Council of the European Union

Brussels, 22 May 2026
(OR. en)

9509/26

Interinstitutional Files:
2025/0543 (COD)
2025/0544 (CNS)

RECH 233
COMPET 592
IND 348
MI 504
EDUC 171
TELECOM 247
ENER 261
ENV 533
CLIMA 273
AGRI 398
TRANS 326
SAN 323
BIOTECH 59
CADREFIN 230
CODEC 961

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	*Preparation of the Council (Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)) on 28-29 May 2026* Horizon Europe Package: Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2028-2034 a) Framework Programme and its rules for participation and dissemination b) Specific programme implementing Horizon Europe *- Policy debate*

Delegations will find attached a Presidency steering note with a view to the policy debate on the Horizon Europe package at the Competitiveness Council on 29 May 2026.

ANNEX

HORIZON EUROPE PACKAGE: FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION 2028-2034

POLICY DEBATE

Since the publication last 16 July 2025 of the Commission proposals for the Horizon Europe Framework Programme 2028-2034 and for the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe, the Council and its preparatory bodies have carried out extensive work on the package. Under the Danish and Cyprus Presidencies, the Working Party on Research examined several Presidency compromise texts covering both legislative proposals. In parallel, the Competitiveness Council held dedicated policy debates at its meetings on 30 September 2025, 9 December 2025 and 27 February 2026 on specific thematic areas.

As a result of this intensive work, substantial progress has been achieved and large parts of the package are now considered stable. Broad convergence has emerged on the structure of the programme, its objectives, the architecture and content of the four pillars and on the majority of the provisions concerning participation and implementation.

Despite the progress made, critical issues on a limited number of politically sensitive elements remain, notably:

- strategic priority-setting, including the alignment between Horizon Europe and the European Competitiveness Fund;
- European Partnerships;
- widening;
- bottom-up collaborative research and innovation.

Against this background, the Presidency would like to hold a policy debate during the upcoming COMPET(Research) Council meeting next 29 May to gather valuable political guidance for the continuation of the negotiations and help identify possible landing zones for an agreement towards the end of the Cyprus Presidency term.

What political guidance would you provide for the continuation of negotiations and which elements of the above mentioned four issues do you consider most critical for reaching agreement on the Horizon Europe package, by the end of the semester?