

Joint Statement of non-EU Countries to the European Commission on the future of FP10

New Zealand, Switzerland and the United Kingdom as non-EU countries associated to Horizon Europe welcome the European Union's commitment to maintaining research and innovation at the heart of European competitiveness as proposed by Mario Draghi, Enrico Letta and Manuel Heitor in their respective reports. We recognize the strategic importance of shaping the future of European research and innovation to uphold excellence, openness, and global competitiveness.

The participation of associated countries in the EU- framework programmes for research and innovation has significantly enhanced scientific excellence by leveraging diverse expertise, ensuring access to critical knowledge, infrastructure and markets and contributing substantially to the funding. As discussions on the next framework programme for research and innovation (FP10) begin, we call for a strong, inclusive and competitive programme that enables Europe and its key, like-minded and trusted partners to address global challenges effectively, harness emerging technologies, and reinforce their leadership in science and innovation.

Safeguard FP10's distinct identity and strengthen global competitiveness

Building on and in support of the position of EU Member States as set out in the Warsaw Declaration, FP10 should remain a dedicated, **stand-alone research and innovation programme** that prioritizes excellent scientific research, development and innovation as a foundation for addressing shared priorities and challenges in the long-term. While we support efforts to enhance synergies across EU programs, FP10's distinct identity is crucial to maintaining its effectiveness, ensuring sustainable impact, and advancing science and innovation through stronger collaboration. Preserving FP10's distinct identity will also facilitate the process by which associated countries will consider future association to the programme.

We thus call for:

- **Ensuring research excellence and global competitiveness:** A well-structured, **stand-alone FP10** will reinforce Europe's leadership in cutting-edge research by prioritizing excellence, agility, and responsiveness to emerging challenges such as climate change, health crises, and social inequality. FP10 must strengthen bottom-up instruments, to support the entire research and innovation value chain (from fundamental research to disruptive innovation, e.g. ERC and EIC), ensuring globally competitive programmes—key to maintaining Europe's capacity to lead in unforeseen areas of research and innovation in the long-term.
- **Ensuring financial transparency and accountability:** Currently, associated countries contribute nearly **30% of the Horizon Europe budget**, underscoring their commitment to a shared research and innovation agenda. A stand-alone FP10 with a **clearly defined and transparent budget** is essential for justifying and securing dedicated financial commitments to national stakeholders and ensuring public accountability.
- **Fostering competitiveness through global cooperation:** A stand-alone FP10 will better facilitate targeted international partnerships, reinforcing the EU's role in addressing global public goods such as sustainability, health, and digital transformation. It must be built on a clear, open and complementary framework and have a well-defined scope that enables simplified, stable, and seamless collaboration aligned with global priorities. Moreover, we recognize that FP10 needs to appreciate diversity in and domestic imperatives of associated countries to create favourable conditions for greater engagement. Only through such an approach can deeper co-

investment and strategic partnerships foster excellent ecosystems with global key, like-minded and trusted partners.

We, the signatories, call upon the European Commission to take the above points into consideration in the planning of the next framework programme for research and innovation.

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