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Delegations will find, attached, a Presidency text on the « Draft Council conclusions on European Missions » with a view to the Research working party meeting on 4 april 2022.

Changes in comparison to doc. 7151/22 (EN version in WK 3658/22) are marked in **bold underline** for additions and in ~~striketrough~~ for deletions.

DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

ON EUROPEAN MISSIONS

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING

- Regulation (EU) 2021/695 establishing Horizon Europe’s Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and laying down its rules for participation¹, setting out in particular the characteristics of ~~EU~~ European missions and identifying the areas in which missions could be established;
- Council Decision (EU) 2021/764 establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon Europe’s Framework Programme for Research and Innovation², which, inter alia, defines the role of mission boards;
- its conclusions of December 2020³ on the new European Research Area, which refers to ~~define~~ the principle of directionality, multi-level governance and involvement of citizens of ~~R&I investments~~ in order to maximise their impact of investments in research and innovation (R&I);
- ~~— its conclusions on the sustainable blue economy⁴, which underlines the importance of supporting research, innovation and open data in order to better understand, protect and restore the oceans and seas;~~

¹ OJ L 170/1, 12.5.2021

² OJ L 167/1, 12.5.2021

³ 13567/20

⁴ ~~9153/21~~

- its conclusions “Forging a climate resilient Europe — the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change”⁵ of June 2021 which invites the Commission and the Member States “to focus on upscaling successful pilot studies and the implementation of measures and to ensure that EU-funded science also addresses specific needs at regional and local scale”;
- its conclusions of September 2021⁶ on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation — Europe’s strategy for international cooperation in a changing world, **highlighting** ~~underlining~~ the need to strengthen existing multilateral R & I partnerships and alliances;
- Council Recommendation (EU) 2021/2122 on a Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe⁷, which sets out the priority areas for joint action in the EU, including jointly addressing the challenges of the twin green **transition** and digital ~~transition~~ **transformation**, and increasing society’s participation in the European Research Area;
- its conclusions of November 2021⁸ on the future governance of the European Research Area and, in particular, the Strategie **ERA Policy** Agenda 2022-2024 of the European Research Area, Action 10 of which aims to make European R&I partnerships and missions as key contributors to the European Research Area;
- **the European Commission communication of December 2019 on the European Green Deal⁹ and the European Commission communication of July 2021 on a Fit for 55 package: delivering the EU’s 2030 Climate Target on the way to climate neutrality¹⁰;**
- the European Commission communication of September 2021 on EU **European** missions ¹¹, which **identifies** ~~defines~~ the first five EU **European** missions;
- **the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, adopted in 2015, which serves as sources for the European missions’ design and implementation;**

⁵ 9419/21

⁶ 12301/21

⁷ OJ L 431, 2.12.2021

⁸ 12301/21

⁹ COM(2019)640 final

¹⁰ COM(2021)550 final

¹¹ Com(2021) 609 final

1. REMARKS that EU missions are referred to in other Commission communications: the Commission communication of December 2019 on the European Green Deal¹²; the Commission communication of February 2021 on the EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, which stresses that the Adaptation to Climate Change mission will be to test integrated solutions to deliver the vision of a climate-resilient Union by 2050 with a focus on citizen engagement¹³; the Commission communication of February 2021 on the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan¹⁴, which stresses that the cancer mission is an important focus of EU investments in cancer research and innovation; the Commission communication of May 2021 on a sustainable blue economy in the EU,¹⁵ which encourages the use of new ways of mobilising and empowering EU citizens and stresses the role of research and innovation in leading the transformation needed to deliver the Green Deal; the Commission communication of June 2021 on a long-term vision for the EU's Rural Areas — Towards stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas by 2040,¹⁶ which recalls that the mission should contribute to addressing soil challenges in rural areas, but also in urban areas; the Commission communication of September 2021 on the new European Bauhaus¹⁷, which promotes synergies between European funding programmes and in particular with EU missions; the Commission's communication of November 2021 on the EU soil strategy by 2030¹⁸, underlining that the Soil Pact mission will be a key tool for testing concrete innovative solutions to protect and restore soils; the Commission communication of December 2021 on the New EU Urban Mobility Framework for a transition to safe, accessible, inclusive, smart, resilient and zero-emission urban mobility.

¹² — Com(2019) 640 final

¹³ — Com(2021) 82 final

¹⁴ — Com(2021) 44 final

¹⁵ — Com(2021) 240 final

¹⁶ — Com(2021) 345 final

¹⁷ — Com(2021) 573 final

¹⁸ — Com(2021) 699 final

I. Steering European R&I to support public policies that better respond to societal challenges

2. STRESSES that the ~~three~~ **main** characteristics of **a mission-oriented approach** ~~EU missions~~ are:
- a collaborative, transnational, **inclusive**, multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach to address complex societal challenges through the development of a systemic and coordinated approach at **EU**, national, **regional and local** ~~and EU levels~~ **through** ~~at the level of~~ relevant actors, public policies and funding programmes **and initiatives**;
 - the directionality element that is ~~central to the EU missions, in that it~~ aims at strategically guiding and prioritising R&I **and other sectoral** investments at European level as part of a process of strategic coordination between R&I and other relevant policy areas;
 - the process of co-design, co-deployment **implementation** and co-monitoring with citizens and national, regional and local actors;
3. RECALLS that R&I is the **basis** ~~starting point for EU~~ **European** missions, ~~but~~ **and** that achieving their objectives requires **short, medium and long-term** actions **in all relevant sectoral policies** by public actors, the private sector and civil society ~~in all sectors, levels and areas~~, **as well as adequate funding**; CALLS on, in particular, the Commission and the Member States; to implement coherent **public** policies based on state-of-the-art scientific and technological advances in the framework of EU **European** missions, including policies that stimulate demand, **promote knowledge valorisation**, ~~such as public procurement procedures and actions that~~ **and** encourage behavioural change; **RECALLS that Horizon Europe finances R&I activities only, whereas other activities are funded through each relevant programme in other sectorial policies**;

4. STRESSES the importance of ~~European~~ research infrastructures in achieving the objectives of EU European missions, in particular through their multidisciplinary research capacities, **including in social sciences and humanities; EMPHASISES** their key role in the development of advanced technologies **and methodologies** and their ~~interaction~~ **links** with the education and private sector; NOTES the importance of the European Strategic Forum on Research Infrastructures in order to guide ~~and coordinate~~ **the strategic development of** these infrastructures **landscape and foster its contribution** ~~with a view to contributing to the~~ implementation of EU European missions; **UNDERLINES that technology infrastructures can also contribute to the implementation of European missions;**
5. CONSIDERS that the ~~issues~~ **societal challenges** covered by the EU European missions are of a global nature; ENCOURAGES the Commission to promote international cooperation ~~on R&I with EU partners~~ where this is in line with the objectives of the EU European missions, while ensuring respect for the EU's key principles and values and the protection of EU interests;

II. Ensuring effective governance of EU European missions

6. STRESSES that the success of EU European missions requires **an** effective **multi-level** governance **model** between **a number of** ~~several~~ actors, public policies, **private initiatives** and funding programmes; RECOGNISES the need to ~~adapt~~ **tailor** the governance model to each of the EU European missions;
7. CONSIDERS that effective governance must be based on a horizontal and vertical approach **in line with the respective responsibilities;** DEFINES horizontal governance as coordination between actors, public policies, **private initiatives and** funding **instruments and** programmes at the same ~~geographical~~ **administrative** level, and vertical governance ~~such as~~ coordination between actors, public policies, **private initiatives** and funding **instruments and** programmes ~~at~~ **across** multiple levels: European, national, regional and local;
8. ~~WELCOMES initiatives to facilitate exchanges between the actors of each EU mission, to map governance models and instruments that will enable the implementation of EU missions;~~

A. Horizontal governance

9. RECALLS that the success of EU European missions is based on effective synergies between Horizon Europe and other relevant Union ~~EU sectoral~~ programmes in order to ensure coherent programming and co-financing; INVITES the Commission to put in place the necessary conditions to create these synergies both at the level of thematic programming and at the level in the implementation of the rules for participation of in programmes; ACKNOWLEDGES the important effort made by of the Commission to set up coordination bodies between its various departments to promote these synergies; SUGGESTS UNDERLINES that the Commission lead the implementation of EU missions at the highest level in order to better take into account the European missions' governance within the Commission should reflect the transformative and systemic nature of the European missions; INVITES CALLS on the Commission to draw up present a detailed mapping of the funding made available by other relevant Union programmes European instruments and initiatives, including their budgets, in order to ensure coherent thematic programming and implementation for in support of the implementation of each EU mission;
10. INVITES the Member States to take into account the specific objectives of EU European missions in their national sectoral programming and in EU programmes under decentralised management; CALLS on the Commission to put in place the necessary measures and administrative guidelines to promote synergies with EU programmes under decentralised management, in particular the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Development Fund+ (ESF+), Cohesion fund, Just Transition Fund, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), as well as the ~~Structural Funds and the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)~~, the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the National Strategic Plans (NSPs) of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP); RECALLS the importance of smart specialisation strategies and national recovery and resilience plans as a useful programming tool to contribute to the objectives of EU European missions;

- 10a** INVITES the Commission to explore the option ~~possibility~~ of establishing a labelling scheme for calls for proposals launched by European funding programmes other than Horizon Europe in order, inter alia, to facilitate the construction of missions' ~~project~~-portfolios, to increase the visibility of the related initiatives ~~that make up them~~ and to gather their results, thus contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the EU European missions;
11. NOTES the strategic role of mission boards in formulating ~~opinions~~ advice during the preparation and life cycle of EU European missions; SUGGESTS that ~~these opinions~~ this advice be taken into account at the ~~highest~~ appropriate political level by the Commission, given the cross-sectoral nature of EU European missions; INVITES ~~on~~ the Commission to report, to the ~~Council~~ Strategic Programme Committee of Horizon Europe on the results of the work carried out by the mission boards on a regular basis; RECALLS the importance of expertise on citizen engagement in mission boards;
12. STRESSES that horizontal governance efforts should ~~must~~ also be undertaken at Member State level; ~~CALLS-ENCOURAGES~~, ~~therefore, on the~~ Member States to put in place adequate governance structures to enable their actors, public R&I and other sectoral policies and funding programmes to contribute to the objectives of EU European missions; TAKES NOTE of the life-cycle character of missions involving specific actors, policies and instruments relevant at different stages of the governance process; STRESSES, ~~however~~ therefore, that there is no single model of governance and that Member States are free to set up governance in line with their own structure ~~organisation~~ and needs; INVITES ~~on the~~ Member States to exchange best practices and the Commission to support these exchanges ~~by capitalising on the European Research Area Forum~~;

B. Vertical governance

13. RECOGNISES that effective coordination ~~between~~ at European, national, regional and local decision-making levels is essential for the success of ~~EU~~ European missions; INVITES the Commission and the Member States to ensure that these levels are properly linked; ~~STRESSES that the establishment of the European Research Area Forum should facilitate this coordination;~~ RECALLS the importance of the involvement of Horizon Europe Programme Committee to take into account the national context and opportunities to improve alignment with R&I activities carried out at national level;
14. STRESSES the need to analyse the relevance and potential of regional, national and EU instruments, in particular ~~existing~~ partnerships, and intergovernmental instruments in order to contribute to the objectives of ~~EU~~ European missions; INVITES the Commission to carry out this review in close cooperation with other stakeholders; INVITES the Member States to identify national, regional and local programmes or initiatives that can contribute to the success of ~~EU~~ European missions; INVITES the Member States ~~and~~ to inform the Commission of the results of these programmes and initiatives in an appropriate manner; INVITES the Commission, in conjunction with the Member States, to explore the possibility of labelling R&I projects or any other measure that may contribute to the success of ~~EU~~ European missions and their coordination ~~articulation~~ with European, national, regional and local initiatives;
15. RECOGNISES the specific role of regional and local authorities ~~and European regions~~ in the implementation of ~~EU~~ European missions; STRESSES that local and regional authorities can play a key role in supporting demonstration initiatives to test solutions, including scientific and technological, with end-users;

16. NOTES that the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) are ~~territorial~~ **regional** research and innovation ecosystems **that bring together** aggregating a diversity of actors ~~around shared thematic ambitions~~ and that “**the** European universities **alliances**”²² can also contribute to this dynamic; INVITES, therefore, the Commission **and the Member States** to promote consistency between the achievement of the objectives of the EU **European** missions and the actions of the EIT and its KICs, as well as **to promote** the activities carried out by the “European ~~U~~**n**iversities **alliances**”;
17. ~~WELCOMES the launch of a pilot phase~~ **TAKES NOTE** of the ERA Hub tool to strengthen the capacity of ~~territorial~~ **regional** research and innovation ecosystems, create framework conditions for collaboration and interconnect these ~~sem~~ at European level; **STRESSES** **INVITES the Commission to assess the potential of** that the ERA Hubs ~~can~~ **to** facilitate the production of knowledge, its circulation and its use, in particular in support of the objectives of ~~the EU~~ **European** missions;

C. Governance of the mission ~~project~~ portfolio

18. **STRESSES** the importance of coherent management of projects **and actions** financed at European, national, regional and local level contributing to the objectives of the missions; **RECALLS** that EU **European** missions must be implemented through a portfolio of **instruments, including R&I** projects, constituting a coherent group of activities; ~~with respect to R&I activities~~; **NOTES** that the ~~project~~ **mission** portfolio ~~must~~ **should** reflect the entire value chain, **including Social Sciences and Humanities**; **RECALLS**, therefore, the importance of ~~basic~~ **fundamental** research in building the portfolio, as well as the relevance of projects with high innovation potential and high risk **level, for example** in key and strategic sectors for the Union supported by the European Innovation Council (EIC);

19. STRESSES the key role importance of a project mission portfolio manager of a EU mission, who should have ensuring the necessary flexibility in programming, and implementation, portfolio composition and reorientation throughout the implementation of the EU mission's life-cycle; programming to best meet the objectives of the EU mission, building on the process of evaluation, review and monitoring of EU missions, and respecting the decision-making processes applicable to the work programmes; INVITES therefore the Commission to consider the recruitment of project portfolio managers, separate from mission managers; and REQUESTS the Commission to regularly inform the Council Member States of the methods used in the management of the project mission portfolio and of the progress made;
20. RECALLS that the project mission portfolio of a EU mission should include instruments, including R&I projects, funded at European level or but also at other levels, such as at national, regional and local level; ENCOURAGES the Commission and Member States to exchange best practices on mission portfolio management at national and EU level; RECOGNISES the importance of strategic foresight activities in order to take account of anticipated scientific, and technological and socio-political disruptions in carrying out EU European missions;

III. Citizen engagement

- 21 AFFIRMS that addressing societal, environmental and economic challenges can only be achieved through a strengthened relationship between decision-makers, science and society; NOTES that the COVID-19 pandemic and some of the challenges of the green and digital transitions, such as climate change or the challenges underlying the development of certain key digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, have shown the importance of strengthening the science-society relationship; STRESSES the importance of restoring reinforcing society's confidence in science and counteract the spread of pseudosciences and misinformation in order to combat information disorder; RECOGNISES that strengthening citizens' active role and engagement in research and innovation is one of the means to achieve this;

22. **HIGHLIGHTS** ~~STRESSES~~ that citizen engagement in science, as it promotes awareness, **and** behavioural changes ~~and the necessary action;~~ **this**, is all the more important in the context of EU **European** missions, as they ultimately aim to improve the lives of citizens; **STRESSES the importance to reach out to young people, women and vulnerable citizens;**
23. RECALLS that for the full success of EU **European** missions, citizen engagement ~~must~~ **should** take place **from the first stages of identification** ~~at three levels:~~
- the selection and definition of **specific** concrete EU **European** missions **and throughout their planning,** that matter to society: in this regard; TAKES NOTE the measures put in place by the Commission to enable citizens to participate in the choice and co-design of EU missions, such as citizens' assemblies;
 - the implementation **and monitoring;** of EU missions: INVITES ~~on~~ the Commission **and Member States** to set up a public engagement **and communication** plan for each mission **and assess the effectiveness of such plans in** , to support public engagement actions in the portfolio and to test in pilot projects the introduction of public engagement actions in portfolio projects; INVITES ~~the Commission to assess its impact and to present the results to the Council;~~
 - the process of **monitoring,** evaluation, review and follow-up of EU **European** missions: INVITES ~~on the Commission to present to the Council a plan of citizens'~~ engagement in the evaluation and monitoring of EU missions in order to enable them to adapt over time and best respond to societal needs;

24. RECALLS ~~its support for~~ **that** higher education and/or research institutions ~~which, through their various tasks,~~ are at the interface between science and society and play an active role in strengthening democratic values and practices, preparing students for active citizenship and civic engagement and fuelling public debate with science-based information; ~~INVITES on the Commission and, where appropriate, the Member States to support higher education and/or research institutions to take into account the challenges of EU missions in their training paths;~~ ~~INVITES, in general,~~ **ENCOURAGES** the Commission and the Member States to make every effort to enable higher education and/or research institutions to act as mediators between European citizens and EU **European** missions, in order to **promote** ~~foster~~ their ownership at national, regional and European level and to encourage societal change ~~towards their objectives;~~

IV. Monitoring, review and evaluation of EU **European missions**

25. RECALLS that ~~an evaluation~~ **a review** of the first EU **European** missions **areas** is to be carried out **by the Commission** no later than **31 December** 2023 and before the adoption of any decision **on** to create~~ing~~ new missions **within the existing European missions areas** or continue~~ing~~, **terminating** ~~cease or reorient~~ **redirecting** ongoing EU **European** missions, ~~and a report on the review of the areas of EU missions will be submitted no later than 31 December 2023;~~ INVITES the Commission in this context to take full account of the ~~dimension of citizen engagement and to present to the Council the results of these actions;~~ RECALLS that the mid-term evaluation of Horizon Europe in 2025 will be a second milestone for new political guidance on the implementation of EU missions;
26. STRESSES that EU **European** missions must benefit from a transparent and ~~rigorous~~ **robust** monitoring and evaluation system based on the objectives of each European mission to reflect its systemic **and dynamic** dimension;
27. UNDERLINES that this monitoring and evaluation system must also allow for a periodic ~~evaluation~~ **assessment** of the progress made in relation to the milestones and objectives of the various projects **and activities** contributing to the European missions, in order to ensure that it is on track and achieves the objectives set;

28. INVITES the Commission to develop, ~~on the basis of the key impact path indicators set out in the Regulation establishing Horizon Europe~~, methodologies and processes for monitoring and **analysing** ~~evaluating EU~~ **European** missions adapted to the specificity of the mission-oriented approach, including its systemic nature, and to inform the Council thereof;
29. ~~UNDERLINES the importance of establishing a mechanism for assessing the impact of EU missions, including the feedback of end-users, including the private sector, to ensure full ownership of the tools; INVITES the Commission to present to the Council proposals to stimulate and enhance the knowledge developed in the framework of EU missions in Europe, in order to ensure that all countries in Europe can benefit from the results~~
-