

Question for written answer E-004265/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: The future of the EU's framework programme for research and innovation

So far, Horizon Europe has served as a central platform for scientific and industrial cooperation between the EU and like-minded countries such as the UK, Canada and Japan. This openness has been crucial for the quality, cost-effectiveness and innovation capacity of European research and development.

However, the Commission's proposal for a 10th framework programme could well create uncertainty, push up administrative costs and delay projects thanks to new requirements for screening, due diligence and judicial review. It might also disrupt cooperation, mean that projects have to be renegotiated, and lead to the emergence of parallel research schemes outside the EU framework – which in turn drives up costs and reduces the leverage effect on public funds.

Furthermore, the exclusion of associated and third countries might result in the EU losing access to top stakeholders, test beds and specialised suppliers, thereby weakening the technology base and ultimately curbing Europe's strategic autonomy.

1. How does the Commission intend to ensure that the inclusion of defence research in Horizon Europe does not lead to increased costs, more complex and time-consuming processes or weakened international cooperation with like-minded countries?
2. How does the Commission intend to maintain the possibility of continued cooperation with partner countries such as the UK, Canada and Japan – countries that have historically been crucial for the EU's research quality, innovation capacity and technological competitiveness – while strengthening the European security dimension?

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