

THE CULTURE, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, TRADE AND TOURISM COMMITTEE CONVENING IN JOINT SESSION

FINAL DOCUMENT, PRODUCED AND PUBLISHED PURSUANT TO RULE OF PROCEDURE 127.2 OF THE CHAMBER, CONCERNING:

Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) 2021-2027: Boosting the Innovation Talent and Capacity of Europe (COM(2019) 330 final)

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (recast) (COM(2019)331 final)

Approved 12 February 2020

Convening in joint session, the Chamber of Deputies' Committee on Culture, Science and Education and the Committee on Productive Activities, Commerce and Tourism,

Having examined, pursuant to Rule 127 of the Chamber's Rules of Procedure, the Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) 2021-2027: Boosting the Innovation Talent and Capacity of Europe (COM(2019)330 final) and the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (recast) (COM(2019)331 final),

Whereas

The proposals are part of a package of European Union initiatives to support research and innovation to enable the economies and industries of the EU to compete effectively with the most dynamic economic areas and countries of the world, and with nations that invest heavily in technological research and innovation;

Horizon Europe (2021-2027) is of particular pertinence to the matter in question in as much as it provides for a substantial increase, from 80 billion to 100 billion euros, in the size of the financial envelope with respect to the financial envelope allocated under the current Horizon Europe (2020) programme. In addition, the European Parliament has proposed appropriating additional funding of up to 120 billion euros;

No less pertinent is the need to ensure that the operational life of the Strategic Innovation Agenda and of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology continues beyond the financial period 2021-2027 so that beneficiaries may enjoy certainty with respect to the resources they have at their disposal and the priorities they should pursue;

The new Strategic Innovation Agenda is intended not only to enhance synergies and avoid the unnecessary duplication of work, whether done by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) or by the European Innovation Council (EIC), but also to boost the innovation

capacities of European educational institutes and expand the number of knowledge and innovation communities (KICs), three of which are based in Italy;

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a European Union body set up in 2008, has the potential to become pivotal to the activities carried out by knowledge and innovation communities by entering into partnership arrangements with private companies, public bodies, universities and other seats of learning and research. If successfully developed along these lines, the EIC promises to become not only a useful means of identifying which sectors of the economy require attention, but also a tool for the formation of new knowledge and innovation communities,

Express

A FAVOURABLE OPINION

With the following remarks:

The Italian Government must continuously and actively participate in the ongoing negotiations regarding the multiannual financial framework 2021-2027 and Horizon Europe 2021-2027, its aim always being:

- 1) To support the European Parliament's proposal to increase, to the extent permitted by its budget, the resources to be appropriated to Horizon Europe in order to energise EU policymaking in favour of research and innovation. Those EU Member States, including Italy, that are experiencing particular difficulties in this area would thus be able to procure all the resources necessary for achieving the goals envisaged in the programme and for improving their international competitiveness;
- 2) Wherever possible, to promote and encourage knowledge and innovation communities in Italy by leveraging the sources of excellence to be found in our country;
- 3) To make sure that certain countries are not afforded preferential treatment in the allocation of resources, especially if the countries in question already enjoy greater budgetary latitude, and to take steps to protect the interests of our country, which is the third largest contributor to the European Union;
- 4) To urge Italian universities and research institutes, along with businesses and the relevant public bodies, to take steps to secure the funding envisaged in the programme and to avail themselves of the support of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology by providing the necessary details and information;
- 5) To encourage the adoption of EU digital policies and legislation that include corrective and preventive measures based on the analysis of collected data relating to the psychological, social and behavioural effects on active and passive users of the expansion of artificial intelligence, ubiquitous connectivity, and the arrival of cyber-physical systems in the daily life of the public, with particular regard to the developmental age;
- 6) To harness the tangible and intangible elements of Europe's cultural heritage to promote cultural diversity, freedom of expression, social cohesion and European citizenship;
- 7) To preserve and disseminate the tangible and intangible elements of Europe's cultural heritage by digital means and through initiatives that make use of the latest digital technologies;
- 8) To support the adoption of digital technologies in education, including in schools, which must be equipped with suitably advanced digital equipment and infrastructure, beginning with high-capacity broadband with a connection speed of at least 100 Mbps;
- 9) To enhance users' knowledge both of the risks threatening their online privacy and of the basic steps they need to take both to protect their data and, with particular reference to public offices, SMEs and start-ups, to secure themselves against cyber-attacks;

10) To incentivise local authorities to adopt “smart” solutions in furtherance of policies that favour social and technological innovation.