

Question for written answer E-000816/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Regina Doherty (PPE)

Subject: Financing Framework Programme 10 for Research and Innovation

The Commission has presented the next iteration of Horizon Europe, called Framework Programme 10 for Research and Innovation (FP10), to Parliament and the Council as part of the legislative process¹. It said that the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) would be ‘tightly linked to FP10’, for which EUR 175 billion was earmarked. The ECF has four policy ‘windows’, with funding for FP10 coming from pillars three and four.

However, Article 182 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) may prohibit the ECF from being used to fund FP10. This issue was aired during the summer of 2025 and means that the Commission cannot now finance FP10 through the ECF. If so, this places the Commission in a serious predicament. University associations apparently expected a legal opinion and/or comment to be given during the Danish Presidency, but as yet the Commission has not issued a statement.

1. What is the legal opinion from the Commission on whether Article 182 of TFEU prohibits the ECF from funding FP10?
2. If it is prohibited, how will the Commission finance FP10?
3. Mario Draghi had suggested that the ECF should have four policy ‘windows’. What happened to this plan? In particular, what happened to the funding that had been allocated for policies 3 and 4, which had been intended for research and innovation?

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¹ COM(2025)0543.