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'A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

Subject: Horizon Europe Package: Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2028-2034

a) Framework Programme and its rules for participation and dissemination

b) Specific programme implementing Horizon Europe

- *Partial general approach*

= Statements

The following delegations have requested to enter the corresponding statements in the Council minutes.

STATEMENT FOR THE MINUTES BY THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

Horizon Europe 2028-2034: partial general approach

Austria supports Horizon Europe 2028-2034, the 10th EU research framework programme, as an enabler of new knowledge, prosperity and peace in Europe.

During the negotiations, we successfully advocated for a research focus on fostering democratic, culturally diverse, inclusive, socially just, secure and peaceful societies. We also support the opening-up of the programme to dual-use research in both civil and military applications in the interests of European sovereignty.

However, we regret that research with exclusively military applications is to be funded by Horizon Europe. Such research should be financed by the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF), which will incorporate the defence-related activities currently covered by the European Defence Fund (EDF).

We hereby reaffirm this conviction even though we were unable to gain the confidence of the other negotiating partners sufficiently on this issue. At the same time, we would emphasise our approval of the Horizon Europe programme as a whole.

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Horizon Europe 2028-2034: partial general approach

The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation is a key instrument for excellence, sustainability and strategic autonomy of the EU. Germany welcomes and supports the partial general approach on the Regulation establishing the 10th Framework Programme (Horizon Europe 2028-2034, 'FP10').

Germany emphasises, however, the importance of continuing the previously established and currently applied practices in connection with research involving human embryonic stem cells and embryos.

Germany welcomes the fact that Article 21 (Eligibility), paragraph 10, of the FP10 Regulation stipulates legally binding ethical exclusion criteria for funding, continuing the rules previously in place under the Horizon Europe Regulation 2021-2027 ('FP9'). Germany believes, however, that it is also crucial to have continued assurance that no EU funds will be allocated to research (including research involving stem cell procurement) in which human embryos are destroyed, as such practices are prohibited under German national legislation on the protection of embryos. To this end, Germany expects the European Commission to issue, in good time, a statement on the FP10 Regulation in line with the one issued in connection with the adoption of the FP9 Regulation (2021/C 185/01, 'Statement by the Commission on ethics/stem cell research').

**STATEMENT BY CROATIA, CZECHIA, HUNGARY, LATVIA, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA
AND SLOVENIA**

Horizon Europe – Partial general approach

Council of the European Union 26/6/2026

Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia support the adoption of the Partial General Approach (PGA) on the proposal for Horizon Europe 2028–2034. Since provisions of its legal acts which form part of horizontal negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) are excluded from the PGA pending further progress on the MFF, particularly Article 19 of the Horizon Europe Regulation, their agreement on the PGA is given on the basis of the state of play of the MFF negotiations at the time of adoption, as reflected in the Negotiating Box prepared under the responsibility of the Presidency¹.

In particular, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia consider it essential that the Programme continues to provide access to capacity-building measures for both Widening and Transition countries, with differentiated modalities for Transition countries. They further consider it essential that an increase in public investment in research and innovation as an eligibility condition for access to the relevant capacity-building measures is assessed on the basis of a nominal increase in expenditure compared to the preceding year.

¹ ST 10058/26.