



WHAT IS TO BE EXPECTED: CHALLENGES FOR THE 2028–2034 EU FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (FP10)

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From Barriers to Bridges: Towards a More Cohesive European Research Area
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MFF & HORIZON EUROPE - OVERVIEW

- **FP10 (Horizon Europe) proposal published in July**
 - Along with MFF 2028-2034, and European Competitiveness Fund Proposals.
 - Standalone Framework Programme, in line with the European treaties.
- **Increased budget - €175bn**
 - Following calls from Mario Draghi (€200bn) and Manuel Heitor (€220bn).
- **Evolution, not revolution**
 - Continuity: Pillar structures (with one additional pillar)
 - 1: Excellent Science 2: Competitiveness and Society
 - 3: Innovation 4: ERA
 - Novel approach: Close links with European Competitiveness Fund.
 - Shared 'policy windows' in Pillar II, Competitiveness Coordination Tool, Single Rulebook.

MFF & HORIZON EUROPE – SCIENCE EUROPE POSITION (1/3)

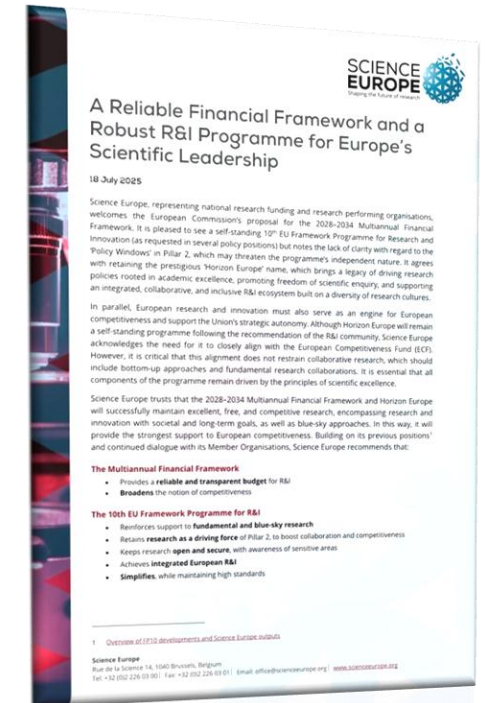
First Science Europe position released on 18 July: **A Reliable Financial Framework and a Robust R&I Programme for Europe's Scientific Leadership**

The MFF should **provide a reliable, and transparent budget for R&I**

- Ringfenced funds, and protection of the €175bn budget as a minimum, ideally increase to €200bn.
- Promote strategic alignment between national, regional, and EU funds, incentivise 3% of national GDP investment into R&I.

The ECF should **establish a broad concept of 'competitiveness'**

- Competitiveness goes beyond short-term economic benefits – it must integrate long-term, sustainable growth, supported by evidence-based policies, cohesion, as well as societal and technological innovation.
- R&I is a key part of competitiveness – therefore the research community should contribute to this broad definition.



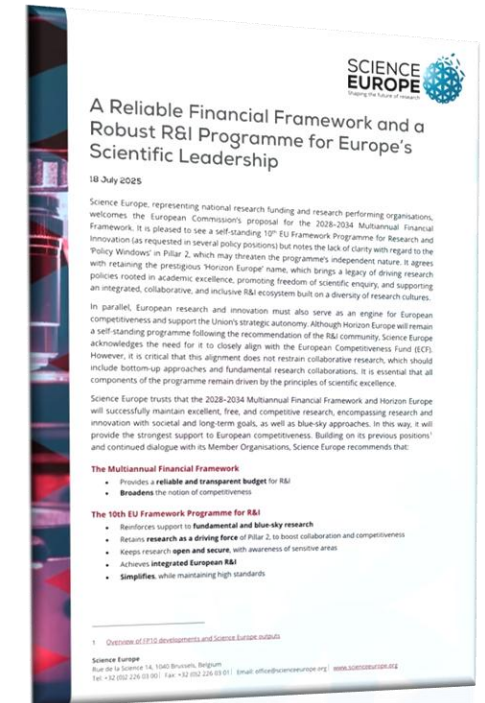
MFF & HORIZON EUROPE – SCIENCE EUROPE POSITION (2/3)

- **Reinforce support for fundamental- and blue-sky research**
 - Maintain the independence, and excellence driven-nature of ERC, as well as its 4-year presidential term.
 - Keep Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions bottom-up, without directionality.
 - Reinforce measures to protect the freedom of scientific enquiry.
 - Foster collaborative fundamental research.
 - Connect fundamental science with breakthrough innovation.
- **Preserve the integrity of research in light of the links with the ECF**
 - R&I-related priorities should fall under the governance of Horizon Europe – including pillar 2's policy windows.
 - Elaborate coordination measures, e.g. the single rulebook or Competitiveness Coordination Tool.
 - Clarify the implications of the ECF on the association model, and the role ECF association plays in collaborative research.



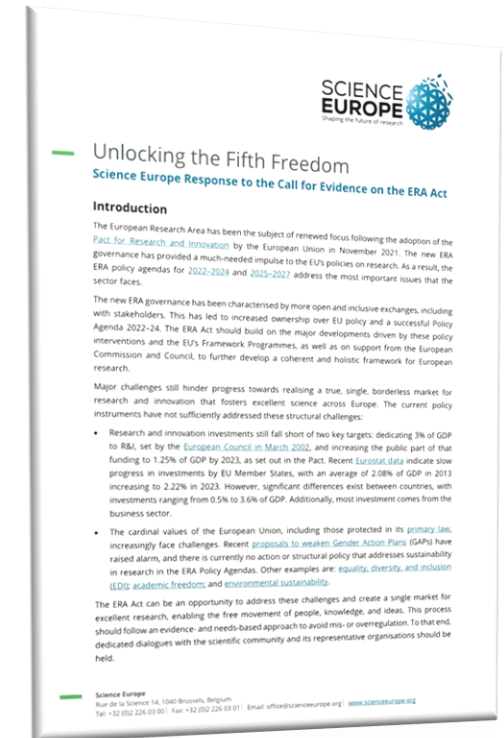
MFF & HORIZON EUROPE – SCIENCE EUROPE POSITION (3/3)

- **Keep research open and secure**
 - Provide guidance and tailored research security measures, without creating arbitrary barriers to reciprocal, open collaboration with associated countries and like-minded partners. This is especially important in light of dual use.
- **Work towards an integrated, inclusive European R&I system**
 - Encourage talent circulation, bridge the innovation gap, while avoiding silos.
 - Rationalise the new Widening categories in pillar 4, and incentivise improving R&I performance.
- **Simplify without compromising standards**
 - Clarify ambitious simplification, and time to grant reduction measures.
 - Scrutinise simplification measures, - they should not justify less stringent academic, ethical, inclusivity or sustainability standards.
 - Ensure transparency in high-risk, high-impact projects.



ERA ACT – SCIENCE EUROPE POSITION

- **Support research excellence:** The ERA Act should establish a level playing field across Europe and strengthen the legal foundation for the full deployment of a single borderless market for research and innovation.
- **Core Values:** It must safeguard academic freedom, institutional autonomy, equality, diversity, inclusion, and sustainability. A separate legislative proposal on academic freedom may be needed.
- **Incentivise investment in R&I:** Progress towards the EU target of 3% of GDP for research and innovation remains slow and uneven across countries. The Act must incentivise higher national investments, with at least 1.25% of GDP from public sources.
- **Advance research culture:** Legislation should create an enabling environment for open science, research assessment reform, mobility, environmental sustainability, and secure but open international collaboration.
- **Strengthen implementation:** The Act should link to existing EU legislation (e.g. Open Data, Digital Services Act) and rely on established governance structures such as the ERA Forum, avoiding unnecessary new bodies.



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