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Answer given by Ms Zaharieva
on behalf of the European Commission
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The proposal for the European Competitiveness Fund[1] (ECF) and the proposed Framework Programme for research[2] (FP10) will have closely coordinated programming of activities. In particular, certain actions under FP10 (those collaborative research actions under the 'Competitiveness' part of the FP10 Pillar II falling in a policy area also covered by an ECF policy window) will be programmed in specific dedicated parts of single work programmes. Moreover, the specific programme on defence research is integrated with the policy window covering defence as part of the ECF proposal (thus also mirroring the current setup of the European Defence Fund[3] in that window). However, there is no legal issue as regards funding of the programmes as both ECF and FP10 have separate budgetary envelopes; ECF actions will be financed from ECF budget and FP10 actions will be financed from FP10 budget. Where an action contributes to objectives of both the ECF and FP10, it could be financed from both envelopes taking the form of, for example, a synergy call.

The architecture proposed by the Commission for the ECF indeed foresees four policy windows. To ensure a seamless investment journey – from research to manufacturing and market deployment – the Commission has proposed to mirror the same policy windows within Pillar II of Horizon Europe (2028- 2034)[4], under its 'Competitiveness' component. Horizon Europe will fund the research and innovation activities of the policy windows, while the ECF will focus on later stages of the investment journey, including scale-up manufacturing and market deployment. A tight connection between the two programmes will be ensured through single work programmes, in line with the proposed regulations.

[1] https://commission.europa.eu/publications/european-competitiveness-fund_en.
[2] See the proposal for Horizon Europe 2028-2034 - https://commission.europa.eu/publications/horizon-europe_en.
[3] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0697.
[4] https://commission.europa.eu/publications/horizon-europe_en.