REPORT


Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Rapporteur: Cristian-Silviu Bușoi
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 Council decision amending Decision 2008/376/EC on the adoption of the Research Programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel and on the multiannual technical guidelines for this programme

(Consultation)

The European Parliament,

– having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(2020)0320),
– having regard to the second paragraph of Article 2 of Protocol No 37, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, on the financial consequences of the expiry of the ECSC Treaty and on the Research Fund for Coal and Steel, pursuant to which the Council consulted Parliament (C9-0214/2020),
– having regard to Rule 82 of its Rules of Procedure,
– having regard to the report of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (A9-0102/2021),

1. Approves the Commission proposal as amended;

2. Calls on the Commission to alter its proposal accordingly, in accordance with Article 293(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Article 106a of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community;

3. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament if it intends to depart from the text approved by Parliament;

4. Asks the Council to consult Parliament again if it intends to substantially amend the Commission proposal;

5. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and the Commission.

Amendment 1

Proposal for a decision
Recital 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text proposed by the Commission</th>
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<tr>
<td>(1) On 5 October 2016, the Union ratified the Paris Agreement. This</td>
<td>(1) On 5 October 2016, the Union ratified the Paris Agreement, adopted</td>
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</table>
international agreement invites parties who have ratified it to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change limiting global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees. Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which entered into force on 4 November 2016. This international agreement invites parties who have ratified it to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change holding the increase in the global temperature to well below 2 degrees and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Amendment 2
Proposal for a decision
Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) It is necessary therefore to align the RFCS Research Programme objectives with international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, as well as with the scientific, technological and political objectives of the Union on climate neutrality by 2050.

Amendment

(6) It is necessary therefore to align the RFCS Research Programme objectives with international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, with the best available scientific evidence, in particular the findings reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as well as the technological and political objectives of the Union on climate neutrality by 2050.

Amendment 3
Proposal for a decision
Recital 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(6a) The Research Programme should pay particular attention to research on raw materials deriving from coal wastes given their high potential for developing


1a Article 2.1.a of the Paris Agreement.
highly advanced products in strategic value chains, such as battery anodes or carbon fibres, and in the chemistry industry.

Amendment 4
Proposal for a decision
Article 1 – point 1
Decision 2008/376/EC
Article 2 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

The Research Programme shall provide support for collaborative research in the coal and steel sectors. The Research Programme shall also provide support for clean steel breakthrough technologies leading to near zero-carbon steel making projects and research projects for managing the just transition of formerly operating coal mines or coal mines in the process of closure and related infrastructure in line with the Just Transition Mechanism and in compliance with Article 4(2) of Council Decision 2003/76/EC. The Research Programme shall be consistent with the political, social, economic, climate, environmental, scientific, and technological objectives of the Union, and shall complement the activities carried out in the Member States and within the existing EU research programmes, in particular the framework programme for research, technological development and demonstration activities (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Research Framework Programme’);

Amendment

The Research Programme shall provide support to all relevant stakeholders, including to small and medium-sized enterprises, for collaborative research in the coal and steel sectors. The Research Programme shall also provide support for clean steel breakthrough technologies leading to near zero-carbon steel making projects as well as research projects, including large industrial research projects, for managing the just transition of formerly operating coal mines or coal mines in the process of closure and related infrastructure in line with the Just Transition Mechanism and in compliance with Article 4(2) of Council Decision 2003/76/EC. The Research Programme shall be consistent with the political, social, economic, climate, environmental, scientific, and technological objectives of the Union, and shall complement the activities carried out in the Member States and within the existing Union research programmes, in particular Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Research Framework Programme’). The Research Programme shall in particular be consistent with the Paris Agreement.

Amendment 5
Proposal for a decision  
**Article 1 – point 1**  
Decision 2008/376/EC  
Article 2 – subparagraph 2 a (new)

**Text proposed by the Commission**

The Research Programme shall support research activities, including demonstration projects, bringing technologies closer to the market aimed at the objectives defined for coal in Section 3 and for steel in Section 4.

**Amendment**

Amendment 6

Proposal for a decision  
**Article 1 – point 2**  
Decision 2008/376/EC  
Article 4 – paragraph 1

**Text proposed by the Commission**

1. Research projects shall support the transition towards a climate-neutral Union economy by 2050, with the objective to support the phasing out of fossil fuels, to develop alternative activities on former mine sites and avoid or restore environmental damage of coal mines in the process of closure, formerly operating coal mines and their surroundings. Projects shall in particular focus on:

**Amendment**

1. Research projects shall *contribute to the achievement of the Union 2030 climate targets and* support *industry in the process of* the transition towards a climate-neutral Union economy by 2050, with the objective to support the phasing out of fossil fuels, to develop alternative activities on former mine or *coal power plant* sites and avoid or restore environmental damage of coal mines in the process of closure, formerly operating coal mines and their surroundings. *Without prejudice to Article 191 TFEU,* projects shall in particular focus on:

**Amendment 7**

Proposal for a decision  
**Article 1 – point 2**  
Decision 2008/376/EC  
Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point a

**Text proposed by the Commission**

(a) development and testing of carbon

**Amendment**

(a) development and testing of carbon
dioxide capture, use and storage technologies;  
dioxide capture, use and storage technologies related to coal use, including carbon recycling in fuels and materials, with a view to promoting the circular economy;

Amendment 8

Proposal for a decision  
Article 1 – point 2  
Decision 2008/376/EC  
Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission
(b) use of geothermal energy on former coal sites;

Amendment
(b) development of clean energy in former coal sites, paying particular attention to energy efficiency and security of supply, including the exploitation of geothermal resources, energy storage, e-fuels, and hydrogen from renewable sources;

Amendment 9

Proposal for a decision  
Article 1 – point 2  
Decision 2008/376/EC  
Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission
(b a) conversion of coal heating and cooling infrastructure, such as district heating and cooling networks and industrial processes, to renewable heating and cooling alternatives such as geothermal energy;

Amendment

Amendment 10

Proposal for a decision  
Article 1 – point 2
Decision 2008/376/EC
Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point c

**Text proposed by the Commission**

(c) non-energetic uses and the production of raw materials from mining wastes and residues from formerly operating coal mines or **those in the closure** process, duly assessing that their climate, environmental and health impact is minimised and lower than alternative solutions;

**Amendment**

(c) non-energetic uses and **on the** production of raw materials from mining wastes and residues **derived** from formerly operating coal mines or **from mines in process of closure**, duly assessing that their climate, environmental and health impact is minimised and lower than alternative solutions **in line with the circular economy approach**;

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**Amendment 11**

Proposal for a decision
Article 1 – point 2
Decision 2008/376/EC
Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point e

**Text proposed by the Commission**

(e) promoting the development of efficient re-skilling and up-skilling programmes for labour affected by a coal phase out. This includes research on training and re-skilling of labour force employed or previously employed in the coal sector.

**Amendment**

(e) **assessing the impact on employment in local communities and regions affected by the phasing out of coal and** promoting the development of a regional concept for economic development, job creation and efficient re-skilling and up-skilling programmes for labour affected in those regions. This includes research on training and re-skilling of labour force employed or previously employed in the coal sector **in support of coal regions in transition**.

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**Amendment 12**

Proposal for a decision
Article 1 – point 3
Decision 2008/376/EC
Article 5 – paragraph 2
Research projects shall focus on diseases related to mining activities with the aim of improving the health of people living in coal regions in transition. Research projects shall also ensure protective measures during the closure of mines and in formerly operating mines.

Amendment

Proposal for a decision
Article 1 – point 4
Decision 2008/376/EC
Article 6 – title

Text proposed by the Commission

Minimising the environmental impacts of coal mines in transition

Amendment

Preventing and minimising the environmental impacts of the coal sector in transition

Amendment 14

Proposal for a decision
Article 1 – point 4
Decision 2008/376/EC
Article 6 – paragraph 2 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Preference shall be given to projects that envisage one or more of the following:

Amendment

2. Preference shall be given to projects based on innovative technologies or the innovative connection of technologies that envisage one or more of the following:

Amendment 15

Proposal for a decision
Article 1 – point 4
Decision 2008/376/EC
Article 6 – paragraph 2 – point c

(c) managing and re-using mining waste, fly ash and desulphurisation products from coal mines in the process of closure and formerly operating coal mines, accompanied, where relevant, by other forms of waste;

Amendment

(c) managing and re-using mining waste, fly ash and desulphurisation products from coal mines and coal power plants in the process of closure and formerly operating coal mines and coal power plants, accompanied, where relevant, by other forms of waste;

Amendment 16

Proposal for a decision
Article 1 – point 4
Decision 2008/376/EC
Article 6 – paragraph 2 – point f

(f) restoring the environment of former installations or installations that are in the process of closure that used coal, and their surroundings, notably water, land, soils and biodiversity;

Amendment

(f) restoring the environment of former coal-related installations or coal-related installations that are in the process of closure, and their surroundings, notably water, land, soils and biodiversity;

Amendment 17

Proposal for a decision
Article 1 – point 4
Decision 2008/376/EC
Article 6 – paragraph 2 – point g a (new)

(ga) developing a regional concept for diversification of economic activities for local development and the creation of green and quality jobs with an adapted transformation of the employment structure and skills adjustment.
Amendment 18

Proposal for a decision
Article 1 – point 6
Decision 2008/376/EC
Article 8 – paragraph 1 – introductory part

_text proposed by the Commission_

Research and technological development (RTD) shall aim to develop, demonstrate and improve near zero-carbon steel production processes with a view to raising product quality and increasing productivity. Substantially reducing emissions, energy consumption, the carbon footprint and other environmental impacts as well as conserving resources, shall form an integral part of the activities sought. Research projects shall address one or more of the following areas:

Amendment

Research and technological development (RTD) shall aim to develop, demonstrate and improve near zero-carbon steel production processes with a view to raising product quality and increasing productivity, _in close synergy with companies operating in the sector_. Substantially reducing emissions, energy consumption, the carbon footprint and other environmental impacts, _through objectively verifiable tools, parameters and data_, as well as conserving resources, shall form an integral part of the activities sought. Research projects shall address one or more of the following areas:

Amendment 19

Proposal for a decision
Article 1 – point 6
Decision 2008/376/EC
Article 8 – paragraph 1 – point g

_text proposed by the Commission_

(g) innovative technologies and solutions for the iron- and steel making processes _promoting cross-sector_ activities, demonstration projects integrating zero-carbon energy production or contributing to a clean hydrogen economy.’;

Amendment

(g) innovative technologies and solutions for the iron- and steel making processes _facilitating cross-sectoral_ activities, _synergies, industrial clustering and symbiosis, to enable increased circularity_ demonstration projects integrating zero-carbon energy production or contributing to a clean hydrogen economy.’;

Amendment 20
Proposal for a decision
Article 1 – point 7
Decision 2008/376/EC
Article 9 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission
(b) improvement of steel properties such as mechanical and physical properties, suitability for further processing, suitability for various applications and various working conditions;

Amendment
(b) improvement of steel properties such as mechanical and physical properties, suitability for further processing, suitability for various applications and various working conditions, with special attention to recycled steel;

Amendment 21

Proposal for a decision
Article 1 – point 7
Decision 2008/376/EC
Article 9 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission
(c) prolonging service life, in particular by improving the resistance of steels, steel structures to heat and corrosion, mechanical and thermal fatigue and/or other deteriorating effects;

Amendment
(c) prolonging service life, enabling design for circularity, including modularity, and material efficiency, in particular by improving the resistance of steels, steel structures to heat and corrosion, mechanical and thermal fatigue and/or other deteriorating effects;

Amendment 22

Proposal for a decision
Article 1 – point 7
Decision 2008/376/EC
Article 9 – paragraph 1 – point g

Text proposed by the Commission
(g) high-performance steels for applications like mobility, including sustainability, eco-design methods, retrofitting, lightweight design and/or safety solutions;

Amendment
(g) high-performance steels for applications like mobility, including sustainability, eco-design methods, retrofitting, lightweight design and/or safety solution, such as high-strength
steels;

Amendment 23
Proposal for a decision
Article 1 – point 8
Decision 2008/376/EC
Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission
(a) techniques for recycling obsolete steel and by-product from various sources and improvement of the quality of steel scrap;

Amendment
(a) techniques for recycling and upcycling of obsolete steel and by-product from various sources and improvement of the quality of steel scrap, with special attention to avoiding downgrading of steel quality due to contamination with other metals, such as copper;

Amendment 24
Proposal for a decision
Article 1 – point 8
Decision 2008/376/EC
Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission
(b) treatment of waste and recovery of valuable secondary raw materials, including slags, inside and outside the steel plant;

Amendment
(b) treatment of waste and recovery of valuable secondary raw materials, including slags, inside and outside the steel plant, as well as re-use of secondary raw materials, residues and by-products from other industries, such as biomass, for steel making and alloying;

Amendment 25
Proposal for a decision
Article 1 – point 8
Decision 2008/376/EC
Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission
(d) design of steel grades and

Amendment
(d) design of steel grades and
assembled structures to facilitate the easy recovery of steel for recycling or re-use;
assembled structures to facilitate improved scrap handling and disassembly at end-of-life, to enable the easy recovery, re-use and recycling of steel and other materials;

Amendment 26

Proposal for a decision
Article 1 – point 9
Decision 2008/376/EC
Article 10a – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment
(ba) improving workforce management with predictive models for workforce demand and reallocation.
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Commission proposal

The Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS) supports research and innovation projects in the areas of coal and steel. Every year around €40 million are made available to universities, research centres and private companies to fund projects. The purpose of this proposal is to amend the Council Decision 2008/376/EC in order to align it with the scientific, technological and political objectives of the Community according to Article 2 of Council Decision 2008/376/EC itself.

This Commission’s proposal aims at bringing the RFCS Research Programme in line with the Paris Agreement, the European Green Deal, the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan, the New Circular Economy Action Plan and the New Industrial Strategy for Europe.

The proposal has in particular the following objectives:

- Updating the coal research objectives in line with the Commission’s climate, energy and environmental targets. It also aims at achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and the ‘do no harm principle’ enshrined in the European Green Deal;
- Supporting a fair and just transition for coal regions in line with the principles of the Just Transition Mechanism;
- Revising the steel research objectives in order to prioritise near zero carbon steelmaking technologies, applications and use;
- Providing for the possibility of implementing a part of the RFCS Research Programme through co-programmed European Partnerships;
- Replacing a special regime for experts under the research framework programme by the general rules on remunerated external experts laid down in the Financial Regulation.

Position of the Rapporteur

The Rapporteur, who is not dealing with this report in his personal capacity but as the Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, emphasises the importance of the Fund to support the steel and coal sectors in their transition. The Fund should help to ensure that no region concerned by this transition is left behind and that the steel sector remains competitive.

At this stage, the Rapporteur would like to point out the following remarks, which the Committee, and at a later stage the Parliament, could take into consideration when debating and deciding on this proposal:

- It is good that the RFCS revision encourages greater use of private and public investment in research, innovation and new technologies with the aim to develop solutions for a more competitive and sustainable industry;
- Research projects would have to contribute to sustainable decarbonisation of the steel industry, helping to position the EU as a leading provider of low-carbon products, services and advanced technologies in steelmaking;
- The Research Programme should pay careful attention to economic, environmental and social objectives. This is to ensure sufficient support not only for commercial but also to public sectors in regions undergoing transition;
• The RFCS revision should encourage greater use of technologies aimed at promoting the circular economy;
• It is important to assess the impact on the employment in regions affected by a coal phase out and at the same time to promote opportunities for future economic development and creation of jobs in those regions.
## Title
Amending Decision 2008/376/EC on the adoption of the Research Programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel and on the multiannual technical guidelines for this programme

### References

### Date of consultation / request for consent
27.7.2020

### Committee responsible
**Date announced in plenary**
ITRE 14.9.2020

### Committees asked for opinions
**Date announced in plenary**
- BUDG 14.9.2020
- EMPL 14.9.2020
- ENVI 14.9.2020
- REGI 14.9.2020

### Not delivering opinions
**Date of decision**
- BUDG 3.9.2020
- EMPL 21.9.2020
- ENVI 10.9.2020
- REGI 7.9.2020

### Rapporteurs
**Date appointed**
Cristian-Silviu Buşoi 10.9.2020

### Discussed in committee
14.1.2021

### Date adopted
18.3.2021

### Result of final vote
| +: | 60 |
| --: | 14 |
| 0: | 1 |

### Members present for the final vote

### Substitutes present for the final vote
Matteo Adinolfi, Andrus Ansip, Damien Carême, Jakop G. Dalunde, Cyrus Engerer, Cornelia Ernst, Elena Lizzi, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Sven Schulze, Nils Torvalds

### Date tabled
30.3.2021
# FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

<table>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PPE</strong></td>
<td>Français-Xavier Bellamy, Hildegard Bentele, Tom Berendsen, Vasile Blaga, Cristian-Silviu Bușoi, Jerzy Buzek, Maria da Graça Carvalho, Pilar del Castillo Vera, Christian Ehler, Seán Kelly, Andrius Kubilius, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Eva Maydell, Angelika Niebler, Aldo Patriciello, Sven Schulze, Maria Spyraki, Riho Terras, Henna Virkkunen, Pernille Weiss</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>S&amp;D</strong></td>
<td>Carlo Calenda, Josianne Cutajar, Cyrus Engerer, Niels Fuglsang, Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Jens Geier, Nicolás González Casares, Robert Hajšel, Ivo Hristov, Romana Jerković, Eva Kaili, Miatopra Kumpula-Natri, Dan Nica, Tsvetelina Penkova, Patrizia Toia, Carlos Zorrinho</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Renew</strong></td>
<td>Andrus Ansip, Nicola Beer, Nicola Danti, Martina Dlabajová, Valter Flego, Claudia Gamon, Bart Groothuis, Christophe Grudler, Ivars Ijabs, Mauri Pekkarinen, Nils Torvalds</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ID</strong></td>
<td>Matteo Adinolfi, Paolo Borchia, Elena Lizzi, Thierry Mariani, Joëlle Mélin, Isabella Tovaglieri</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ECR</strong></td>
<td>Izabela-Helena Kloc, Zdzisław Krasnodębski, Jessica Stegrud, Beata Szydło, Grzegorz Tobiszowski, Evžen Tošenovský</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NI</strong></td>
<td>Andrea Caroppo</td>
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<td>Markus Buchheit</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Verts/ALE</strong></td>
<td>Michael Bloss, Damien Carême, Ignazio Corrao, Ciarán Cuffe, Jakop G. Dalunde, Henrike Hahn, Ville Niinistö, Mikuláš Peksa, Marie Toussaint</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Left</strong></td>
<td>Manuel Bompard, Cornelia Ernst, Sira Rego</td>
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<td><strong>NI</strong></td>
<td>Clara Ponsati Obiols</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ECR</strong></td>
<td>Robert Roos</td>
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**Key to symbols:**
+ : in favour  
- : against  
0 : abstention