



2021/0049(COD)

7.5.2021

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DRAFT REPORT

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council
on the participation of the Union in the European Partnership on Metrology
jointly undertaken by several Member States
(COM(2021)0089 – C9-0083/2021 – 2021/0049(COD))

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Rapporteur: Maria da Graça Carvalho

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
- *** Consent procedure
- ***I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- ***II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- ***III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

Amendments to a draft act

Amendments by Parliament set out in two columns

Deletions are indicated in ***bold italics*** in the left-hand column. Replacements are indicated in ***bold italics*** in both columns. New text is indicated in ***bold italics*** in the right-hand column.

The first and second lines of the header of each amendment identify the relevant part of the draft act under consideration. If an amendment pertains to an existing act that the draft act is seeking to amend, the amendment heading includes a third line identifying the existing act and a fourth line identifying the provision in that act that Parliament wishes to amend.

Amendments by Parliament in the form of a consolidated text

New text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Deletions are indicated using either the **■** symbol or strikeout. Replacements are indicated by highlighting the new text in ***bold italics*** and by deleting or striking out the text that has been replaced.

By way of exception, purely technical changes made by the drafting departments in preparing the final text are not highlighted.

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

**on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the participation of the Union in the European Partnership on Metrology jointly undertaken by several Member States
(COM(2021)0089 – C9-0083/2021 – 2021/0049(COD))**

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2021)0089),
 - having regard to Article 294(2), Article 185 and the second subparagraph of Article 188 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C9-0083/2021),
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee¹,
 - having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (A9-0000/2021),
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
 2. Suggests that the act be cited as 'the Decision on the participation of the Union in the European Partnership on Metrology jointly undertaken by several Member States';
 3. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
 4. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

¹ OJ C , , p. .

Amendment 1

Proposal for a decision Recital 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(2a) In order to ensure scientific excellence, and in line with Article 13 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the States participating in the Metrology Partnership should respect academic freedom, in particular the freedom to conduct scientific research, and promote the highest standards of scientific integrity.

Or. en

Amendment 2

Proposal for a decision Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(5) Horizon Europe introduces a more strategic, coherent and impact-driven approach to European Partnerships, building on the lessons learned from the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation. Horizon Europe Regulation intends to make a more effective use of Institutionalised European Partnerships notably by focusing on clear objectives, outcomes and impact that can be achieved by 2030, and by ensuring a clear contribution to the related Union policy priorities and policies. Close collaboration and synergies with other relevant initiatives at Union, national and regional level, in particular with other European Partnerships, will be key in achieving greater impact and ensuring that the results are used.

(5) Horizon Europe introduces a more strategic, coherent and impact-driven approach to European Partnerships, building on the lessons learned from the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation. Horizon Europe Regulation intends to make a more effective use of Institutionalised European Partnerships notably by focusing on clear objectives, outcomes and impact that can be achieved by 2030, and by ensuring a clear contribution to the related Union policy priorities and policies. Close collaboration and synergies with other relevant initiatives at Union, national and regional level, in particular with other European Partnerships, will be key in achieving greater impact and ensuring that the results are used. ***Complementarity and synergy with collaborative research work programmes and with the European Research Council would nurture the***

bottom-up inspired innovation pipeline. Such complementarity and synergy would create opportunities for research in areas that are not currently addressed and would promote applications in other sectors, both upstream and downstream of the pipeline.

Or. en

Amendment 3

Proposal for a decision

Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) The objective of this Decision is the participation of the Union in the Metrology Partnership in order to support its general objectives. The requirements of metrology are of such a scale and complexity that investments are needed that go beyond the core research budgets of the NMIs and DIs. The excellence required for research and the development of cutting-edge metrology solutions is spread across national borders and hence cannot be attained at national level only. Since the objectives of this Decision cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, but can be better achieved at Union level by integrating national efforts into a consistent European approach, by bringing together compartmentalised national research programmes, by helping design common research and funding strategies across national borders, and by achieving the critical mass of actors and investments required, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that same Article, this Decision does not go beyond what is necessary in order to

Amendment

(9) The objective of this Decision is the participation of the Union in the Metrology Partnership in order to support its general objectives. The requirements of metrology are of such a scale and complexity that investments are needed that go beyond the core research budgets of the NMIs and DIs. The excellence required for research and the development of cutting-edge metrology solutions is spread across national borders and hence cannot be attained at national level only. ***The Metrology Partnership should promote and reward scientific excellence and support the uptake and systematic use of research and innovation results generated within the Union, including by ensuring that state-of-the-art science and fundamental research findings are taken into account in the implementation of its activities.*** Since the objectives of this Decision cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, but can be better achieved at Union level by integrating national efforts into a consistent European approach, by bringing together compartmentalised national research programmes, by helping design common research and funding strategies across national borders, and by achieving the critical mass of actors and investments

achieve that objective.

required, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that same Article, this Decision does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve that objective.

Or. en

Amendment 4

Proposal for a decision

Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) The Metrology Partnership, aligned with the political priorities of the Commission (including the European Green Deal, an economy that works for people, and a Europe fit for the digital age) should be implemented over a period of ten years (from 2021 to 2031). The programme should include new activities compared to the EMPIR initiative under Horizon 2020, and in particular, the development of European metrology networks, which will respond to pressing societal challenges and metrology needs from emerging technologies. The metrology capacity provided through these networks should be equivalent and comparable to the other world leading metrology systems, demonstrating world class excellence. Calls for proposals under the Metrology Partnership should be launched during the implementation of Horizon Europe.

Amendment

(10) The Metrology Partnership, aligned with the political priorities of the Commission (including the European Green Deal, an economy that works for people, and a Europe fit for the digital age) should be implemented over a period of ten years (from 2021 to 2031). The programme should include new activities compared to the EMPIR initiative under Horizon 2020, and in particular, the development of European metrology networks, which ***should be established in an open and transparent manner and*** will respond to pressing societal challenges and metrology needs from emerging technologies. The metrology capacity provided through these networks should be equivalent and comparable to the other world leading metrology systems, demonstrating world class excellence. Calls for proposals under the Metrology Partnership should be launched during the implementation of Horizon Europe ***and should be open, transparent and competitive. The Metrology Partnership should strive for talent circulation as a balanced circular movement of researchers can actively tackle the problem of the “brain drain”. The Metrology Partnership should***

actively collaborate with academic institutions to fill the skills gap, establish skilling and re-skilling training opportunities and prepare the next generation of workers to meet the needs of the labour market that arise from the green and digital transitions.

Or. en

Amendment 5

Proposal for a decision Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) In order to achieve the objectives of the Metrology Partnership, EURAMET should provide financial support mainly in the form of grants to participants in actions selected at the level of EURAMET. Those actions should be selected following calls for proposals under the responsibility of EURAMET. The ranking list should be binding for the selection of proposals and the allocation of funding from the Union's financial contribution and from the financial contributions from Participating States for the research projects and related activities. For the activities funded by the Participating States' contributions to European metrology networks, the actions funded should also be under the responsibility of EURAMET.

Amendment

(15) In order to achieve the objectives of the Metrology Partnership, EURAMET should provide financial support mainly in the form of grants to participants in actions selected at the level of EURAMET. Those actions should be selected following ***open, transparent and competitive*** calls for proposals under the responsibility of EURAMET. ***The Metrology Partnership should make best efforts to increase the visibility of the calls for proposals, to publish them in the appropriate databases and to promote them with a view to increasing participation, geographical diversity and the involvement of newcomers on the market such as start-ups and SMEs.*** The ranking list should be binding for the selection of proposals and the allocation of funding from the Union's financial contribution and from the financial contributions from Participating States for the research projects and related activities. For the activities funded by the Participating States' contributions to European metrology networks, the actions funded should also be under the responsibility of EURAMET.

Or. en

Amendment 6

Proposal for a decision Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) Participation in indirect actions funded by the Metrology Partnership is subject to Council Regulation (EU) No XXX¹⁴ [RfP Horizon Europe]. However, due to specific operating needs of the Metrology Partnership, in particular to build and manage future European Metrology Networks and to facilitate adequate financial participation of the Participating States, it should be possible to provide for a limitation of the coordinator role in a proposal to NMIs and DIs of the Participating States, where necessary.

¹⁴ Council Regulation (EU) XXX of ... (OJ ...).

Amendment

(16) Participation in indirect actions funded by the Metrology Partnership is subject to Council Regulation (EU) No XXX¹⁴ [RfP Horizon Europe]. However, due to specific operating needs of the Metrology Partnership, in particular to build and manage future European Metrology Networks and to facilitate adequate financial participation of the Participating States, it should be possible to provide for a limitation of the coordinator role in a proposal to NMIs and DIs of the Participating States, where necessary ***and only if the steering group has delivered a favourable opinion.***

¹⁴ Council Regulation (EU) XXX of ... (OJ ...).

Or. en

Amendment 7

Proposal for a decision Recital 18

Text proposed by the Commission

(18) In order to ensure transparency and accessibility for the programme, calls for proposals by the Metrology Partnership should also be published on the single portal for participants as well as through other Horizon Europe electronic means of dissemination managed by the Commission.

Amendment

(18) In order to ensure transparency and accessibility for the programme, calls for proposals by the Metrology Partnership should also be published on the single portal for participants as well as through other Horizon Europe electronic means of dissemination managed by the Commission. ***The Metrology Partnership should enhance its dialogue with society,***

engage in awareness-raising campaigns and promote educational and dissemination activities with the involvement of academic, scientific and knowledge networks, social and economic partners, the media, industry, SMEs and other players.

Or. en

Amendment 8

Proposal for a decision Article 1 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Any Member State other than those specified in paragraph 1 and any other country associated to Horizon Europe may participate in the Metrology Partnership, provided it fulfils the condition laid down in Article 4(1), point (c). It shall be regarded as a Participating State for the purposes of this Decision.

Amendment

2. Any Member State other than those specified in paragraph 1 and any other country associated to Horizon Europe may participate in the Metrology Partnership, provided it fulfils the condition laid down in Article 4(1), point (c) ***and provided it ensures freedom of scientific research.*** It shall be regarded as a Participating State for the purposes of this Decision.

Or. en

Amendment 9

Proposal for a decision Article 1 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Any third country not associated to Horizon Europe may participate in the Metrology Partnership, provided they conclude an international agreement for scientific and technological cooperation with the Union setting out the terms and conditions of its participation in the Metrology Partnership and provided they obtain the approval by the Metrology

Amendment

3. Any third country not associated to Horizon Europe may participate in the Metrology Partnership, provided they conclude an international agreement for scientific and technological cooperation with the Union setting out the terms and conditions of its participation in the Metrology Partnership, ***provided that it fulfils the condition laid down in Article***

Partnership Committee referred to in Article 13(3), point (f). If it fulfils those conditions, it shall be regarded as a Participating State for the purposes of this Decision.

4(1), point (c) and ensures the freedom of scientific research and provided **that** they obtain the approval by the Metrology Partnership Committee referred to in Article 13(3), point (f). If it fulfils those conditions, it shall be regarded as a Participating State for the purposes of this Decision.

Or. en

Amendment 10

Proposal for a decision

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) to develop a sustainable coordinated metrology system on a European level;

Amendment

(a) to develop a sustainable, **excellent and** coordinated metrology system on a European level;

Or. en

Amendment 11

Proposal for a decision

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) to ensure that state-of-the-art metrology capabilities are taken up **directly** by innovators in their ecosystems;

Amendment

(b) to ensure that state-of-the-art metrology capabilities are **widely** taken up by innovators in their ecosystems;

Or. en

Amendment 12

Proposal for a decision

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) to increase the impact of metrology on societal challenges in relation to the implementation of policies, standards and regulations to make them fit for purpose.

Amendment

(c) to increase the impact of metrology on societal, ***economic and environmental*** challenges in relation to the implementation of policies, standards and regulations to make them fit for purpose.

Or. en

Amendment 13

Proposal for a decision

Article 2 – paragraph 3 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) to support, by 2030, sales of new innovative products and services through the use and adoption of the new metrology capabilities in key emerging technologies;

Amendment

(b) to support, by 2030, sales of new innovative products and services through the use and adoption of the new metrology capabilities in key emerging ***and enabling*** technologies;

Or. en

Amendment 14

Proposal for a decision

Article 2 – paragraph 3 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ba) to contribute to reducing the specific skills gap across the Union, to assist in the building of new knowledge and human capital and to accompany the societal transformation, including through improved competences and capabilities for innovation;

Amendment 15

Proposal for a decision

Article 2 – paragraph 3 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) to contribute fully and effectively, by 2030, to the design and implementation of specific standards and regulations that underpin public policies addressing societal challenges.

Amendment

(c) to contribute fully and effectively, by 2030, to the design and implementation of specific standards and regulations that underpin public policies addressing societal, ***economic and environmental*** challenges.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a decision

Article 3 – paragraph 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

5a. Financial contributions under programmes co-financed by the ERDF, the ESF+, the EMFAF and the EAFRD, as well as the Recovery and Resilience Facility, may be considered to be a contribution of the participating Member State to the Metrology Partnership, provided that the relevant provisions of Regulation ... [the Common Provisions Regulation for 2021-2027] and Regulation ... [the fund-specific regulations] are complied with.

Amendment 17

Proposal for a decision Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Participating States specified in Article 1(1) shall make contributions or arrange for their national funding bodies to make contributions, whether financial or in kind, of at least EUR 363 million during the period from 1 January 2021 until 31 December 2031. *A share* of the contributions from the Participating States shall be in the form of financial contributions.

Amendment

1. The Participating States specified in Article 1(1) shall make contributions or arrange for their national funding bodies to make contributions, whether financial or in kind, of at least EUR 363 million during the period from 1 January 2021 until 31 December 2031. *At least half* of the contributions from the Participating States shall be in the form of financial contributions.

Or. en

Amendment 18

Proposal for a decision Article 5 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. The financial or in-kind contributions referred to in paragraph 2, point (b), shall cover the costs incurred by the Participating States in relation to the administrative costs of EURAMET for the implementation of the Partnership.

Amendment

4. The financial or in-kind contributions referred to in paragraph 2, point (b), shall cover the costs incurred by the Participating States in relation to the administrative costs of EURAMET for the implementation of the Partnership. *Those administrative costs of EURAMET shall not exceed 5 % of the total budget of the Metrology Partnership.*

Or. en

Amendment 19

Proposal for a decision

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point a – point ii

Text proposed by the Commission

(ii) metrology research to provide solutions for societal challenges focusing on contributions to energy, health and climate and to develop projects in specific European metrology networks addressing these challenges;

Amendment

(ii) metrology research to provide solutions for societal, ***economic and environmental*** challenges focusing on contributions to energy, health and climate and to develop projects in specific European metrology networks addressing these challenges;

Or. en

Amendment 20

Proposal for a decision

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point a – point iii

Text proposed by the Commission

(iii) research to develop novel measurement instrumentation aiming at industrial take-up of metrological technologies to stimulate innovation in industry;

Amendment

(iii) research to develop novel measurement instrumentation aiming at ***European*** industrial take-up of metrological technologies to stimulate innovation in industry;

Or. en

Amendment 21

Proposal for a decision

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) activities funded by the Participating States without the Union's financial contribution referred to in Article 3 which consist of metrology capacity-building activities on different technological levels whose aim is to

Amendment

(b) activities funded by the Participating States without the Union's financial contribution referred to in Article 3 which consist of metrology capacity-building activities on different technological levels whose aim is to

achieve **a** balanced and integrated metrology system in the Participating States enabling them to develop their scientific and technical capabilities in metrology, and which include activities not selected from the calls for proposals described in point (a), and outlined in the annual work programmes, including any of the following:

achieve **the widest possible**, balanced and integrated metrology system in the Participating States enabling them to develop their scientific and technical capabilities in metrology, and which include activities not selected from the calls for proposals described in point (a), and outlined in the annual work programmes, including any of the following:

Or. en

Amendment 22

Proposal for a decision

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point b – point ii

Text proposed by the Commission

(ii) actions for the dissemination and exploitation of results of metrology research;

Amendment

(ii) actions for the dissemination and exploitation of results of metrology research, **as widely as possible in Europe**;

Or. en

Amendment 23

Proposal for a decision

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point b – point ii a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iia) activities to raise awareness and promote educational and dissemination activities and campaigns, provide appropriate information on its website and publish relevant documentation;

Or. en

Amendment 24

Proposal for a decision

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point b – point iv

Text proposed by the Commission

(iv) the organisation of external dissemination and knowledge transfer activities to promote the Metrology Partnership and maximise its impact.

Amendment

(iv) the organisation of external dissemination and knowledge transfer activities to promote the Metrology Partnership ***as widely as possible in Europe***, and maximise its impact.

Or. en

Amendment 25

Proposal for a decision

Article 6 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Before identifying the topics of each call for proposals referred to in paragraph 1, point (a), EURAMET shall invite individuals or organisations ***from the metrology research community*** and the general metrology value chain to suggest potential research topics.

Amendment

2. Before identifying the topics of each call for proposals referred to in paragraph 1, point (a), EURAMET shall ***publicly*** invite individuals or organisations and the general metrology value chain to suggest potential research topics ***in a transparent manner***.

Or. en

Amendment 26

Proposal for a decision

Article 7 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

7. EURAMET shall monitor and report annually to the Commission on the implementation of all activities included in the annual work programme.

Amendment

7. EURAMET shall monitor and report annually to the Commission on the implementation of all activities included in the annual work programme ***without increasing the administrative burden of the beneficiaries***.

Amendment 27**Proposal for a decision
Article 8 – paragraph 2***Text proposed by the Commission*

2. In accordance with the Article 13 (1) of the HE Regulation, in duly justified cases, the annual work programme may provide for a limitation of the coordinator role in indirect actions to NMIs and DIs of the Participating States in order to ensure that the objectives and Participating States' contribution targets are met.

Amendment

2. ***All activities referred to in Article 6(1), point (a) shall be subject to the rules for the participation and dissemination of Horizon Europe, as laid down in Regulation [...].*** In ***addition, in*** accordance with the Article 13(1) of the HE Regulation, in duly justified cases ***and following a favourable opinion by the Metrology Partnership Steering Group,*** the annual work programme may provide for a limitation of the coordinator role in indirect actions to NMIs and DIs of the Participating States in order to ensure that the objectives and Participating States' contribution targets are met.

Amendment 28**Proposal for a decision
Article 10 – paragraph 2***Text proposed by the Commission*

2. If the Participating States do not contribute to the financing of the Metrology Partnership, contribute only partially or do not respect the time frames for the contributions referred to in Article 5, the Commission may terminate, proportionally reduce or suspend the Union's financial contribution referred to in Article 3. The Commission's decision shall not hinder the reimbursement of eligible costs already incurred by the

Amendment

2. If the Participating States do not contribute to the financing of the Metrology Partnership, contribute only partially or do not respect the time frames for the contributions referred to in Article 5, the Commission may terminate, proportionally reduce or, ***as a last resort*** suspend the Union's financial contribution referred to in Article 3, ***after having used the Mutual Insurance Mechanism as provided for in Article 37(7) of Regulation***

Participating States before the decision to terminate, proportionally reduce or suspend the Union's financial contribution is notified to the Metrology Partnership.

[... establishing Horizon Europe]. The Commission's decision shall not hinder the reimbursement of eligible costs already incurred by the Participating States before the decision to terminate, proportionally reduce or suspend the Union's financial contribution is notified to the Metrology Partnership.

Or. en

Amendment 29

Proposal for a decision

Article 11 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. With the purpose of administrative simplification for the beneficiaries, double audits shall be avoided.

Or. en

Amendment 30

Proposal for a decision

Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(d) take decisions on the selection of the projects to be funded according to the ranking lists following the evaluations of the call of proposals referred to in Article 6(1) point (a).

(d) take decisions on the selection of the projects to be funded according to the ranking lists following the evaluations of the call of proposals referred to in Article 6(1) point (a). ***The conditions for dealing with ex-aequo proposals may include, but shall not be limited to, the criteria of SMEs and gender and geographical diversity.***

Or. en

Amendment 31

Proposal for a decision

Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point d a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(da) adopt measures to attract newcomers, in particular SMEs, universities and research organisations, into the activities and actions of the Metrology Partnership;

Or. en

Amendment 32

Proposal for a decision

Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point f

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(f) approve the participation in the Metrology Partnership of any third country not associated to Horizon Europe, provided that third country ***has concluded an international agreement with the Union***, referred to in Article 1(3).

(f) approve the participation in the Metrology Partnership of any third country not associated to Horizon Europe, provided that third country ***fulfils the conditions*** referred to in Article 1(3).

Or. en

Amendment 33

Proposal for a decision

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. The Steering Group shall be composed of ***12*** members:

2. The Steering Group shall be composed of ***18*** members:

Or. en

Amendment 34

Proposal for a decision

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ba) six representatives from the European scientific community, appointed by the Commission following an open and transparent process ensuring geographical and gender balanced representation, covering the necessary competences and expertise with regard to the relevant technical domains and aiming to make independent science-based recommendations;

Or. en

Amendment 35

Proposal for a decision

Article 15 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. The representatives from the European scientific community shall advise on the scientific priorities to be addressed in the work programme, provide independent advice and analysis on specific issues as requested by the Metrology Partnership Committee, evaluate the results from technology and innovation actions that are funded by the Metrology Partnership and monitor scientific achievements in adjacent sectors.

Or. en

Amendment 36

Proposal for a decision Article 18 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall conduct an interim evaluation and a final evaluation of the Metrology Partnership in the framework of the Horizon Europe evaluations, as specified in Article 47 of Regulation (EU) [Horizon Europe].

Amendment

1. The Commission shall conduct an interim evaluation and a final evaluation of the Metrology Partnership in the framework of the Horizon Europe evaluations, as specified in Article 47 of Regulation (EU) [Horizon Europe], ***with the assistance of external independent experts selected on the basis of a transparent process.***

Or. en

Amendment 37

Proposal for a decision Article 18 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The evaluations shall examine how the Metrology Partnership fulfils its mission and objectives, cover all its activities and evaluate its European added value, effectiveness, efficiency, including its openness and transparency, the relevance of the activities pursued and their coherence and/or complementarity with relevant regional, national and Union policies, including synergies with other parts of Horizon Europe (such as missions, clusters or thematic/specific programmes). The evaluations shall take into account the views of stakeholders, at both European and national level and shall, where relevant, also include an assessment of the long-term scientific, societal, economic, technological impacts of the preceding initiatives. They shall include, where relevant, an assessment of the most effective policy intervention mode for any

Amendment

2. The evaluations shall examine how the Metrology Partnership fulfils its mission and objectives, cover all its activities and evaluate its European added value, effectiveness, efficiency, including its openness and transparency, the relevance of the activities pursued and their coherence and/or complementarity with relevant regional, national and Union policies, including synergies with other parts of Horizon Europe (such as missions, clusters or thematic/specific programmes). ***To that end, the Commission should develop clear, simple and concrete guidelines to ensure different types of synergies (namely the transfer of resources, alternative funding, cumulative funding and integrated funding).*** The evaluations shall take into account the views of stakeholders, at both European and national level and shall, where

future action, as well as the relevance and coherence of any possible renewal of the Metrology Partnership, given the overall policy priorities and the research and innovation support landscape, including the positioning against other initiatives supported through the Horizon Europe framework programme.

relevant, also include an assessment of the long-term scientific, societal, economic, technological impacts of the preceding initiatives. They shall include, where relevant, an assessment of the most effective policy intervention mode for any future action, as well as the relevance and coherence of any possible renewal of the Metrology Partnership, given the overall policy priorities and the research and innovation support landscape, including the positioning against other initiatives supported through the Horizon Europe framework programme. ***By carrying out those evaluations, the Commission shall fully consider the administrative impact on the Metrology Partnership and shall make best efforts to reduce the administrative burden and to ensure that the evaluation process is kept simple and fully transparent.***

Or. en

Amendment 38

Proposal for a decision Article 19 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. EURAMET shall insert information on submitted and funded proposals of the Metrology Partnership in the single database for Horizon Europe as defined in Article 50 of Regulation [... establishing Horizon Europe].

Or. en

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Introduction

As the level of technological sophistication and the challenges faced by humanity increase, so does the need for accurate measurement. To move forward, and to stay on the right track, we need efficient forms of addressing uncertainty. Metrology, the science that deals with all theoretical and practical aspects of measurement, is therefore an essential tool at the service of every field of knowledge. It makes science work. It makes technology work. It makes societies evolve. It allows us to know where we stand, whether we are addressing a pandemic or implementing disruptive changes, such as the Green and Digital transitions.

In its “Proposal on the participation of the Union in the European partnership on Metrology jointly undertaken by several Member States”, the European Commission fully acknowledges the role of Metrology as “an enabler of all scientific and technological fields” and as “a key enabler of all social and economic activity”. The proposed new partnership builds on the successes of the European metrology research programme (EMRP) and the European metrology programme on innovation and research (EMPIR), but it clearly raises the stakes, with the objective of meeting new challenges. Namely, all those that are aligned with other Union priorities, such as the “European Green Deal”, “An Economy that Works for People”, “A Europe fit for the Digital Age”, “Protecting our European way of life”, “A stronger Europe in the world” and “A new push for European democracy”.

The European Metrology Partnership arrives with the clear ambition of ensuring that by 2030 metrology solutions in Europe are at least equal to the top global performers, which are the United States, China and India. It also brings a new set of recommendations, resulting from an interim evaluation of EMPIR conducted in 2017 by an independent external expert group.

These include strengthening the strategic component of Metrology, with a much higher level of engagement of the national metrology institutes with other stakeholder communities, reinforcing the role of stakeholders such as universities and industry, and proactively developing metrology applications for emerging scientific areas and with a better focus on key societal challenges.

This rapporteur agrees with the Commission’s diagnosis and ambitions. Therefore, the set of amendments included in this report follows the same lines, adding specific recommendations with the hope of improving what was already a good proposal.

Principles

This report is guided by the principle that, because Metrology is a science that benefits all fields of knowledge and affects the society and the economy, it should be more **open, transparent** and accessible to all stakeholders. A public-public partnership should not limit its scope to centralized national projects. On the contrary, the national metrology institutes shall actively seek cooperation with other stakeholders, especially with universities and the industry, notably through open calls for projects and a policy of proactive disclosure of relevant information. The partnership should also **boost the dialogue with society**, its actors and its citizens and to this

end it should increase activities awareness campaigns and communication activities, but also the activities meant to strengthen the skills and the competences. An **alignment** between the projects and the European Union Priorities is equally important, especially with the Green and Digital transitions. The establishment of **synergies** and complementarities with Union's objectives, policies and programmes, notably with regional funds, Invest EU and the Recovery and Resilience funds will have to be possible in a simple and effective manner. The partnership should promote and reward scientific excellence and support the uptake and systematic use of research and innovation results. To this end, the new steering group shall include representatives of relevant stakeholders and shall ensure a **reinforced link with science** of the Metrology Partnership's activities. This interaction shall be promoted downstream, as suggested by the Commission, through the development of relevant Metrology applications, but also upstream, making good use of enhanced scientific advice of the Steering Group to provide input to the Metrology Partnership Committee.

Key measures:

In order to fulfil the mentioned priorities, we have established five main lines of action: **Openness and Transparency, Enhanced dialogue with Society, Simplification, Alignment and Synergies, Reinforced link with Science.**

1) **Openness and Transparency:**

- all actions and activities shall be selected following open, transparent and competitive calls for proposals; the same criteria should apply to the selection of the European metrology networks;
- newcomers, in particular SMEs, universities and research organisations, should be better included into the activities;
- the conditions for dealing with ex-aequo proposals may include further criteria to award involvement of SMEs, the respect of gender balance, and the widest geographical diversity;

2) **Enhanced dialogue with Society:**

- the visibility of the calls for proposals shall be increased, and the Metrology Partnership should publish them in the appropriate databases as all the other Horizon Europe's initiatives;
- the activities of the partnership and the results of its projects should be promoted in a way to increase participation and geographical diversity, and to this end there should be a focus on specific activities to raise awareness and promote educational and dissemination activities and campaigns;
- the Partnership is well positioned to contribute to reduce the specific skills gap across the Union and to this end should actively engage with the relevant stakeholders to establish skilling and re-skilling training opportunities and prepare the green and digital transitions;

3) **Simplification**

- the administrative impact should always be considered, in particular in the course of the recurrent evaluations which must be kept simple and transparent; the

- partnership should always aim at reducing the administrative burden;
- the administrative costs should be aligned with Horizon Europe and not exceed 5% of the total budget;

4) **Alignment and Synergies**

- with the Union strategic priorities, especially those related to the European Green and Data Strategies;
- with all relevant programmes and funds, namely regional (ERDF, ESF+, EMFF, EAFRD), but also the ones stemming from the Recovery and Resilience Facility, which may also be used to complement the national contributions;
- with the other partnerships and Joint Undertakings, missions and instruments of Horizon Europe;
- to favour effective synergies, the Commission should develop clear, simple and concrete guidelines to favour the creation of different types of synergies (i.e. transfer of resources, alternative funding, cumulative funding and integrated funding);

5) **Reinforced link with Science:**

- scientific excellence must be guaranteed through the respect and promotion of academic freedom and the highest standards of scientific integrity;
- state-of-the-art science and fundamental research findings must be considered in the implementation of all its activities and the partnership shall support the uptake and a more systematic use of research and innovation results generated within the Union;
- the Steering Group of the Metrology Partnership lacks of a scientific active presence and the report proposes to increase number of members to 18, including 6 representatives from the European scientific community;
- the representatives from the European scientific community shall be able to provide independent advice and analysis on the scientific priorities to be addressed in the work programme and monitor scientific progress made in adjacent sectors;
- in order to better link fundamental research with applied one and inspire a proper innovation pipeline, promoting collaborative applications both up and downstream, the Metrology Partnership should seek more systemic synergy with collaborative research work programmes and with the European Research Council;
- ultimately, also the Metrology Partnership should cooperate to the efforts improving talent circulation and help tackle brain drain.