



2018/0224(COD)

13.7.2018

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination (COM(2018)0435 – C8-0252/2018 – 2018/0224(COD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Elsi Katainen

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SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The rapporteur welcomes the Horizon Europe Programme proposal by the Commission and the increased funding especially for the Food and Natural Resources' innovations. The Horizon Europe Programme is a key element for boosting the competitiveness of the EU globally and supporting the economic growth of the EU. Horizon Europe, directed to support scientific breakthroughs and innovative products and services, will help Europe to tackle the current challenges, such as climate change, and at the same time, it creates business opportunities.

The allocated funding of 10 billion EUR is much needed to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals such as SG 2 - No Hunger. The rapporteur insists maintaining the funding at least at the proposed level of 10 billion EUR. However, if the overall budget of the Horizon Europe is to be increased the Food and Natural Resources cluster funding has to increase proportionally.

The rapporteur thinks that the AGRI Committee can offer the most valuable contribution on the fifth cluster "Food and Natural Resources", which specifically addresses agriculture-related issues. Therefore, the rapporteur would like to propose adding the word 'agriculture' to the title. The rapporteur would like to remind that the clusters of the second pillar "Global challenges and Industrial competitiveness" are not separate but contribute all to each other's specific areas. In addition, the rapporteur underlines the importance of the basic research funded under the first pillar "Open Science" as it also plays an important role in the process of creating innovations for bio-circular economy, which is a step forward from circular economy.

The seven specified areas of contribution in the cluster five cover the main elements contributing to innovations regarding food and natural resources. The rapporteur would still like to remind that the limiting the scope only to the sea and oceans as proposed on the area No. 4 leaves the fresh waters out of the scope. The rapporteur would like to add fresh waters to the context, as they are an important part of the aquatic territorial. The rapporteur welcomes the inclusion of the forestry in the areas of intervention, as forestry is a great example of the promotion of the bio circular economy.

A multiannual Strategic Planning, in which the synergy with other EU programmes must be taken into account, will ensure the implementation of Horizon Europe's programme-level objectives in an integrated manner. The rapporteur finds it crucially important that the synergies are guaranteed and for example in the fifth cluster the specific objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy should be included. She would still like underline that even the objectives should be harmonised the budgets allocated should remain separate in between different policy programs.

The rapporteur would like to propose a mission for the second pillar. The proposed mission is "Carbon neutral, resilient, nutritious and zero-waste food systems by 2035". This mission can be supported by other clusters and has a great spin off potential to create innovations in various sectors. The Europe needs to find alternative ways to shift towards climate-smart agriculture and sustainable use of natural resources. One key element is to reduce and eventually cut off waste and efficiently use the side-streams and waste from industrial production chains.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point 2 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

(e) cluster 'Food and Natural Resources';

Amendment

(e) cluster '**Agriculture**, Food and Natural Resources';

Or. en

Justification

Given the high importance of agriculture in this cluster, the title should also reflect this fact.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 2 – point b – point 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) EUR 10 000 000 000 for cluster 'Food and Natural Resources';

Amendment

(5) EUR 10 000 000 000 for cluster '**Agriculture**, Food and Natural Resources';

Or. en

Justification

The budget for Cluster 5 should at least stay as proposed; in case the budget for Pillar II is increased, the share for the area of intervention 'Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Areas' should be increased accordingly (currently 19% of the Pillar II).