

11173/20

(OR. en)

PRESSE 25
PR CO 25

OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3771st Council meeting

Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)

Research and Innovation

Brussels, 29 September 2020

President **Anja Karliczek**
Federal Minister for Education and Research

P R E S S

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ITEMS DEBATED

none

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

none

¹ • Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
• Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
• Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

ITEMS DEBATED

Regulation establishing Horizon Europe and decision on establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon Europe

The Council adopted general approaches regarding the draft regulation establishing Horizon Europe, the EU's framework programme for research and innovation for the years 2021-2027, and the draft decision on establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon Europe.

The timely adoption of all the legal acts enabling the rollout of the new research and innovation framework programme at the beginning of January 2021 was widely acknowledged as being the most important issue at stake.

Regarding the budget, ministers broadly supported the presidency's compromise proposal, consisting of a horizontal 'haircut' approach with a limited exception, i.e. a moderate increase of 200 million euros for the budget dedicated to Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), counterbalanced by an equivalent limited decrease of the budget for the European Innovation Council (EIC).

Regarding **international cooperation and association of third countries**, the presidency compromise proposals also received broad support. Some delegations expressed concerns about the potential effects of Article 18(5) and recital 40 of the regulation on SMEs' capacity to access funding and supported the following statement by Sweden, to be entered in the Council minutes: "The framework programme must be as open as possible. The best researchers shall be given the means to find answers to research questions and to solve societal challenges. Legal entities within the Union must be able to contribute to innovations to create welfare, jobs and security for the European citizens. Exclusion from participation in the framework programme of European legal entities with ownership outside the Union must be strictly limited to exceptional cases and limited to particularly security sensitive areas. In these cases, clear conditions and criteria must apply. In this context, the competence of the Member States must be respected. Exclusion of European legal entities with ownership in strategic partner countries does not benefit European research and development, nor the Union's security and competitiveness."

Furthermore, as regards the involvement of member states in future negotiations on association agreements with third countries, the Commission delivered the following oral statement to be entered in the Council minutes: “The Commission is fully committed to ensure the greatest transparency and involvement of the Council in the forthcoming negotiations on association to the Horizon Europe programme. We will follow clear rules and procedures for these negotiations and I have instructed my services to ensure the greatest possible transparency at all phases of the negotiation at technical level with the Council, in line with the Commission practice.”

[Agreed text of the Horizon Europe regulation](#)

[Corrigendum to the agreed text of the Horizon Europe regulation](#)

[Agreed text of the specific programme decision](#)

[European Council conclusions, 17-21 July 2020](#)

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED
