P8_TA(2017)0249

Participation of the Union in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) ***1


(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

– having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2016)0662),

– having regard to Article 294(2) and Articles 185 and 188 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C8-0421/2016),

– 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 Committee of 26 January 20171,

– having regard to the provisional agreement approved by the committee responsible under Rule 69f(4) of its Rules of Procedure and the undertaking given by the Council representative by letter of 26 April 2017 to approve Parliament’s position, in accordance with Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

– having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,

– having regard to the report of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and the opinion of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (A8-0112/2017),

1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;

2. Takes note of the Commission statement annexed to this resolution;

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.
Position of the European Parliament adopted at first reading on 13 June 2017 with a view to the adoption of Decision (EU) 2017/... of the European Parliament and of the Council on the participation of the Union in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) jointly undertaken by several Member States

(As an agreement was reached between Parliament and Council, Parliament's position corresponds to the final legislative act, Decision (EU) 2017/1324.)
ANNEX TO THE LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

Statement of the Commission on financial guarantees for the PRIMA Implementation Structure

1. In relation to the PRIMA initiative, the EU Financial Regulation in its Article 58(1)(c)(vi) stipulates that the Commission may entrust implementation of the Union budget to a body governed by private law with a public service mission (Implementation Structure – IS). Such a body must provide adequate financial guarantees.

2. In order to respect sound financial management of EU funds, these guarantees should cover, without limitation of scope or amounts, any debt of the IS towards the Union related to all implementation tasks as foreseen in the Delegation Agreement. The Commission normally expects the guarantors to accept the joint and several liability for debts of the IS.

3. However, on the basis of a detailed risk assessment, in particular if the outcome of the ex-ante pillar assessment carried out to the IS in line with Article 61 of the Financial Regulation is deemed to be adequate, the Commission Authorising Officer in charge of PRIMA will envisage that:

   – Taking into account the principle of proportionality, the financial guarantees requested from the IS may be limited to the maximum amount of the Union contribution.

   – In accordance, the liability of each guarantor may be proportionate to the share of their contribution to PRIMA.

The guarantors may agree on the modalities in which they will cover this liability in their respective letters of declaration on liabilities.