

**Question for written answer E-002691/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Horizon Europe: efficient grant agreements

The template for proposals under Horizon Europe is relatively complex, leading to a somewhat complicated grant agreement (GA) preparation process. Furthermore, the requirement to have the consortium agreement (CA) signed before the GA leads some coordinators to insist on signing the CA in advance. Experienced beneficiaries, however, prefer to review the GA and its annexes first. While the Commission acknowledges that this rule cannot be strictly enforced, some new coordinators still interpret it rigidly. This means that the GA is felt to be overly complex. Against this background, can the Commission answer the following questions?

1. Is there a significant difference in the number of exceptions and special cases mentioned in the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement compared with the Horizon 2020 Model Grant Agreement, and if so what is the reason for this increased complexity?
2. Does the Commission have any plans to simplify the proposal template in order to simplify the GA process?
3. Is the Commission planning any additional communication to make clear to coordinators and policy officers that the CA can be signed after the GA is finalised?

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