fourth subparagraphs of Article 120(3), a co-financing rate of 100 % may be applied to expenditure declared in payment applications</b>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>accounting year for one or more priority axes in a programme supported by the ERDF, the ESF or the Cohesion Fund.</u>	for the entire accounting year starting on 1 July 2023 and ending on 30 June 2024 for one or more priority axes in a programme supported by the ERDF, the ESF or the Cohesion Fund.	
Article 14, first paragraph, point (-1b)				
207e		<u>By way of derogation from Article 30(1) and (2) and Article 96(10), the application of the co-financing rate of up to 100 % shall not require a Commission decision approving a programme amendment. The Member State shall notify the revised financial tables to the Commission following approval by the monitoring</u>	By way of derogation from Article 30(1) and (2) and Article 96(10), the application of the co-financing rate of 100 % shall not require a Commission decision approving a programme amendment. The Member State shall notify the revised financial tables to the Commission following approval by the monitoring committee. The co-	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u><i>committee. The co-financing rate of up to 100 % shall apply only if the financial tables are notified to the Commission before the submission of the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year in accordance with Article 135(2).'</i></u>	financing rate of 100 % shall apply only if the financial tables are notified to the Commission before the submission of the final application for an interim payment for the last accounting year starting on 1 July 2023 and ending on 30 June 2024 in accordance with Article 135(2).'	
Article 14, first paragraph, point (-1b)				
207f		<u><i>(-1c) In Article 65, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:</i></u>		
Article 14, first paragraph, point (-1c), second subparagraph				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
207g		<p><u>'2. Expenditure shall be eligible for a contribution from the ESI Funds if it has been incurred by a beneficiary and paid between the date of submission of the programme to the Commission or from 1 January 2014, whichever is earlier, and 31 December 2024. In addition, expenditure shall only be eligible for a contribution from the EAFRD if the relevant aid is actually paid by the paying agency between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2024.</u></p>		
Article 14, first paragraph, point (1)				
208				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	(1) In Article 135, the following paragraph 6 is added:	<del>(1)(-1d) In Article 135, the following paragraph 6 is added</del> <u>is amended as follows:</u>	(1) In Article 135, the following paragraph 6 is added:	
Article 14, first paragraph, point (-1d), second subparagraph				
208a		<u>(a) the following paragraph 6 is added:</u>		
Article 14, first paragraph, point (1), amending provision, numbered paragraph (6), first subparagraph				
209	6. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, the deadline for the	6. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, the deadline for the	6. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, the deadline for the	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	submission of the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year shall be 31 July 2025. The last application for interim payment submitted by 31 July 2025 shall be deemed to be the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year.	submission of the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year shall be 31 July 2025. The last application for interim payment submitted by 31 July 2025 shall be deemed to be the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year.	submission of the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year shall be 31 July 2025. The last application for interim payment submitted by 31 July 2025 shall be deemed to be the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year.	
Article 14, first paragraph, point (1), amending provision, numbered paragraph (6), second subparagraph				
210	Amounts from resources other than REACT-EU reimbursed by the Commission as interim payments in 2025 shall not exceed 1 % of the total financial appropriations to the programme concerned by Fund, REACT-EU resources excluded.	Amounts from resources other than REACT-EU reimbursed by the Commission as interim payments in 2025 shall not exceed <del>10</del> % of the total financial appropriations to the programme concerned by Fund, REACT-EU resources excluded.	Amounts from resources other than REACT-EU reimbursed by the Commission as interim payments in 2025 shall not exceed 1 % of the total financial appropriations to the programme concerned by Fund, REACT-EU resources excluded.	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	Amounts that would be due to be paid by the Commission in 2025 exceeding this percentage shall not be paid and shall be used exclusively for the clearing of pre-financing at closure.	Amounts that would be due to be paid by the Commission in 2025 exceeding this percentage shall not be paid and shall be used exclusively for the clearing of pre-financing at closure.	Amounts that would be due to be paid by the Commission in 2025 exceeding this percentage shall not be paid and shall be used exclusively for the clearing of pre-financing at closure.	
Article 14, first paragraph, point (-1d), second subparagraph, amending provision, -a paragraph				
210a		<u>(b) The following paragraph 6a is added:</u>		
Article 14, first paragraph, point (-1d), second subparagraph, amending provision, -a paragraph, point (a), first subparagraph				
210b				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u>(a) '6a. For the outermost regions as defined in Article 349 TFEU, by way of derogation from paragraph 2 the deadline for the submission of the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year shall be 30 June 2025. The last application for interim payment submitted by 31 December 2025 shall be deemed to be the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year.</u></p>		
Article 14, first paragraph, point (-1d), second subparagraph, amending provision, -a paragraph, point (a), second subparagraph				
210c		<p><u>Amounts from resources other than REACT-EU reimbursed by the Commission as interim payments in</u></p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u>2025 shall not exceed 15 % of the total financial appropriations to the programme concerned by Fund, REACT-EU resources excluded. Amounts that would be due to be paid by the Commission in 2025 exceeding this percentage shall not be paid and shall be used exclusively for the clearing of pre-financing at closure'</u></p>		
Article 14, first paragraph, point (2)				
211	(2) In Article 138, the following subparagraph is added:	(2) In Article 138, the following subparagraph is added:	(2) In Article 138, the following subparagraph is added:	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 14, first paragraph, point (2a)				
211a		<i>deleted</i>		
Article 14, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, first paragraph				
212	<p>‘</p> <p>By way of derogation from the deadline set out in the first subparagraph, Member States may submit the documents referred to under points (a), (b) and (c) for the final accounting year by 15 February 2026.</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>By way of derogation from the deadline set out in the first subparagraph, Member States may submit the <u>final implementation report for the operational programme according to Article 141 and the</u> documents referred to under points (a), (b) and (c) for the</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>By way of derogation from the deadline set out in the first subparagraph, Member States may submit the documents referred to under points (a), (b) and (c) for the final accounting year by 15 February 2026.</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		final accounting year by 15 February 2026.		
Article 14, first paragraph, point (2)(a)				
212a		<u>(a) (2a) In Article 141, paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:</u>		
Article 14, first paragraph, point (2a), amending provision, first paragraph, point (a), second subparagraph				
212b		<u>'1. In addition to the documents referred to in Article 138, for the final accounting year from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, Member States shall submit a final</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>implementation report for the operational programme or the last annual implementation report for the operational programme supported by the EMFF.'</u>		
Article 15				
213	Article 15 Amendment to Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 [FEAD]	Article 15 Amendment to Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 [FEAD]	Article 15 Amendment to Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 [FEAD]	
Article 15, first paragraph				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
214	Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 is amended as follows:	Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 is amended as follows:	Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 is amended as follows:	
Article 15, first paragraph, point (1)				
215	(1) In Article 13, paragraph 5 is replaced by the following:	(1) In Article 13, paragraph 5 is replaced by the following:	(1) In Article 13, paragraph 5 is replaced by the following:	
Article 15, first paragraph, point (1), amending provision, numbered paragraph (5)				
216	‘  5. The Member State shall submit a final report on implementation of the	‘  5. The Member State shall submit a final report on implementation of the	‘  5. The Member State shall submit a final report on implementation of the	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	operational programme together with the closure documents as set out in Article 52, by 15 February 2026 at the latest.	operational programme together with the closure documents as set out in Article 52, by 15 February 2026 at the latest.	operational programme together with the closure documents as set out in Article 52, by 15 February 2026 at the latest.	
Article 15, first paragraph, point (2)				
217	(2) In Article 22, the following paragraph 2a is added:	(2) In Article 22, the following paragraph 2a is added:	(2) In Article 22, the following paragraph 2a is added:	
Article 15, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, numbered paragraph (2a)				
218	‘	‘	‘	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	2a. In the case of costs reimbursed pursuant to points (b), (c), (d) and (e) of Article 26(2), the corresponding actions being reimbursed shall be carried out by the submission of the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year in accordance with Article 45(6).	2a. In the case of costs reimbursed pursuant to points (b), (c), (d) and (e) of Article 26(2), the corresponding actions being reimbursed shall be carried out by the submission of the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year in accordance with Article 45(6).	2a. In the case of costs reimbursed pursuant to points (b), (c), (d) and (e) of Article 26(2), the corresponding actions being reimbursed shall be carried out by the submission of the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year in accordance with Article 45(6).	
Article 15, first paragraph, point (3)				
219	(3) In Article 45, the following paragraph 6 is added:	(3) In Article 45, the following paragraph 6 is added:	(3) In Article 45, the following paragraph 6 is added:	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 15, first paragraph, point (3), amending provision, numbered paragraph (6), first subparagraph				
220	<p>‘</p> <p>6. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, the deadline for the submission of the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year shall be 31 July 2025. The last application for interim payment submitted by 31 July 2025 shall be deemed to be the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year.</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>6. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, the deadline for the submission of the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year shall be 31 July 2025. The last application for interim payment submitted by 31 July 2025 shall be deemed to be the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year.</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>6. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, the deadline for the submission of the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year shall be 31 July 2025. The last application for interim payment submitted by 31 July 2025 shall be deemed to be the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year.</p>	
Article 15, first paragraph, point (3), amending provision, numbered paragraph (6), second subparagraph				
221				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	Amounts reimbursed by the Commission as interim payments in 2025 shall not exceed 1 % of the total financial appropriations to the programme concerned. Amounts that would be due to be paid by the Commission in 2025 exceeding this percentage shall not be paid and shall be used exclusively for the clearing of pre-financing at closure.	Amounts reimbursed by the Commission as interim payments in 2025 shall not exceed 1 % of the total financial appropriations to the programme concerned. Amounts that would be due to be paid by the Commission in 2025 exceeding this percentage shall not be paid and shall be used exclusively for the clearing of pre-financing at closure.	Amounts reimbursed by the Commission as interim payments in 2025 shall not exceed 1 % of the total financial appropriations to the programme concerned. Amounts that would be due to be paid by the Commission in 2025 exceeding this percentage shall not be paid and shall be used exclusively for the clearing of pre-financing at closure.	
Article 15, first paragraph, point (4)				
222	(4) In Article 48, the following subparagraph is added:	(4) In Article 48, the following subparagraph is added:	(4) In Article 48, the following subparagraph is added:	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 15, first paragraph, point (4), amending provision, first paragraph				
223	<p>‘</p> <p>By way of derogation from the deadline set out in the first subparagraph, Member States may submit the documents referred to under points (a), (b) and (c) for the final accounting year by 15 February 2026.</p> <p>’</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>By way of derogation from the deadline set out in the first subparagraph, Member States may submit the documents referred to under points (a), (b) and (c) for the final accounting year by 15 February 2026.</p> <p>’</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>By way of derogation from the deadline set out in the first subparagraph, Member States may submit the documents referred to under points (a), (b) and (c) for the final accounting year by 15 February 2026.</p> <p>’</p>	
Article 16				
224	Article 16	Article 16	Article 16	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/523 [InvestEU]	Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/523 [InvestEU]	Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/523 [InvestEU]	
Article 16, first paragraph				
225	Regulation (EU) 2021/523 is amended as follows:	Regulation (EU) 2021/523 is amended as follows:	Regulation (EU) 2021/523 is amended as follows:	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (1)				
226	(1) Article 3 is amended as follows:	(1) Article 3 is amended as follows:	(1) Article 3 is amended as follows:	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (1)(a)				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
227	(a) the following point is added in paragraph 1:	(a) the following point is added in paragraph 1:	(a) the following point is added in paragraph 1:	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (1)(a), amending provision, numbered paragraph (h)				
228	<p>‘</p> <p>(h) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEP Regulation]</p> <p>’</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>(h) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEP Regulation]</p> <p>’</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>(h) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEP Regulation]</p> <p>’</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	title and OJ reference].	title and OJ reference].	title and OJ reference].	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (1)(b)				
229	(b) the following point is added in paragraph 2:	(b) the following point is added in paragraph 2:	(b) <del>the following point is added in paragraph 2:</del>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (1)(b), amending provision, numbered paragraph (e)				
230	(e) supporting financing and investment operations related to the areas referred to in Article 8(1), point (e).	(e) supporting financing and investment operations related to the areas referred to in Article 8(1), point (e).	(e) <del>supporting financing and investment operations related to the areas referred to in Article 8(1), point (e).</del>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	,	,	,	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (2)				
231	(2) Article 4 is amended as follows:	(2) Article 4 is amended as follows:	(2) <del>Article 4 is amended as follows:</del>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (2)(a)				
232	(a) In paragraph 1, the first subparagraph is replaced by the following:	(a) In paragraph 1, the first subparagraph is replaced by the following:	(a) <del>In paragraph 1, the first subparagraph is replaced by the following:</del>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (2)(a), amending provision, first paragraph				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
233	<p>The EU guarantee for the purposes of the EU compartment referred to in Article 9(1), point (a), shall be EUR 33 652 310 073 in current prices. It shall be provisioned at the rate of 40 %. The amount referred to in Article 35(3), first subparagraph, point (a), shall be also taken into account for contributing to the provisioning resulting from that provisioning rate.;</p>	<p>The EU guarantee for the purposes of the EU compartment referred to in Article 9(1), point (a), shall be EUR <del>33 652 310 073</del> <u>36 652 310 073</u> in current prices. It shall be provisioned at the rate of 40 %. The amount referred to in Article 35(3), first subparagraph, point (a), shall be also taken into account for contributing to the provisioning resulting from that provisioning rate.;</p>	<p><del>The EU guarantee for the purposes of the EU compartment referred to in Article 9(1), point (a), shall be EUR 33 652 310 073 in current prices. It shall be provisioned at the rate of 40 %. The amount referred to in Article 35(3), first subparagraph, point (a), shall be also taken into account for contributing to the provisioning resulting from that provisioning rate.;</del></p>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (2)(a)				
233a				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u>(aa) In paragraph 1, the following fourth subparagraph is inserted:</u></p> <p><u>'An additional amount of the EU guarantee may also be provided in the form of cash by Member States to the Member State compartment to support the objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation] using the proceeds of loans granted to Member States pursuant to Article 33a of Regulation 2021/241 [RRF Regulation].'</u></p>		
Article 16, first paragraph, point (2)(b)				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
234	(b) paragraph 2, second subparagraph is replaced by the following:	(b) paragraph 2, second subparagraph is replaced by the following:	(b) <del>paragraph 2, second subparagraph is replaced by the following:</del>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (2)(b), amending provision, first paragraph				
235	<p>‘</p> <p>An amount of EUR 18 827 310 073 in current prices of the amount referred to in the first subparagraph of paragraph 1 of this Article shall be allocated for the objectives referred to in Article 3(2).;</p> <p>’</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>An amount of EUR <del>18 827 310 073</del> <u>21 827 310 073</u> in current prices of the amount referred to in the first subparagraph of paragraph 1 of this Article shall be allocated for the objectives referred to in Article 3(2).;</p> <p>’</p>	<p>‘</p> <p><del>An amount of EUR 18 827 310 073 in current prices of the amount referred to in the first subparagraph of paragraph 1 of this Article shall be allocated for the objectives referred to in Article 3(2).;</del></p> <p>’</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 16, first paragraph, point (2)(c)				
236	(c) the fourth subparagraph of paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:	(c) the fourth subparagraph of paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:	(c) <del>the fourth subparagraph of paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:</del>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (2)(c), amending provision, first paragraph				
237	‘ The indicative distribution of the EU guarantee for the purposes of the EU compartment is set out in Annex I to this Regulation. Where appropriate, the Commission may depart from	‘ The indicative distribution of the EU guarantee for the purposes of the EU compartment is set out in Annex I to this Regulation. Where appropriate, the Commission may depart from	‘ <del>The indicative distribution of the EU guarantee for the purposes of the EU compartment is set out in Annex I to this Regulation. Where appropriate, the Commission may depart from</del>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	the amounts referred to in Annex I by up to 15 % for each objective referred to in Article 3(2), points (a) to (e). The Commission shall inform the European Parliament and the Council of any such departure.	the amounts referred to in Annex I by up to 15 % for each objective referred to in Article 3(2), points (a) to (e). The Commission shall inform the European Parliament and the Council of any such departure.	<del>the amounts referred to in Annex I by up to 15 % for each objective referred to in Article 3(2), points (a) to (e). The Commission shall inform the European Parliament and the Council of any such departure.</del>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (3)				
238	(3) In Article 7(3), a second subparagraph is added:	(3) In Article 7(3), a second subparagraph is added:	(3) In Article 7(3), a second subparagraph is added:	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (3), amending provision, first paragraph				
239				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>‘</p> <p>By way of derogation from the first subparagraph, when support from the financial instruments is combined in a financial product in a subordinated position to the EU guarantee under this Regulation and/or EU guarantee established by Regulation (EU) 2015/1017, the losses, revenues and repayments from financial products as referred to in paragraph 1, as well as potential recoveries, may also be attributed on a non pro rata basis between the financial instruments and the EU guarantee under this Regulation and/or EU guarantee established by Regulation (EU) 2015/1017.</p> <p>’</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>By way of derogation from the first subparagraph, when support from the financial instruments is combined in a financial product in a subordinated position to the EU guarantee under this Regulation and/or EU guarantee established by Regulation (EU) 2015/1017, the losses, revenues and repayments from financial products as referred to in paragraph 1, as well as potential recoveries, may also be attributed on a non pro rata basis between the financial instruments and the EU guarantee under this Regulation and/or EU guarantee established by Regulation (EU) 2015/1017.</p> <p>’</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>By way of derogation from the first subparagraph, when support from the financial instruments is combined in a financial product in a subordinated position to the EU guarantee under this Regulation and/or EU guarantee established by Regulation (EU) 2015/1017, the losses, revenues and repayments from financial products as referred to in paragraph 1, as well as potential recoveries, may also be attributed on a non pro rata basis between the financial instruments and the EU guarantee under this Regulation and/or EU guarantee established by Regulation (EU) 2015/1017.</p> <p>’</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 16, first paragraph, point (4)				
240	(4) Article 8 is amended as follows:	(4) Article 8 is amended as follows:	(4) <del>Article 8 is amended as follows:</del>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (4)(a)				
241	(a) In paragraph 1, the introductory wording is replaced by the following:	(a) In paragraph 1, the introductory wording is replaced by the following:	(a) <del>In paragraph 1, the introductory wording is replaced by the following:</del>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (4)(a), amending provision, numbered paragraph (1)				
242				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>‘</p> <p>1. The InvestEU Fund shall operate through the following five policy windows that shall address market failures or suboptimal investment situations with their specific scope;;</p> <p>’</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>1. The InvestEU Fund shall operate through the following five policy windows that shall address market failures or suboptimal investment situations with their specific scope;;</p> <p>’</p>	<p>‘</p> <p><del>1. The InvestEU Fund shall operate through the following five policy windows that shall address market failures or suboptimal investment situations with their specific scope;;</del></p> <p>’</p>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (4)(b)				
243	<p>(b) In paragraph 1, the following point (e) is added:</p>	<p>(b) In paragraph 1, the following point (e) is added:</p>	<p>(b) <del>In paragraph 1, the following point (e) is added:</del></p>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (4)(b), amending provision, numbered paragraph (e)				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
244	<p>‘</p> <p>(e) a STEP policy window, which comprises investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation].</p> <p>’</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>(e) a STEP policy window, which comprises investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation].</p> <p>’</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>(e) <del>a STEP policy window, which comprises investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation].</del></p> <p>’</p>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (4)(b), amending provision, -a paragraph				
244a		<p><u><i>In Article 9(1), point (b) is replaced by the following:</i></u></p>		
Article 16, first paragraph, point (4)(b), amending provision, -a paragraph, point (a)				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
244b		<p><u>(b) the Member State compartment shall address specific market failures or suboptimal investment situations in one or several regions or Member States to deliver the policy objectives of the contributing funds under shared management or of the additional amount provided by a Member State under the third subparagraph of Article 4(1), in particular to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion in the Union by addressing imbalances between its regions. The additional amount provided by a Member State in the form of cash under the fourth subparagraph of Article 4(1) shall be earmarked for projects contributing to the objectives referred to in Article 2 of</u></p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u><i>Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation].</i></u>		
Article 16, first paragraph, point (4)(b), amending provision, -b paragraph				
244c		<u><i>In Article 10(3), a new point (h) is inserted:</i></u>		
Article 16, first paragraph, point (4)(b), amending provision, -b paragraph, point (a)				
244d		<u><i>'(h) any contribution in the form of cash to the Member State compartment made with the proceeds of Recovery and Resilience Facility loans pursuant</i></u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>to Article 33a of Regulation 2021/241 of the European Parliament and the Council<sup>1a</sup>;</u>  <u>1a. Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility</u>		
Article 16, first paragraph, point (5)				
245	(5) In Article 10, the second subparagraph of paragraph 4 is replaced by the following:	(5) In Article 10, the second subparagraph of paragraph 4 is replaced by the following:	(5) In Article 10, the second subparagraph of paragraph 4 is replaced by the following:	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 16, first paragraph, point (5), amending provision, first paragraph				
246	<p>‘</p> <p>Where no guarantee agreement has been concluded within 12 months from the conclusion of the contribution agreement, the contribution agreement shall be terminated or prolonged by mutual agreement. Where the amount of a contribution agreement has not been fully committed under one or more guarantee agreements within twelve months from the conclusion of the contribution agreement, that amount shall be amended accordingly. The unused amount of provisioning attributable to amounts allocated by Member States pursuant to the</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>Where no guarantee agreement has been concluded within 12 months from the conclusion of the contribution agreement, the contribution agreement shall be terminated or prolonged by mutual agreement. Where the amount of a contribution agreement has not been fully committed under one or more guarantee agreements within twelve months from the conclusion of the contribution agreement, that amount shall be amended accordingly. The unused amount of provisioning attributable to amounts allocated by Member States pursuant to the</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>Where no guarantee agreement has been concluded within 12 months from the conclusion of the contribution agreement, the contribution agreement shall be terminated or prolonged by mutual agreement. Where the amount of a contribution agreement has not been fully committed under one or more guarantee agreements within twelve months from the conclusion of the contribution agreement, that amount shall be amended accordingly. The unused amount of provisioning attributable to amounts allocated by Member States pursuant to the</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	provisions on the use of the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the EMFAF delivered through the InvestEU Programme laid down in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 or to the provisions on the use of the EAFRD delivered through the InvestEU Programme laid down in the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation shall be re-used in accordance with those respective Regulations. The unused amount of provisioning attributable to amounts allocated by a Member State under Article 4(1), third subparagraph, of this Regulation shall be paid back to the Member State.	provisions on the use of the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the EMFAF delivered through the InvestEU Programme laid down in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 or to the provisions on the use of the EAFRD delivered through the InvestEU Programme laid down in the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation shall be re-used in accordance with those respective Regulations. The unused amount of provisioning attributable to amounts allocated by a Member State under Article 4(1), third subparagraph, of this Regulation shall be paid back to the Member State.	provisions on the use of the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the EMFAF delivered through the InvestEU Programme laid down in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 or to the provisions on the use of the EAFRD delivered through the InvestEU Programme laid down in the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation shall be re-used in accordance with those respective Regulations. The unused amount of provisioning attributable to amounts allocated by a Member State under Article 4(1), third subparagraph, of this Regulation shall be paid back to the Member State.	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 16, first paragraph, point (5)(a)				
246a		<u>(5a) In Article 11(1), point (b), a new point is inserted:</u>		
Article 16, first paragraph, point (5), amending provision, first paragraph a, point (a)				
246b		<u>'(viii) monitoring the implementation and the consistency with the national recovery and resilience plans of the STEP projects financed with the proceeds of RRF loans.'</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 16, first paragraph, point (6)				
247	(6) Article 13(4) is replaced by the following:	(6) Article <del>13(4) is replaced by the following</del> <u>13 is amended as follows:</u>	(6) Article 13(4) is <del>replaced by the following</del> <b>amended as follows:</b>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (6a)				
247a		<u>(6a) paragraph 4 is replaced by the following:</u>		
Article 16, first paragraph, point (6a), amending provision, numbered paragraph (1)				
247b	,	,		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>4. At least 75 % of the EU guarantee under the EU compartment as referred to in Article 4(1), first subparagraph, amounting to at least EUR 25 239 232 554, shall be granted to the EIB Group. The EIB Group shall provide an aggregate financial contribution amounting to at least EUR 6 309 808 138. That contribution shall be provided in a manner and form that facilitates the implementation of the InvestEU Fund and the achievement of the objectives set out in Article 15(2).;</p> <p>Moved reference text</p>	<p><del>4. At least</del> 4. 75 % of the EU guarantee under the EU compartment as referred to in Article 4(1), first subparagraph, amounting to <del>at least EUR 25 239 232 554</del> EUR 27 489 232 554, shall be granted to the EIB Group. The EIB Group shall provide an aggregate financial contribution amounting to at least EUR <del>6 309 808 138</del> 6 872 308 138. That contribution shall be provided in a manner and form that facilitates the implementation of the InvestEU Fund and the achievement of the objectives set out in Article 15(2).;</p> <p>Moved to row 248 Moved from row 248 [248 - 247b]</p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 16, first paragraph, point (6b)				
247c		<u>(6b) paragraph 5 is replaced by the following:</u>		
Article 16, first paragraph, point (6b)(a)				
247d		<u>'5. The remaining 25 % of the EU guarantee under the EU compartment shall be granted to other implementing partners, which shall also provide a financial contribution to be determined in the guarantee agreements. Where the Commission determines that</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u><i>national promotional banks or institutions do not make full use of the remaining 25 % of the EU guarantee under the EU compartment, the excess amount may exceptionally be granted to the EIB Group.';</i></u>		
Article 16, first paragraph, point (6c)				
247e		<u><i>(6c) the following paragraph is inserted:</i></u>		
Article 16, first paragraph, point (6c)(a)				
247f				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>'6a. The EIB Group shall aim to preserve a geographical balance, particularly with regard to cross-border projects.'</u>		
Article 16, first paragraph, point (6d)				
247g		<u>(6d) in paragraph 7, the second subparagraph is replaced by the following:</u>		
Article 16, first paragraph, point (6d)(a)				
247h		<u>'Contracts between the implementing partner and the final</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u>recipient or the financial intermediary or other entity referred to in point (a) of Article 16(1) under the EU guarantee referred to in the first subparagraph of Article 4(2) shall be signed at the latest two years after the approval of the relevant financing or investment operation by the implementing partner. In other cases, contracts between the implementing partner and the final recipient or the financial intermediary or other entity referred to in point (a) of Article 16(1) shall be signed by 31 December 2028.'</u></p>		
Article 16, first paragraph, point (6), amending provision, numbered paragraph (4)				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
248	<p>4. At least 75 % of the EU guarantee under the EU compartment as referred to in Article 4(1), first subparagraph, amounting to at least EUR 25 239 232 554, shall be granted to the EIB Group. The EIB Group shall provide an aggregate financial contribution amounting to at least EUR 6 309 808 138. That contribution shall be provided in a manner and form that facilitates the implementation of the InvestEU Fund and the achievement of the objectives set out in Article 15(2).;</p>	Moved to row 247b [248 - 247b]	<p>4. At least 75 % of the EU guarantee under the EU compartment as referred to in Article 4(1), first subparagraph, amounting to at least EUR <del>25 239 232 554</del><b>19 614 232 554</b>, shall be granted to the EIB Group. The EIB Group shall provide an aggregate financial contribution amounting to at least EUR <del>6 309 808 138</del><b>4 903 558 139</b>. That contribution shall be provided in a manner and form that facilitates the implementation of the InvestEU Fund and the achievement of the objectives set out in Article 15(2).;</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 16, first paragraph, point (6), amending provision, numbered paragraph (4a), first subparagraph				
248a			<b>4a. The second subparagraph of paragraph 7 is replaced by the following:</b>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (6), amending provision, numbered paragraph (4a), second subparagraph				
248b			<b>'Contracts between the implementing partner and the final recipient or the financial intermediary or other entity referred to in point (a) of Article 16(1) under the EU guarantee referred to in the first subparagraph of Article 4(2) shall be signed at the latest by 31</b>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
			<p><b>August 2026. In other cases, contracts between the implementing partner and the final recipient or the financial intermediary or other entity referred to in point (a) of Article 16(1) shall be signed by 31 December 2028.'</b></p>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (7)				
249	(7) In Article 23, the following paragraph 3 is added:	(7) In Article 23, the following paragraph 3 is added:	(7) In Article 23, the following paragraph 3 is added:	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (7), amending provision, numbered paragraph (3)				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
250	<p>3. In the context of the procedures referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, the Commission shall take into account any Sovereignty Seal awarded under Article 4 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation] to a project.</p>	<p>3. In the context of the procedures referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, the Commission shall take into account any Sovereignty Seal awarded under Article 4 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation] to a project.</p>	<p>3. In the context of the procedures referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, the Commission shall take into account any Sovereignty Seal awarded under Article 4 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation] to a project.</p>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (8)				
251	<p>(8) Article 24(2) is amended as follows:</p>	<p>(8) Article 24(2) is amended as follows:</p>	<p>(8) <del>Article 24(2) is amended as follows:</del></p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 16, first paragraph, point (8)(a)				
252	(a) the first subparagraph is replaced by the following:	(a) the first subparagraph is replaced by the following:	(a) <del>the first subparagraph is replaced by the following:</del>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (8)(a), amending provision, first paragraph				
253	‘ The Investment Committee shall meet in five different configurations, corresponding to the five policy windows referred to in Article 8(1). ’	‘ The Investment Committee shall meet in five different configurations, corresponding to the five policy windows referred to in Article 8(1). ’	‘ <del>The Investment Committee shall meet in five different configurations, corresponding to the five policy windows referred to in Article 8(1).</del> ’	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 16, first paragraph, point (8)(b)				
254	(b) The fifth subparagraph is replaced by the following:	(b) The fifth subparagraph is replaced by the following:	(b) <del>The fifth subparagraph is replaced by the following:</del>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (8)(b), amending provision, first paragraph				
255	Four members of the Investment Committee shall be permanent members of each of the five configurations of the Investment Committee. At least one of the permanent members shall have	Four members of the Investment Committee shall be permanent members of each of the five configurations of the Investment Committee. At least one of the permanent members shall have	<del>Four members of the Investment Committee shall be permanent members of each of the five configurations of the Investment Committee. At least one of the permanent members shall have</del>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>expertise in sustainable investment. In addition, each of the five configurations shall have two experts with experience in investment in sectors covered by the corresponding policy window. The Steering Board shall assign the Investment Committee members to the appropriate configuration or configurations. A non-permanent member may be assigned to maximum two configurations, subject to fulfilling the requirements for both of them. The Investment Committee shall elect a chairperson from among its permanent members.</p>	<p>expertise in sustainable investment. In addition, each of the five configurations shall have two experts with experience in investment in sectors covered by the corresponding policy window. The Steering Board shall assign the Investment Committee members to the appropriate configuration or configurations. A non-permanent member may be assigned to maximum two configurations, subject to fulfilling the requirements for both of them. The Investment Committee shall elect a chairperson from among its permanent members.</p>	<p><del>expertise in sustainable investment. In addition, each of the five configurations shall have two experts with experience in investment in sectors covered by the corresponding policy window. The Steering Board shall assign the Investment Committee members to the appropriate configuration or configurations. A non-permanent member may be assigned to maximum two configurations, subject to fulfilling the requirements for both of them. The Investment Committee shall elect a chairperson from among its permanent members.</del></p>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (9)				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
256	(9) In Article 25, point (j) is added to paragraph 2 as follows:	(9) In Article 25, point (j) is added to paragraph 2 as follows:	(9) <del>In Article 25, point (j) is added to paragraph 2 as follows:</del>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (9), amending provision, numbered paragraph (j)				
257	‘ (j) provide advisory support to equity fund managers active in the areas referred to in point (e) of Article 8(1). ’	‘ (j) <del>—</del> provide advisory support to equity fund managers <u>and other relevant stakeholders</u> active in the areas referred to in point (e) of Article 8(1), <u>including, regarding the valuation of intangible assets.</u> ’	‘ (j) <del>—</del> provide advisory support to equity fund managers active in the areas referred to in point (e) of Article 8(1). ’	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 16, first paragraph, point (10)				
258	(10) In Article 26, the following paragraph 5 is added:	(10) In Article 26, the following paragraph 5 is added:	(10) In Article 26, the following paragraph 5 is added:	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (10), amending provision, numbered paragraph (5)				
259	<p>‘</p> <p>5. In addition to paragraph 4, implementing partners shall also examine projects having been awarded the Sovereignty Seal under Article 4 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation] whenever those projects fall within their geographic and activity scope.</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>5. In addition to paragraph 4, implementing partners shall also examine projects having been awarded the Sovereignty Seal under Article 4 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation] whenever those projects fall within their geographic and activity scope.</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>5. In addition to paragraph 4, implementing partners shall also examine projects having been awarded the Sovereignty Seal under Article 4 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation] whenever those projects fall within their geographic and activity scope.</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	,	,	,	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (11)				
260	(11) In Article 35, paragraph 5 is added as follows:	(11) In Article 35, paragraph 5 is added as follows:	(11) <del>In Article 35, paragraph 5 is added as follows:</del>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (11), amending provision, numbered paragraph (5)				
261	‘ 5. By way of derogation from Article 16, second subparagraph, of this Regulation, financing and investment operations approved by	‘ 5. By way of derogation from Article 16, second subparagraph, of this Regulation, financing and investment operations approved by	‘ 5. <del>By way of derogation from Article 16, second subparagraph, of this Regulation, financing and investment operations approved by</del>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	the implementing partner as of 1 January 2023 until the signature of a guarantee agreement or of an amendment to an existing one encompassing the STEP Window may be covered by the EU guarantee, provided that those operations are indicated in the guarantee agreement, pass the policy check referred to in Article 23(1) or receive a favourable opinion within the framework of the procedure provided for in Article 19 of the EIB Statute and are in both cases approved by the Investment Committee in accordance with Article 24.	the implementing partner as of 1 January 2023 until the signature of a guarantee agreement or of an amendment to an existing one encompassing the STEP Window may be covered by the EU guarantee, provided that those operations are indicated in the guarantee agreement, pass the policy check referred to in Article 23(1) or receive a favourable opinion within the framework of the procedure provided for in Article 19 of the EIB Statute and are in both cases approved by the Investment Committee in accordance with Article 24.	<del>the implementing partner as of 1 January 2023 until the signature of a guarantee agreement or of an amendment to an existing one encompassing the STEP Window may be covered by the EU guarantee, provided that those operations are indicated in the guarantee agreement, pass the policy check referred to in Article 23(1) or receive a favourable opinion within the framework of the procedure provided for in Article 19 of the EIB Statute and are in both cases approved by the Investment Committee in accordance with Article 24.</del>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 16, first paragraph, point (12)				
262	(12) In Annex I, point (e) is added as follows:	(12) In Annex I, point (e) is added as follows:	(12) <del>In Annex I, point (e) is added as follows:</del>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (12), amending provision, numbered paragraph (e)				
263	‘ (e) up to EUR 7 500 000 000 for objectives referred to in Article 3(2), point (e). ’	‘ (e) up to EUR <del>7 500 000 000</del> <u>10 500 000 000</u> for objectives referred to in Article 3(2), point (e). ’	‘ (e) <del>up to EUR 7 500 000 000 for objectives referred to in Article 3(2), point (e).</del>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (13)				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
264	(13) In Annex II, point (16) is inserted as follows:	(13) In Annex II, point (16) is inserted as follows:	(13) <del>In Annex II, point (16) is inserted as follows:</del>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (13), amending provision, numbered paragraph (16)				
265	‘ (16) scaling up, deployment and large-scale manufacturing of the critical technologies referred to in Article 2(1), point (a) of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation], as well as the respective value chain referred to in Article 2(4) of that Regulation. ,	‘ (16) <del>scaling up, deployment and large-scale</del> <u>development or</u> manufacturing of the <del>critical</del> technologies referred to in Article 2(1), point (a) of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation], as well as the respective <del>value</del> <u>supply</u> chain referred to in Article <del>2(4)</del> <u>2(2)</u> of that Regulation. ,	‘ (16) <del>scaling up, deployment and large-scale manufacturing of the critical technologies referred to in Article 2(1), point (a) of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation], as well as the respective value chain referred to in Article 2(4) of that Regulation.</del> ,	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		,		
Article 16, first paragraph, point (14)				
266	(14) In Annex III, point (9) is inserted as follows:	(14) In Annex III, point (9) is inserted as follows:	(14) <del>In Annex III, point (9) is inserted as follows:</del>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (14), amending provision, numbered paragraph (7a)				
267	‘ 7a. STEP	‘ 7a. STEP	‘ 7a. <del>STEP</del>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (14), amending provision, numbered paragraph (7a.1)				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
268	7a.1 Investment mobilised by technology area: i) deep and digital technologies, ii) clean technologies and iii) biotechnologies.	7a.1 Investment mobilised by technology area: i) <del>deep and</del> digital technologies, <del>ii) clean</del> <u>and ii) net-zero</u> technologies and iii) biotechnologies.	7a.1 <del>Investment mobilised by technology area: i) deep and digital technologies, ii) clean technologies and iii) biotechnologies.</del>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (14), amending provision, numbered paragraph (7a.2)				
269	7a.2 Jobs created or supported.	7a.2 Jobs created or supported.	7a.2 <del>Jobs created or supported.</del>	
Article 16, first paragraph, point (14), amending provision, numbered paragraph (7a.2)				
270	7a.2 Number of enterprises	7a.2 Number of enterprises	7a.2 <del>Number of enterprises</del>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	supported by technology area: i) deep and digital technologies, ii) clean technologies and iii) biotechnologies.	supported by technology area: i) <del>deep and</del> digital technologies, ii) <del>clean</del> <u>net-zero</u> technologies and iii) biotechnologies.	<del>supported by technology area: i)</del> <del>deep and digital technologies, ii)</del> <del>clean technologies and iii)</del> <del>biotechnologies.</del>	
Article 17				
271	Article 17 Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/695 [Horizon Europe]	Article 17 Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/695 [Horizon Europe]	Article 17 Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/695 [Horizon Europe]	
Article 17, first paragraph				
272				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	Regulation (EU) 2021/695 is amended as follows:	Regulation (EU) 2021/695 is amended as follows:	Regulation (EU) 2021/695 is amended as follows:	
Article 17, first paragraph, point (-1), first subparagraph				
272a		<u><i>(-1) in Article 7, paragraph 10 is replaced by the following:</i></u>		
Article 17, first paragraph, point (-1), second subparagraph				
272b		<u><i>'10. As part of the general Union objective of mainstreaming climate actions into Union sectoral policies and Union funds, actions under this Programme shall contribute at least</i></u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u>35 % of the expenditure to climate objectives where appropriate.</u></p> <p><u>Climate mainstreaming shall be adequately integrated in R&amp;I content. For the implementation of this objective, the Commission may rely on the 'Do No Significant Harm' principle in accordance with Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 to ensure that climate spending does not adversely affect other environmental objectives and that investments in other environmental objectives are in line with the climate objective. The use of this principle shall be limited to calls for proposals for projects which directly relate to environmental objectives, as defined in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and</u></p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>which aim to fund activities close to market deployment. The use of the principle shall be accompanied by detailed guidance from the Commission on how compliance with the principle shall be evaluated in the context of the specific call in which the principle is used.</u>		
Article 17, first paragraph, point (-1a), first subparagraph				
272c		<u>(-1a) in Article 9(1), points (b) and (c) are replaced by the following:</u>		
Article 17, first paragraph, point (-1a), second subparagraph				
272d				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u><i>‘(b) autonomy, particularly for the implementation of equity support in order to ensure market-conform investment timelines as well as risk-taking as referred to in point (c);</i></u>		
Article 17, first paragraph, point (-1a), third subparagraph				
272e		<u><i>(c) ability to take more risk than the market standards, particularly by providing patient investment to non-bankable innovations.’</i></u>		
Article 17, first paragraph, point (1)				
273				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	(1) Article 12 is amended as follows:	(1) Article 12 is amended as follows:	(1) Article 12 is amended as follows:	
Article 17, first paragraph, point (1)(a)				
274	(a) paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:	(a) paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:	(a) paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:	
Article 17, first paragraph, point (1)(a), amending provision, numbered paragraph (1)				
275	<p>‘</p> <p>1. The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period from 1 January 2021</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>1. The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period from 1 January 2021</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>1. The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period from 1 January 2021</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	to 31 December 2027 shall be EUR 86 623 000 000 in current prices for the specific programme referred to in point (a) of Article 1(2) and for the EIT and EUR 9 453 000 000 in current prices for the specific programme referred to in point (c) of Article 1(2).	to 31 December 2027 shall be EUR <del>86 623 000 000</del> <u>87 423 000 000</u> in current prices for the specific programme referred to in point (a) of Article 1(2) and for the EIT and EUR <del>9 453 000 000</del> <u>10 453 000 000</u> in current prices for the specific programme referred to in point (c) of Article 1(2).	to 31 December 2027 shall be <b>[EUR 86 123 000 000]</b> <del>EUR 86 623 000 000</del> in current prices for the specific programme referred to in point (a) of Article 1(2) and for the EIT and <b>[EUR 9 453 000 000]</b> in current prices for the specific programme referred to in point (c) of Article 1(2).	
Article 17, first paragraph, point (1)(b)				
276	(b) in paragraph 2, points (b) and (c) are replaced by the following:	(b) in paragraph 2, <del>points (b) and (c) are</del> <u>point (c) is</u> replaced by the following:	(b) <del>in paragraph 2, points (b) and (c) are replaced by the following:</del>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 17, first paragraph, point (1)(b), amending provision, numbered paragraph (b)				
277	<p>‘</p> <p>(b) EUR 46 628 000 000 for Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness' for the period 2021 to 2027, of which:</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>(b) EUR <del>46 628 000 000</del> <u>13 237 000 000</u> for Pillar <del>II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness'</del> <u>III 'Innovative Europe'</u> for the period 2021 to 2027, of which:</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>(b) <del>EUR 46 628 000 000 for Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness' for the period 2021 to 2027, of which:</del></p>	
Article 17, first paragraph, point (1)(b), amending provision, numbered paragraph (b), point (i)				
278	<p>(i) EUR 6 775 000 000 for cluster 'Health';</p>	<p>(i) EUR <del>6 775 000 000 for cluster 'Health'</del> <u>10 052 000 000 for the EIC</u>;</p>	<p>(i) <del>EUR 6 775 000 000 for cluster 'Health';</del></p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 17, first paragraph, point (1)(b), amending provision, numbered paragraph (b), point (ii)				
279	(ii) EUR 1 350 000 000 for cluster 'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society';	(ii) EUR <del>1 350 000 000 for cluster 'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society'</del> <u>459 000 000 for European innovation ecosystems</u> ;	(ii) <del>EUR 1 350 000 000 for cluster 'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society'</del> ;	
Article 17, first paragraph, point (1)(b), amending provision, numbered paragraph (b), point (iii)				
280	(iii) EUR 1 276 000 000 for cluster 'Civil Security for Society';	(iii) EUR <del>1 276 000 000 for cluster 'Civil Security for Society'</del> <u>2 726 000 000 for the EIT</u> ;-'	(iii) <del>EUR 1 276 000 000 for cluster 'Civil Security for Society'</del> ;	
Article 17, first paragraph, point (1)(b), amending provision, numbered paragraph (b), point (iv)				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
281	(iv) EUR 13 229 000 000 for cluster 'Digital, Industry and Space';	(iv) <del>EUR 13 229 000 000 for cluster 'Digital, Industry and Space';</del>	(iv) <del>EUR 13 229 000 000 for cluster 'Digital, Industry and Space';</del>	
Article 17, first paragraph, point (1)(b), amending provision, numbered paragraph (b), point (v)				
282	(v) EUR 13 229 000 000 for cluster 'Climate, Energy and Mobility';	(v) <del>EUR 13 229 000 000 for cluster 'Climate, Energy and Mobility';</del>	(v) <del>EUR 13 229 000 000 for cluster 'Climate, Energy and Mobility';</del>	
Article 17, first paragraph, point (1)(b), amending provision, numbered paragraph (b), point (vi)				
283	(vi) EUR 8 799 000 000 for cluster 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and	(vi) <del>EUR 8 799 000 000 for cluster 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and</del>	(vi) <del>EUR 8 799 000 000 for cluster 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and</del>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	Environment';	<del>Environment';</del>	Environment';	
Article 17, first paragraph, point (1)(b), amending provision, numbered paragraph (b), point (vii)				
284	(vii) EUR 1 970 000 000 for the non-nuclear direct actions of the JRC;	(vii) <del>EUR 1 970 000 000 for the non-nuclear direct actions of the JRC;</del>	(vii) <del>EUR 1 970 000 000 for the non-nuclear direct actions of the JRC;</del>	
Article 17, first paragraph, point (1)(b), amending provision, numbered paragraph (c)				
285	(c) EUR 13 237 000 000 for Pillar III 'Innovative Europe' for the period 2021 to 2027, of which:	(c) <del>EUR 13 237 000 000 for Pillar III 'Innovative Europe' for the period 2021 to 2027, of which:</del>	(c) <del>EUR 13 237 000 000 for Pillar III 'Innovative Europe' for the period 2021 to 2027, of which:</del>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 17, first paragraph, point (1)(b), amending provision, numbered paragraph (c), point (i)				
286	(i) EUR 10 052 000 000 for the EIC;	(i) <del>EUR 10 052 000 000 for the EIC;</del>	(i) <del>EUR 10 052 000 000 for the EIC;</del>	
Article 17, first paragraph, point (1)(b), amending provision, numbered paragraph (c), point (ii)				
287	(ii) EUR 459 000 000 for European innovation ecosystems;	(ii) <del>EUR 459 000 000 for European innovation ecosystems;</del>	(ii) <del>EUR 459 000 000 for European innovation ecosystems;</del>	
Article 17, first paragraph, point (1)(b), amending provision, numbered paragraph (c), point (iii)				
288	(iii) EUR 2 726 000 000 for the	(iii) <del>EUR 2 726 000 000 for the</del>	(iii) <del>EUR 2 726 000 000 for the</del>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	EIT;	<del>EIT;</del>	<del>EIT;</del>	
Article 17, first paragraph, point (2)				
289	(2) In Article 46, the following paragraph 4a is inserted:	(2) In Article 46, the following paragraph 4a is inserted:	(2) <del>In Article 46, the following paragraph 4a is inserted:</del>	
Article 17, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, numbered paragraph (4a)				
290	4a. By derogation from Article 209(3) of the Financial Regulation, repayments including reimbursed	4a. By derogation from Article 209(3) of the Financial Regulation, repayments including reimbursed	4a. <del>By derogation from Article 209(3) of the Financial Regulation, repayments including reimbursed</del>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>advances, revenues and unused amounts net of fees and costs of EIC blended finance of the EIC pilot under Horizon 2020 shall be considered to be internal assigned revenues in accordance with Article 21(3), point (f) and Article 21(4) and (5) of the Financial Regulation. The time restriction of two years set out in the second subparagraph of Article 209(3) of the Financial Regulation shall apply as from the date of entry into force of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEP Regulation].</p> <p>,</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</p>	<p>advances, revenues and unused amounts net of fees and costs of EIC blended finance of the EIC pilot under Horizon 2020 shall be considered to be internal assigned revenues in accordance with Article 21(3), point (f) and Article 21(4) and (5) of the Financial Regulation. The time restriction of two years set out in the second subparagraph of Article 209(3) of the Financial Regulation shall apply as from the date of entry into force of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEP Regulation].</p> <p>,</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</p>	<p><del>advances, revenues and unused amounts net of fees and costs of EIC blended finance of the EIC pilot under Horizon 2020 shall be considered to be internal assigned revenues in accordance with Article 21(3), point (f) and Article 21(4) and (5) of the Financial Regulation. The time restriction of two years set out in the second subparagraph of Article 209(3) of the Financial Regulation shall apply as from the date of entry into force of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEP Regulation].</del></p> <p>,</p> <p>_____</p> <p><del>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</del></p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 17, first paragraph, point (3)				
291	(3) In Article 48, the following point (d) is added in the first subparagraph:	(3) <del>In Article 48, the following point (d) is added in the first subparagraph</del> <u>is amended as follows:</u>	(3) In Article 48, the following point (d) is added in the first subparagraph:	
Article 17, first paragraph, point (3a)				
291a		<u>(3a) in paragraph 1, second subparagraph, point (c) is replaced by the following:</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>(c) equity-only support to non-bankable SMEs, including start-ups, carrying out breakthrough and disruptive non-bankable innovation may also be provided;'</u>		
Article 17, first paragraph, point (3b)				
291b		<u>(3b) in paragraph 1, second subparagraph, point (d) is added:</u>  <u>(d) equity-only support required for scale-up to non-bankable SMEs, including start-ups, and non-bankable small mid-caps, including entities which have already received support in line with points (a) to (c),</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>carrying out breakthrough and disruptive non-bankable innovation in the technologies referred to in Article 2(1)(a) of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation], financed under Article 3(b) of that Regulation.</u>		
Article 17, first paragraph, point (3c)				
291c		<u>(3c) in paragraph 1, the following subparagraph is added:</u>  <u>When providing equity support, the EIC shall strive to crowd-in other investors. However, in order to effectively support non-bankable innovation, equity support can be</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u><i>provided without crowding in other investors, particularly for but not limited to breakthrough and disruptive non-bankable innovation in the technologies referred to in Article 2(1)(a) of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation].</i></u>		
Article 17, first paragraph, point (3d)				
291d		<u><i>(3d) paragraph 3 is replaced by the following:</i></u>  <u><i>'3. A single award decision, which shall be based on the outcome of the evaluation process referred to in paragraph 4 and in accordance</i></u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>with paragraph 8 shall cover and provide funding for all forms of Union contribution provided under EIC blended finance. The single award decision shall lead to a single contract covering all forms of Union contribution provided by the decision.'</u>		
Article 17, first paragraph, point (3e)				
291e		<u>(3e) in paragraph 8, the first subparagraph is replaced by the following:</u>  <u>'For a proposal having passed the evaluation, the independent</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>external experts referred to in paragraph 4 shall propose a corresponding Accelerator support, based on the risk incurred and the resources and time necessary to bring and deploy the innovation to the market. The Commission may reject, for justified reasons, a proposal retained by independent external experts, including due to non-compliance with the objectives of Union policies. The Programme Committee shall be informed of the reasons for such a rejection.'</u>		
Article 17, first paragraph, point (3f)				
291f		<u>(3f) in paragraph 11, the first subparagraph is replaced by the</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u>following:</u></p> <p><u>‘The contract for the selected action, which shall comprise a single contract in accordance with paragraph 3, shall establish specific measurable milestones and the corresponding prefinancing and payments by instalments of the Accelerator support.’</u></p>		
Article 17, first paragraph, point (3), amending provision, numbered paragraph (d)				
292	<p>‘</p> <p>(d) equity-only support required for scale-up to non-bankable SMEs, including start-ups, and non-</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>(d) equity-only support required for scale-up to non-bankable SMEs, including start-ups, and non-</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>(d) equity-only support required for scale-up to non-bankable SMEs, including start-ups, and non-</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	bankable small mid-caps, including entities which have already received support in line with points (a) to (c), carrying out breakthrough and disruptive non-bankable innovation in the critical technologies referred to in Article 2(1)(a) of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation], financed under Article 3(b) of that Regulation.	bankable small mid-caps, including entities which have already received support in line with points (a) to (c), carrying out breakthrough and disruptive non-bankable innovation in the critical technologies referred to in Article 2(1)(a) of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation], financed under Article 3(b) of that Regulation.	bankable small mid-caps, including entities which have already received support in line with points (a) to (c), carrying out breakthrough and disruptive non-bankable innovation in the critical technologies referred to in Article 2(1)(a) of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation], <del>financed under Article 3(b) of that Regulation.</del>	
Article 18				
293	Article 18 Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/697 [EDF]	Article 18 Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/697 [EDF]	Article 18 Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/697 [EDF]	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 18, first paragraph				
294	Regulation (EU) 2021/697 is amended as follows:	Regulation (EU) 2021/697 is amended as follows:	Regulation (EU) 2021/697 is amended as follows:	
Article 18, first paragraph, point (1)				
295	(1) Article 4 is amended as follows	(1) Article 4 is amended as follows	(1) Article 4 is amended as follows	
Article 18, first paragraph, point (1)(a)				
296	(a) Paragraph 1 is replaced by the	(a) Paragraph 1 is replaced by the	(a) Paragraph 1 is replaced by the	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	following:	following:	following:	
Article 18, first paragraph, point (1)(a), amending provision, numbered paragraph (1)				
297	<p>‘</p> <p>1. In accordance with Article 12(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/695, the financial envelope for the implementation of the Fund for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027 shall be EUR 9 453 000 000 in current prices.</p> <p>’</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>1. <del>In</del> accordance with Article 12(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/695, the financial envelope for the implementation of the Fund for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027 shall be EUR <del>9 453 000 000</del> <u>10 453 000 000</u> in current prices.</p> <p>’</p>	<p>‘</p> <p>1. In accordance with Article 12(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/695, the financial envelope for the implementation of the Fund for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027 shall be [EUR 9 453 000 000] in current prices.</p> <p>’</p>	
Article 18, first paragraph, point (1)(b)				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
298	(b) in paragraph 2, points (a) and (b) are replaced by the following:	(b) in paragraph 2, points (a) and (b) are replaced by the following:	(b) in paragraph 2, points (a) and (b) are replaced by the following:	
Article 18, first paragraph, point (1)(b), amending provision, numbered paragraph (a)				
299	‘ (a) EUR 3 151 000 000 for research actions;	‘ (a) EUR <del>3 151 000 000</del> <u>3 484 000 000</u> for research actions;	‘ (a) EUR 3 151 000 000 for research actions;	
Article 18, first paragraph, point (1)(b), amending provision, numbered paragraph (b)				
300	(b) EUR 6 302 000 000 for	(b) EUR <del>6 302 000 000</del> <u>6 969 000 000</u>	(b) EUR 6 302 000 000 for	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	development actions.	<u>000</u> for development actions.	development actions.	
Article 18, first paragraph, point (1)(c)				
301	(c) Paragraph 5 is added:	(c) Paragraph 5 is added:	(c) Paragraph 5 is added:	
Article 18, first paragraph, point (1)(c), amending provision, first paragraph				
302	‘ An amount of EUR 1 500 000 000 in current prices of the amount referred to in paragraph 2 shall be allocated to calls for proposals or awards of	‘ An amount of EUR <del>1 500 000 000</del> <u>500 000</u> in current prices of the amount referred to in paragraph 2 shall be allocated to calls for	‘ An amount of [EUR 1 500 000 000] in current prices of the amount referred to in paragraph 2 shall be allocated to calls for proposals or	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>funding supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2(1), point (a)(i) of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEP Regulation].</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</p>	<p>proposals or awards of funding supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2(1), point (a)(i) of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> <del>II</del> [STEP Regulation].</p> <p>_____</p> <p><del>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</del></p>	<p>awards of funding supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2(1), point (a)(i) of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEP Regulation].</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</p>	
Article 19				
303	<p>Article 19</p> <p>Amendments to Regulation (EU)</p>	<p>Article 19</p> <p>Amendments to Regulation (EU)</p>	<p>Article 19</p> <p>Amendments to Regulation (EU)</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	2021/241 [RRF]	2021/241 [RRF]	2021/241 [RRF]	
Article 19, first paragraph				
304	Regulation (EU) 2021/241 is amended as follows:	Regulation (EU) 2021/241 is amended as follows:	Regulation (EU) 2021/241 is amended as follows:	
Article 19, first paragraph, point (1)				
305	(1) In Article 7, the following paragraph 3 is added:	(1) In Article 7, the following paragraph 3 is added:	(1) In Article 7, the following paragraph 3 is added:	
Article 19, first paragraph, point (1), amending provision, numbered paragraph (3)				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
306	<p>3. Without prejudice to paragraph 2, Member States may also propose to include in their recovery and resilience plan, as estimated costs, the amount of the cash contribution for the purpose of the Member State compartment pursuant to the relevant provisions of the InvestEU Regulation exclusively for measures supporting investment operations contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEP Regulation]. Those costs shall not exceed 6 % of the recovery and resilience plan's total financial allocation, and the relevant measures, as set out in the recovery and resilience plan, shall respect the</p>	<p>3. Without prejudice to paragraph 2, Member States may also propose to include in their recovery and resilience plan, as estimated costs, the amount of the cash contribution for the purpose of the Member State compartment pursuant to the relevant provisions of the InvestEU Regulation exclusively for measures supporting investment operations contributing to the <del>STEP</del><sup>71</sup> objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation-.../...<sup>71</sup> [STEP Regulation]. Those costs shall not exceed 6 % of the recovery and resilience plan's total financial allocation, and the relevant measures, as set out in the recovery</p>	<p>3. Without prejudice to paragraph 2, Member States may also propose to include in their recovery and resilience plan, as estimated costs, the amount of the cash contribution for the purpose of the Member State compartment pursuant to the relevant provisions of the InvestEU Regulation exclusively for measures supporting investment operations contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...<sup>1</sup> [STEP Regulation]. Those costs shall not exceed 6 % of the recovery and resilience plan's total financial allocation, and the relevant measures, as set out in the recovery and resilience plan, shall respect the</p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	<p>requirements of this Regulation.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</p>	<p>and resilience plan, shall respect the requirements of this Regulation.</p> <p><u><i>This limitation shall not apply to the cash contributions made pursuant to Article 33a.</i></u></p> <p>_____</p> <p><del>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</del></p> <p><u>71. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</u></p>	<p>requirements of this Regulation.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>1. Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].</p>	
Article 19, first paragraph, point (1a), first subparagraph				
306a			(1a) In Article 21, the following	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
			paragraph is inserted:	
Article 19, first paragraph, point (1a), second subparagraph				
306b			<p><b>'1a. For the sole purpose of taking advantage of the possibility provided for in Article 7(3) of this Regulation and Article 4(3) of Regulation [STEP], Member States may make a reasoned request to the Commission to make a proposal to amend the Council implementing decision referred to in Article 20(1) and (3) to include measures which support the objectives of Regulation [STEP] without prejudice to the provisions of the present</b></p>	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
			<b>Regulation.'</b>	
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2)				
307	(2) In Article 29 the following paragraph 6 is inserted:	(2) In Article 29 the following paragraph 6 is inserted:	(2) In Article 29 the following paragraph 6 is inserted:	
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, numbered paragraph (6)				
308	‘ 6. Prior to launching any calls for proposals or tendering procedures related to the STEP objectives, as defined in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation], Member	‘ 6. Prior to launching any calls for proposals or tendering procedures related to the STEP objectives, as defined in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation], Member	‘ 6. Prior to launching any calls for proposals or tendering procedures related to the STEP objectives, as defined in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation], Member	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	States shall make available the following information on the Sovereignty portal referred to in Article 6 of that Regulation:	States shall make available the following information on the Sovereignty portal referred to in Article 6 of that Regulation:	States shall make available the following information on the Sovereignty portal referred to in Article 6 of that Regulation:	
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, numbered paragraph (6), point (a)				
309	(a) geographical area covered by the call for proposal;	(a) geographical area covered by the call for proposal;	(a) geographical area covered by the call for proposal;	
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, numbered paragraph (6), point (b)				
310	(b) investment concerned;	(b) investment concerned;	(b) investment concerned;	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, numbered paragraph (6), point (c)				
311	(c) type of eligible applicants;	(c) type of eligible applicants;	(c) type of eligible applicants;	
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, numbered paragraph (6), point (d)				
312	(d) total amount of support for the call;	(d) total amount of support for the call;	(d) total amount of support for the call;	
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, numbered paragraph (6), point (e)				
313	(e) start and end date of the call;	(e) start and end date of the call;	(e) start and end date of the call;	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, numbered paragraph (6), point (f)				
314	(f) link to the website where the call will be published.	(f) link to the website where the call will be published.	(f) link to the website where the call will be published.	
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, (a)				
314a		<u><i>A new chapter is added:</i></u>  <u><i>CHAPTER VIIa</i></u>  <u><i>EXCEPTIONAL USE OF RRF</i></u> <u><i>LOANS NOT REQUESTED BY</i></u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u><a href="#">MEMBER STATES</a></u>		
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, Article				
314b		<u><a href="#">Article</a></u> <u><a href="#">33a</a></u>		
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, first paragraph				
314c		<u><a href="#">1. The difference between the maximum amount available for loan support to Member States in accordance to article 6(1)(b) and the total amount requested by the Member States before 1 September</a></u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>2023 shall be made available to all Member States for the implementation of investments contributing to the objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation] through the Member State compartment of InvestEU. The maximum allocation for each Member State shall be made in accordance to the allocation key defined in Article 11 of this Regulation.</u>		
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, Article, second paragraph				
314d		<u>2. Until 31 December 2023, upon request from a Member State, the Commission shall grant the</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u><i>Member State concerned a loan for the purpose referred to in paragraph 1.</i></u>		
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, Article, third paragraph				
314e		<u><i>3. A Member State may request loan support until 15 December 2023 for the purpose referred to in paragraph 1.</i></u>		
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, Article, fourth paragraph				
314f		<u><i>4. The Member State concerned shall use the proceeds of the loan to</i></u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u><i>make a cash contribution to its Member State compartment of InvestEU to support objectives of the STEP, according to article 4(1) of Regulation 2021/523 [InvestEU Regulation].</i></u>		
Article 19 (a)				
314g		<u><i>Article</i></u> <u><i>Article 19a</i></u> <u><i>Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2021/1755</i></u> <u><i>Regulation (EU) 2021/1755 is amended as follows:</i></u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, Article				
314h		<u>Article 4a is replaced by the following:</u>		
Article 19(a), first paragraph				
314i		<u>Article 4a</u>  <u>Transfer to the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus or the Just Transition Fund</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, Article, second paragraph				
314j		<p><u>1. By 1 March 2023, Member States may submit to the Commission a reasoned request to transfer to the Recovery and Resilience Facility established by Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European and of the Council all or part of the amounts of their provisional allocation set out in the implementing act of the Commission referred to in Article 4(5). If the transfer request is approved, the Commission shall amend the implementing act in order to reflect the adjusted amounts following the transfer.</u></p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, Article, third paragraph				
314k		<u><i>1a. By 30 September 2024, Member States may submit to the Commission a reasoned request to transfer to the European Regional Development Fund established by Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European and of the Council, or the European Social Fund Plus established by Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council or the Just Transition Fund established by Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 of the European Parliament and of the Council all or part of the amounts of their provisional allocation set out in the implementing act of the</i></u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u><i>Commission referred to in Article 4(5) for the purposes of supporting operations contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]. If the transfer request is approved, the Commission shall amend the implementing act in order to reflect the adjusted amounts following the transfer.</i></u>		
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, Article, fourth paragraph				
3141		<u><i>2. Where a transfer under paragraphs 1 or 2 affects the instalments already paid or to be paid as pre-financing, the Commission shall amend the implementing act referred to in</i></u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u>Article 9(1) accordingly for the Member State concerned. Where appropriate, the Commission shall recover, in accordance with the Financial Regulation, all or part of the 2021 and 2022 instalments paid to that Member State as pre-financing. In that case the recovered amounts shall be transferred to the Recovery and Resilience Facility for the exclusive benefit of the Member State concerned.</u>		
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, Article, fifth paragraph				
314m		<u>3. Where a Member State chooses to transfer all or part of its provisional allocation to the</u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u><i>Recovery and Resilience Facility in accordance with this Article, the amounts to be spent for the purposes of Article 4(4), first subparagraph, shall be proportionately reduced.</i></u>		
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, Article, sixth paragraph				
314n		<u><i>4. Where a Member State chooses to transfer all of its provisional allocation to the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus or the Just Transition Fund in accordance with paragraphs 1 or 2, Article 10(1) shall not apply.</i></u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Article 19, first paragraph, point (2), amending provision, Article, seventh paragraph				
314o		<u>5. Article 10(2) shall not apply to the amounts transferred to the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus or the Just Transition Fund in accordance with paragraphs 1 or 2.</u>		
CHAPTER 3				
315				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	CHAPTER 3  FINAL PROVISIONS	CHAPTER 3  FINAL PROVISIONS	CHAPTER 3  FINAL PROVISIONS	
Article 20				
316	Article 20  Entry into force and application	Article 20  Entry into force and application	Article 20  Entry into force and application	
Article 20, first paragraph				
317	This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of	This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of	This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of	

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	the European Union.	the European Union.	the European Union.	
Article 20, second paragraph				
318	This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.	This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.	This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.	
Formula				
319	Done at Brussels,	Done at Brussels,	Done at Brussels,	
Formula				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
320	For the European Parliament	For the European Parliament	For the European Parliament	
Formula				
321	The President	The President	The President	
Formula				
322	For the Council	For the Council	For the Council	
Formula				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
323	The Presid	The Presid	The Presid <b>President</b>	
Annex -1				
323a		<u><a href="#">Annex -1 Definition of biotechnologies</a></u>  <u><a href="#">(Article 2(1), point (a)(iii))</a></u>		
Annex -1, point 1.				
323b		<u><a href="#">Biotechnologies<sup>1a</sup> means:</a></u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<p><u><i>The application of science and technology to living organisms, as well as parts, products and models thereof, to alter living or non-living materials for the production of knowledge, goods and services.</i></u></p> <p>_____</p> <p><u><i>1a. OECD (2018). "Revised proposal for the revision of the statistical definitions of biotechnology and nanotechnology", p. 8, Box 1, OECD Science, Technology and Industry Working Papers, No. 2018/01, Paris. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1787/085e0151-en">https://doi.org/10.1787/085e0151-en</a></i></u></p>		
Annex -1, point 2.				
323c				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u><i>The OECD list-based statistical definition of biotechnology contains:</i></u>		
Annex -1, point 3.				
323d		<u><i>— DNA/RNA: Genomics, pharmacogenomics, gene probes, genetic engineering, DNA/RNA sequencing/synthesis/amplification, gene expression profiling, and use of antisense technology, large-scale DNA synthesis, genome- and gene-editing, gene drive.</i></u>		
Annex -1, point 4.				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
323e		<p><u>— Proteins and other molecules:</u>  <u>Sequencing/synthesis/engineering</u>  <u>of proteins and peptides (including</u>  <u>large molecule hormones);</u>  <u>improved delivery methods for large</u>  <u>molecule drugs; proteomics, protein</u>  <u>isolation and purification,</u>  <u>signalling, identification of cell</u>  <u>receptors.</u></p>		
Annex -1, point 5.				
323f		<p><u>— Cell and tissue culture and</u>  <u>engineering: Cell/tissue culture,</u>  <u>tissue engineering (including tissue</u>  <u>scaffolds and biomedical</u>  <u>engineering), cellular fusion,</u></p>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
		<u><i>vaccine/immune stimulants, embryo manipulation, marker assisted breeding technologies, metabolic engineering.</i></u>		
Annex -1, point 6.				
323g		<u><i>— Process biotechnology techniques: Fermentation using bioreactors, biorefining, bioprocessing, bioleaching, biopulping, biobleaching, biodesulphurisation, bioremediation, biosensing, biofiltration and phytoremediation, molecular aquaculture.</i></u>		

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
Annex -1, point 7.				
323h		<u>— Gene and RNA vectors: Gene therapy, viral vectors.</u>		
Annex -1, point 8.				
323i		<u>— Bioinformatics: Construction of databases on genomes, protein sequences; modelling complex biological processes, including systems biology.</u>		
Annex -1, point 9.				

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
323j		<u>— Nanobiotechnology: Applies the tools and processes of nano/microfabrication to build devices for studying biosystems and applications in drug delivery, diagnostics, etc.</u>		