



2023/0199(COD)

6.9.2023

AMENDMENTS

1 - 166

Draft opinion

Rovana Plumb

Establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform ('STEP') and amending Directive 2003/87/EC, Regulations (EU) 2021/1058, (EU) 2021/1056, (EU) 2021/1057, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) 2021/1060, (EU) 2021/523, (EU) 2021/695, (EU) 2021/697 and (EU) 2021/241

Proposal for a regulation

(COM(2023)0335 – C9-0209/2023 – 2023/0199(COD))

AM_Com_LegOpinion

Amendment 1
Mauri Pekkarinen

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) The EU industry has proven its inbuilt resilience but is being challenged. High inflation, labour shortages, post-COVID supply chains disruptions, rising interest rates, and spikes in energy costs and input prices are weighing on the competitiveness of the EU industry. This is paired with strong, but not always fair, competition on the fragmented global market. The EU has already put forward several initiatives to support its industry, such as the Green Deal Industrial Plan,⁴⁰ the Critical Raw Materials Act⁴¹, the Net Zero Industry Act⁴², the new Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State aid,⁴³ and REPowerEU.⁴⁴ While these solutions provide fast and targeted support, the EU needs a more structural answer to the investment needs of its industries, safeguarding cohesion and the level playing field in the Single Market and to reduce the EU's strategic dependencies.

⁴⁰ Communication on A Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age, COM(2023) 62 final.

⁴¹ COM(2023) 160 final

⁴² COM(2023) 161 final

⁴³ Communication on a Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State Aid

Amendment

(2) The EU industry has proven its inbuilt resilience but is being challenged. High inflation, labour shortages, post-COVID supply chains disruptions, rising interest rates, and spikes in energy costs and input prices are weighing on the competitiveness of the EU industry. This is paired with strong, but not always fair, competition on the fragmented global market. The EU has already put forward several initiatives to support its industry, such as the Green Deal Industrial Plan,⁴⁰ the Critical Raw Materials Act⁴¹, the Net Zero Industry Act⁴², the new Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State aid,⁴³ and REPowerEU.⁴⁴ While these solutions provide fast and targeted support, the EU needs a more structural answer to the investment needs of its industries, safeguarding cohesion and the level playing field in the Single Market and to reduce the EU's strategic dependencies.

The adaptation of new, different state aid frameworks has facilitated the potential allocation of substantial volumes of state aid. Under more adverse circumstances, this situation possesses the capacity to undermine the efficacy of the internal market.

⁴⁰ Communication on A Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age, COM(2023) 62 final.

⁴¹ COM(2023) 160 final

⁴² COM(2023) 161 final

⁴³ Communication on a Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State Aid

measures (OJ C 101, 17.3.2023, p. 3).

⁴⁴ Regulation (EU) 2023/435 as regards REPowerEU (OJ L 63, 28.2.2023, p. 1).

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⁴⁴ Regulation (EU) 2023/435 as regards REPowerEU (OJ L 63, 28.2.2023, p. 1).

Or. en

Amendment 2

Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) The EU industry has proven its inbuilt resilience but is being challenged. High inflation, labour shortages, post-COVID supply chains disruptions, rising interest rates, and spikes in energy costs and input prices are weighing on the competitiveness of the EU industry. This is paired with strong, but not always fair, competition on the fragmented global market. The EU has already put forward several initiatives to support its industry, such as the Green Deal Industrial Plan,⁴⁰ the Critical Raw Materials Act⁴¹, the Net Zero Industry Act⁴², the new Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State aid,⁴³ and REPowerEU.⁴⁴ While these solutions provide fast **and** targeted support, the EU needs a more structural answer to the investment needs of its industries, safeguarding cohesion and the level playing field in the Single Market and to reduce the EU's strategic dependencies.

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⁴¹ COM(2023) 160 final

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Amendment

(2) The EU industry has proven its inbuilt resilience but is being challenged. High inflation, labour shortages, post-COVID supply chains disruptions, rising interest rates, and spikes in energy costs and input prices are weighing on the competitiveness of the EU industry. This is paired with strong, but not always fair, competition on the fragmented global market. The EU has already put forward several initiatives to support its industry, such as the Green Deal Industrial Plan,⁴⁰ the Critical Raw Materials Act⁴¹, the Net Zero Industry Act⁴², the new Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State aid,⁴³ **Next Generation EU** and REPowerEU.⁴⁴ While these solutions provide fast, targeted **and, in some cases, temporary** support, the EU needs a more structural answer to the investment needs of its industries, safeguarding cohesion and the level playing field in the Single Market and to reduce the EU's strategic dependencies.

⁴⁰ Communication on A Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age, COM(2023) 62 final.

⁴¹ COM(2023) 160 final

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⁴³ Communication on a Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State Aid measures (OJ C 101, 17.3.2023, p. 3).

⁴⁴ Regulation (EU) 2023/435 as regards REPowerEU (OJ L 63, 28.2.2023, p. 1).

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⁴⁴ Regulation (EU) 2023/435 as regards REPowerEU (OJ L 63, 28.2.2023, p. 1).

Or. en

Amendment 3 **Mauri Pekkarinen**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 2**

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) ***The EU industry has proven its inbuilt resilience but is being challenged.*** High inflation, labour shortages, post-COVID supply chains disruptions, rising interest rates, and spikes in energy costs and input prices are weighing on the competitiveness of the EU industry. This is paired with strong, but not always fair, competition on the fragmented global market. The EU has already put forward several initiatives to support its industry, such as the Green Deal Industrial Plan,⁴⁰ the Critical Raw Materials Act⁴¹, the Net Zero Industry Act⁴², the new Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State aid,⁴³ and REPowerEU.⁴⁴ While these solutions provide fast and targeted support, the EU needs a more structural answer to the investment needs of its industries, safeguarding cohesion and the level playing field in the Single Market and to reduce the EU's strategic dependencies.

⁴⁰ Communication on A Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age, COM(2023) 62 final.

⁴¹ COM(2023) 160 final

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Amendment

(2) High inflation, labour shortages, post-COVID supply chains disruptions, rising interest rates, and spikes in energy costs and input prices are weighing on the competitiveness of the EU industry. This is paired with strong, but not always fair, competition on the fragmented global market. The EU has already put forward several initiatives to support its industry, such as the Green Deal Industrial Plan,⁴⁰ the Critical Raw Materials Act⁴¹, the Net Zero Industry Act⁴², the new Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State aid,⁴³ and REPowerEU.⁴⁴ While these solutions provide fast and targeted support, the EU needs a more structural answer to the investment needs of its industries, safeguarding cohesion and the level playing field in the Single Market and to reduce the EU's strategic dependencies.

⁴⁰ Communication on A Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age, COM(2023) 62 final.

⁴¹ COM(2023) 160 final

⁴² COM(2023) 161 final

⁴³ Communication on a Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State Aid measures (OJ C 101, 17.3.2023, p. 3).

⁴⁴ Regulation (EU) 2023/435 as regards REPowerEU (OJ L 63, 28.2.2023, p. 1).

⁴³ Communication on a Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State Aid measures (OJ C 101, 17.3.2023, p. 3).

⁴⁴ Regulation (EU) 2023/435 as regards REPowerEU (OJ L 63, 28.2.2023, p. 1).

Or. en

Amendment 4

Rovana Plumb, Marcos Ros Sempere, Nora Mebarek, Adrian-Dragoş Benea, Matthias Ecke

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(2a) Whereas STEP, in order to reach its goal of structural investments in high technology industry and to avoid overlaps has to be closely coordinated with the existing EU initiatives to support the industry;

Or. en

Amendment 5

Rovana Plumb, Marcos Ros Sempere, Nora Mebarek, Josianne Cutajar, Adrian-Dragoş Benea, Matthias Ecke

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3) The uptake and scaling up in the Union of deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies will be essential to seize the opportunities and meet the objectives of the green and digital transitions, thus promoting the competitiveness of the European industry and its sustainability. Therefore, immediate action is required to support the development or manufacturing in the

(3) The uptake and scaling up in the Union of deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies will be essential to seize the opportunities and meet the objectives of the green and digital transitions, thus promoting the competitiveness of the European industry and its sustainability **and in the same time to further preserve economic, social, and territorial cohesion and solidarity among**

Union of such technologies, safeguarding and strengthening their value chains thereby reducing the Union's strategic dependencies, and addressing existing labour and skills shortages in those sectors through trainings and apprenticeships and the creation of attractive, quality jobs accessible to all.

member states and their regions.

Therefore, immediate action is required to support the development or manufacturing in the Union of such technologies, safeguarding and strengthening their value chains thereby reducing the Union's strategic dependencies, and addressing existing labour and skills shortages in those sectors through trainings and apprenticeships and the creation of attractive, quality jobs accessible to all, ***as well as to reduce disparities in development of the various regions;***

Or. en

Justification

It is essential to make explicit reference to the principle of social, economic and territorial cohesion and solidarity among member states (art. 3(b) TFEU) as a core objective of the Platform.

The European Commission has introduced the 'Do no harm to cohesion' principle in the 8th Cohesion Report. In order to make it operational, the pursuit of economic, social and territorial cohesion as spelled out in Art. 174 TFEU should be the objective on equal footing with the other two mentioned under Art 2(1)(a) and Art 2(1)(b) of this regulation

Amendment 6

Rosa D'Amato

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) There is a need to support critical technologies in the following fields: deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies (including the respective critical raw materials value chains), in particular projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains. ***By way of example, deep technologies and digital technologies should include***

Amendment

(4) There is a need to support critical technologies in the following fields: deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies (including the respective critical raw materials value chains), in particular projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains. ***Clean technologies should cover batteries, solar panels, wind turbines, heat-pumps,***

microelectronics, high-performance computing, quantum technologies (i.e., computing, communication and sensing technologies), cloud computing, edge computing, and artificial intelligence, cybersecurity technologies, robotics, 5G and advanced connectivity and virtual realities, including actions related to deep and digital technologies for the development of defence and aerospace applications. Clean technologies should include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; heat pumps; electricity grid; renewable fuels of non-biological origin; sustainable alternative fuels; electrolyzers and fuel cells; carbon capture, utilisation and storage; energy efficiency; hydrogen and its related infrastructure; smart energy solutions; technologies vital to sustainability such as water purification and desalination; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials, and technologies for the sustainable extraction and processing of critical raw materials. Biotechnology should be considered to include technologies such as biomolecules and its applications, pharmaceuticals and medical technologies vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. The Commission *may issue guidance to further* specify the scope of the technologies in these **three** fields considered to be critical in accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective programmes in light of the common strategic objective. Moreover, technologies in any of these three fields which are subjects of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual

*electrolysers, and equipment for carbon capture usage and storage . Concerning biotechnology and deep and digital technologies, the Commission **should*** specify the scope of the technologies in these **two** fields considered to be critical in accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective programmes in light of the common strategic objective. Moreover, technologies in any of these three fields which are subjects of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, in accordance with the respective programme rules, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not yet been completely covered.

projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, in accordance with the respective programme rules, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not yet been completely covered.

Or. en

Amendment 7

Rovana Plumb, Marcos Ros Sempere, Adrian-Dragoş Benea

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) There is a need to support critical technologies in the following fields: deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies (including the respective critical raw materials value chains), in particular projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains. By way of example, deep technologies and digital technologies should include microelectronics, high-performance computing, quantum technologies (i.e., computing, communication and sensing technologies), cloud computing, edge computing, and artificial intelligence, cybersecurity technologies, robotics, 5G and advanced connectivity and virtual realities, including actions related to deep and digital technologies for the development of defence and aerospace applications. Clean technologies should include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; heat pumps; electricity grid; renewable fuels of non-biological origin; sustainable **alternative** fuels; electrolyzers and fuel cells; carbon capture, utilisation and storage; energy efficiency; hydrogen and its related **infrastructure**; smart energy solutions;

Amendment

(4) ***Whereas dependence on the global market has exposed EU industry to shortages which has led to chain disruptions and even stoppages of industrial processes,*** there is a need to support critical technologies in the following fields: deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies (including the respective critical raw materials value chains ***in all of them***), in particular projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains. By way of example, deep technologies and digital technologies should include ***pharmaceuticals, photonics, advanced materials technologies, microelectronics, semiconductors, semiconductor equipment, communication technologies,*** high-performance computing, quantum technologies (i.e., computing, communication and sensing technologies), cloud computing, edge computing, ***secure data infrastructures and ecosystems,*** and artificial intelligence, cybersecurity technologies, robotics, 5G and advanced connectivity and virtual realities, including actions related to deep and digital technologies for the development of

technologies vital to sustainability such as water purification and desalination; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials, and technologies for the sustainable extraction and processing of critical raw materials. Biotechnology should be considered to include technologies such as biomolecules and its applications, pharmaceuticals **and** medical technologies vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. The Commission may issue guidance to further specify the scope of the technologies in these three fields considered to be critical in accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective programmes in light of the common strategic objective. Moreover, technologies in any of these three fields which are subjects of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, in accordance with the respective programme rules, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not yet been completely covered.

defence and aerospace applications **as well as applications to deliver healthcare such as digital medical devices**. Clean technologies should include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; heat pumps; electricity grid; **geothermal energy**, renewable fuels of non-biological origin; **all** sustainable – fuels **technologies, including biofuels for road transport**; electrolyzers and fuel cells; carbon capture, utilisation and storage; energy efficiency; **biolubricants**; hydrogen and its related **infrastructure**; smart energy solutions **cutting-edge solutions implemented for leak detection and repair inspections carried out along renewable gases and water transport and distribution networks**; technologies vital to sustainability such as water **efficiency**, purification and desalination **technologies; circular economy, such as high-quality recycling, resource- and material efficiency**; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials, and technologies for the sustainable extraction and processing of critical raw materials, **technologies supporting construction of roads with negative carbon footprint and development of new green road stabilisation solutions**. Biotechnology should be considered to include technologies such as biomolecules and its applications, pharmaceuticals, medical technologies **and medical devices** vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. The Commission may issue guidance to further specify the scope of the technologies in these three fields considered to be critical in accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective programmes in light of the common strategic objective. Moreover, technologies in any of these three fields which are subjects of an Important Project of

Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, in accordance with the respective programme rules, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not yet been completely covered.

Or. en

Amendment 8
Daniel Buda

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) There is a need to support critical technologies in the following fields: deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies (including the respective critical raw materials value chains), in particular projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains. By way of example, deep technologies and digital technologies should include microelectronics, high-performance computing, quantum technologies (i.e., computing, communication and sensing technologies), cloud computing, edge computing, and artificial intelligence, cybersecurity technologies, robotics, 5G and advanced connectivity and virtual realities, including actions related to deep and digital technologies for the development of defence and aerospace applications. Clean technologies should include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; heat pumps; electricity grid; renewable fuels of non-biological origin; sustainable alternative

Amendment

(4) There is a need to support critical technologies in the following fields: deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies (including the respective critical raw materials value chains), in particular projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains. By way of example, deep technologies and digital technologies should include microelectronics, high-performance computing, quantum technologies (i.e., computing, communication and sensing technologies), cloud computing, edge computing, and artificial intelligence, cybersecurity technologies, robotics, 5G and advanced connectivity and virtual realities, including actions related to deep and digital technologies for the development of defence and aerospace applications. Clean technologies should include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; heat pumps; electricity grid; renewable fuels of non-biological origin; sustainable alternative

fuels; electrolyzers and fuel cells; carbon capture, utilisation and storage; energy efficiency; hydrogen and its related infrastructure; smart energy solutions; technologies vital to sustainability such as water purification and desalination; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials, and technologies for the sustainable extraction and processing of critical raw materials. Biotechnology should be considered to include technologies such as biomolecules and its applications, pharmaceuticals and medical technologies vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. ***The Commission may issue guidance to further specify the scope of the technologies in these three fields considered to be critical in accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective programmes in light of the common strategic objective.*** Moreover, technologies in any of these three fields which are subjects of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, in accordance with the respective programme rules, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not yet been completely covered.

fuels; electrolyzers and fuel cells; carbon capture, utilisation and storage; energy efficiency; hydrogen and its related infrastructure; smart energy solutions; technologies vital to sustainability such as water purification and desalination; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials, and technologies for the sustainable extraction and processing of critical raw materials, ***and carbon-negative road construction support technologies.*** Biotechnology should be considered to include technologies such as biomolecules and its applications, pharmaceuticals and medical technologies vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. Moreover, technologies in any of these three fields which are subjects of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, in accordance with the respective programme rules, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not yet been completely covered.

Or. ro

Amendment 9
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 4

(4) There is a need to support critical technologies in the following fields: deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies (including the respective critical raw materials value chains), in particular projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains. By way of example, deep technologies and digital technologies should include microelectronics, high-performance computing, quantum technologies (i.e., computing, communication and sensing technologies), cloud computing, edge computing, and artificial intelligence, cybersecurity technologies, robotics, 5G and advanced connectivity and virtual realities, including actions related to deep and digital technologies for the development of defence and aerospace applications. Clean technologies should include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; heat pumps; electricity grid; renewable fuels of non-biological origin; sustainable alternative fuels; electrolyzers and fuel cells; carbon capture, utilisation and storage; energy efficiency; hydrogen and its related **infrastructure**; smart energy solutions; technologies vital to sustainability such as water purification and desalination; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials, and technologies for the sustainable extraction and processing of critical raw materials. Biotechnology should be considered to include technologies such as biomolecules and its applications, pharmaceuticals and medical technologies vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. The Commission may issue guidance to further specify the scope of the technologies in these three

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fields considered to be critical in accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective programmes in light of the common strategic objective. Moreover, technologies in any of these three fields which are subjects of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, in accordance with the respective programme rules, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not yet been completely covered.

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Or. en

Justification

Technologies supporting construction of roads with negative carbon footprint and development of new green road stabilisation solutions represent products, which contribute to a service that reduces negative environmental impacts through significant energy efficiency improvements and sustainable use of resources. E.g of roads with negative carbon footprint: recycled asphalt combined with a plant-based adhesive, which sequesters carbon.

Amendment 10

Mauri Pekkarinen, Ondřej Knotek

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) There is a need to support critical technologies in the following fields: deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies (including the respective critical raw

Amendment

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materials value chains), in particular projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains. By way of example, deep technologies and digital technologies should include microelectronics, high-performance computing, quantum technologies (i.e., computing, communication and sensing technologies), cloud computing, edge computing, and artificial intelligence, cybersecurity technologies, robotics, 5G and advanced connectivity and virtual realities, including actions related to deep and digital technologies for the development of defence and aerospace applications. Clean technologies should include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; heat pumps; electricity grid; renewable fuels of non-biological origin; sustainable alternative fuels; electrolyzers and fuel cells; carbon capture, utilisation and storage; energy efficiency; hydrogen and its related **infrastructure**; smart energy solutions; technologies vital to sustainability such as water purification and desalination; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials, and technologies for the sustainable extraction and processing of critical raw materials. Biotechnology should be considered to include technologies such as biomolecules and its applications, pharmaceuticals and medical technologies vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. The Commission may issue guidance to further specify the scope of the technologies in these three fields considered to be critical in accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective programmes in light of the common strategic objective. Moreover, technologies in any of these three fields which are

materials value chains), in particular projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains, **as well as technologies, which can be utilized in replacing critical non-renewable materials with renewable materials**. By way of example, deep technologies and digital technologies should include microelectronics, high-performance computing, quantum technologies (i.e., computing, communication and sensing technologies), cloud computing, edge computing, and artificial intelligence, cybersecurity technologies, robotics, 5G and advanced connectivity and virtual realities, including actions related to deep and digital technologies for the development of defence and aerospace applications. Clean technologies should include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; heat pumps; electricity grid; renewable fuels of non-biological origin; sustainable alternative fuels; electrolyzers and fuel cells; carbon capture, utilisation and storage; energy efficiency; hydrogen and its related **infrastructure**; smart energy solutions; technologies vital to sustainability such as water purification and desalination; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials, and technologies for the sustainable extraction and processing of critical raw materials. Biotechnology should be considered to include technologies such as biomolecules and its applications, pharmaceuticals and medical technologies vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. The Commission may issue guidance to further specify the scope of the technologies in these three fields considered to be critical in accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective

subjects of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, in accordance with the respective programme rules, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not yet been completely covered.

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Or. en

Amendment 11

Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

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Amendment

(4) There is a need to support critical technologies in the following fields: deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies (including the respective critical raw materials value chains), in particular projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains; ***the entire CCS value chain; research projects and preliminary studies/analysis to support the development of innovative technologies.*** By way of example, deep technologies and digital technologies should include microelectronics, high-performance computing, quantum technologies (i.e., computing, communication and sensing technologies), cloud computing, edge computing, and artificial intelligence, cybersecurity technologies, robotics, 5G and advanced connectivity and virtual realities, including actions related to deep

include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; heat pumps; electricity grid; renewable fuels of non-biological origin; sustainable alternative fuels; electrolyzers and fuel cells; carbon capture, utilisation and storage; energy efficiency; hydrogen and its related **infrastructure**; smart energy solutions; technologies vital to sustainability such as water purification and desalination; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials, and technologies for the sustainable extraction and processing of critical raw materials. Biotechnology should be considered to include technologies such as biomolecules and its applications, pharmaceuticals and medical technologies vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. The Commission may issue guidance to further specify the scope of the technologies in these three fields considered to be critical in accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective programmes in light of the common strategic objective. Moreover, technologies in any of these three fields which are subjects of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, **in accordance with the respective programme rules**, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not yet been completely covered.

and digital technologies for the development of defence and aerospace applications. Clean technologies should include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; heat pumps; electricity grid; renewable fuels of non-biological origin; sustainable alternative fuels; electrolyzers and fuel cells; carbon capture, utilisation and storage; energy efficiency; hydrogen and its related **infrastructure**; smart energy solutions; technologies vital to sustainability such as water purification and desalination; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials, and technologies for the sustainable extraction and processing of critical raw materials. Biotechnology should be considered to include technologies such as biomolecules and its applications, pharmaceuticals and medical technologies vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. The Commission may issue guidance to further specify the scope of the technologies in these three fields considered to be critical in accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective programmes in light of the common strategic objective. Moreover, technologies in any of these three fields which are subjects of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, **through dedicated EU resources**, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not yet been completely covered.

Or. en

Amendment 12
Nora Mebarek

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) There is a need to support critical technologies in the following fields: deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies (including the respective critical raw materials value chains), in particular projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains. By way of example, deep technologies and digital technologies should include microelectronics, high-performance computing, quantum technologies (i.e., computing, communication and sensing technologies), cloud computing, edge computing, and artificial intelligence, cybersecurity technologies, robotics, 5G and advanced connectivity and virtual realities, including actions related to deep and digital technologies for the development of defence and aerospace applications. Clean technologies should include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; heat pumps; electricity grid; renewable fuels of non-biological origin; sustainable alternative fuels; electrolyzers and fuel cells; carbon capture, utilisation and storage; energy efficiency; hydrogen and its related **infrastructure**; smart energy solutions; technologies vital to sustainability such as water purification and desalination; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials, and technologies for the sustainable extraction and processing of critical raw materials. Biotechnology should be considered to include technologies such as biomolecules and its

Amendment

(4) There is a need to support critical technologies in the following fields: deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies (including the respective critical raw materials value chains), in particular projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains. By way of example, deep technologies and digital technologies should include microelectronics, high-performance computing, quantum technologies (i.e., computing, communication and sensing technologies), cloud computing, edge computing, and artificial intelligence, cybersecurity technologies, robotics, 5G and advanced connectivity and virtual realities, including actions related to deep and digital technologies for the development of defence and aerospace applications. Clean technologies should include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; heat pumps; electricity grid; renewable fuels of non-biological origin; sustainable alternative fuels; electrolyzers and fuel cells; carbon capture, utilisation and storage; energy efficiency; hydrogen and its related **infrastructure**; smart energy solutions; technologies vital to sustainability such as water purification and desalination; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials, and technologies for the sustainable extraction and processing of critical raw materials. Biotechnology should be considered to include technologies such as biomolecules and its

applications, pharmaceuticals and medical technologies vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. The Commission may issue guidance to further specify the scope of the technologies in these three fields considered to be critical in accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective programmes in light of the common strategic objective. Moreover, technologies in any of these three fields which are subjects of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, in accordance with the respective programme rules, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not yet been completely covered.

applications, pharmaceuticals and medical technologies vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. The Commission may, ***at the latest one month after the entry into force of this regulation***, issue guidance to further specify the scope of the technologies in these three fields considered to be critical in accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective programmes in light of the common strategic objective. Moreover, technologies in any of these three fields which are subjects of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, in accordance with the respective programme rules, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not yet been completely covered.

Or. en

Justification

Given the time needed to review just approved ESIF programs that incorporate STEP objectives, managing authorities need sufficient certainty about the scope of eligible STEP actions. Thus if the Commission is to issue complementary guidelines, it should be close enough from the entry into force of the STEP regulation, so that managing authorities have enough time to adjust their program revision, without fearing that the Commission will come with new requirements several months after the entry into force of this regulation.

Amendment 13

Mauri Pekkarinen, Ondřej Knotek

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4

(4) There is a need to support critical technologies in the following fields: deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies (including the respective critical raw materials value chains), in particular projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains. By way of example, deep technologies and digital technologies should include microelectronics, high-performance computing, quantum technologies (i.e., computing, communication and sensing technologies), cloud computing, edge computing, and artificial intelligence, cybersecurity technologies, robotics, 5G and advanced connectivity and virtual realities, including actions related to deep and digital technologies for the development of defence and aerospace applications. Clean technologies should include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; heat pumps; electricity grid; renewable fuels of non-biological origin; sustainable alternative fuels; electrolyzers and fuel cells; carbon capture, utilisation and storage; energy efficiency; hydrogen and its related **infrastructure**; smart energy solutions; technologies vital to sustainability such as water purification and desalination; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials, and technologies for the sustainable extraction and processing of critical raw materials. Biotechnology should be considered to include technologies such as biomolecules and its applications, pharmaceuticals and medical technologies vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. The Commission may issue guidance to further specify the scope of the technologies in these three fields considered to be critical in

(4) There is a need to support critical technologies in the following fields: deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies (including the respective critical raw materials value chains), in particular projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains. By way of example, deep technologies and digital technologies should include microelectronics, high-performance computing, quantum technologies (i.e., computing, communication and sensing technologies), cloud computing, edge computing, and artificial intelligence, cybersecurity technologies, robotics, 5G and advanced connectivity and virtual realities, including actions related to deep and digital technologies for the development of defence and aerospace applications. Clean technologies should include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; heat pumps; electricity grid; renewable fuels of non-biological origin; sustainable alternative fuels; electrolyzers and fuel cells; carbon capture, utilisation and storage; energy efficiency; hydrogen and its related **infrastructure**; smart energy solutions; technologies vital to sustainability such as water purification and desalination; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials, and technologies for the sustainable extraction and processing of critical raw materials, **including sustainable recovery, recycling and other processing**. Biotechnology should be considered to include technologies such as biomolecules and its applications, pharmaceuticals and medical technologies vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. The Commission may issue guidance to further specify the

accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective programmes in light of the common strategic objective. Moreover, technologies in any of these three fields which are subjects of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, in accordance with the respective programme rules, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not yet been completely covered.

scope of the technologies in these three fields considered to be critical in accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective programmes in light of the common strategic objective. Moreover, technologies in any of these three fields which are subjects of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, in accordance with the respective programme rules, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not yet been completely covered.

Or. en

Amendment 14 **Mauri Pekkarinen**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 4**

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) There is a need to support critical technologies in the following fields: deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies (including the respective critical raw materials value chains), in particular projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains. By way of example, deep technologies and digital technologies should include microelectronics, high-performance computing, quantum technologies (i.e., computing, communication and sensing technologies), cloud computing, edge computing, and artificial intelligence,

Amendment

(4) There is a need to support critical technologies in the following fields: deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies (including the respective critical raw materials value chains), in particular projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains. By way of example, deep technologies and digital technologies should include microelectronics, high-performance computing, quantum technologies (i.e., computing, communication and sensing technologies), cloud computing, edge computing, and artificial intelligence,

cybersecurity technologies, robotics, 5G **and** advanced connectivity and virtual realities, including actions related to deep and digital technologies for the development of defence and aerospace applications. Clean technologies should include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; heat pumps; electricity grid; renewable fuels of non-biological origin; sustainable alternative fuels; electrolyzers and fuel cells; carbon capture, utilisation and storage; energy efficiency; hydrogen and its related **infrastructure**; smart energy solutions; technologies vital to sustainability such as water purification and desalination; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials, and technologies for the sustainable extraction and processing of critical raw materials. Biotechnology should be considered to include technologies such as biomolecules and its applications, pharmaceuticals and medical technologies vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. The Commission may issue guidance to further specify the scope of the technologies in these three fields considered to be critical in accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective programmes in light of the common strategic objective. Moreover, technologies in any of these three fields which are subjects of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, in accordance with the respective programme rules, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not

cybersecurity technologies, robotics, 5G, **6G and other** advanced connectivity and virtual realities, including actions related to deep and digital technologies for the development of defence and aerospace applications. Clean technologies should include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; heat pumps; electricity grid; renewable fuels of non-biological origin; sustainable alternative fuels; electrolyzers and fuel cells; carbon capture, utilisation and storage; energy efficiency; hydrogen and its related **infrastructure**; smart energy solutions; technologies vital to sustainability such as water purification and desalination; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials, and technologies for the sustainable extraction and processing of critical raw materials. Biotechnology should be considered to include technologies such as biomolecules and its applications, pharmaceuticals and medical technologies vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. The Commission may issue guidance to further specify the scope of the technologies in these three fields considered to be critical in accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective programmes in light of the common strategic objective. Moreover, technologies in any of these three fields which are subjects of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, in accordance with the respective programme rules, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not

yet been completely covered.

yet been completely covered.

Or. en

Amendment 15
Martina Michels

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) There is a need to support critical technologies in the following fields: deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies (including the respective critical raw materials value chains), in particular projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains. By way of example, deep technologies and digital technologies should include microelectronics, high-performance computing, quantum technologies (i.e., computing, communication and sensing technologies), cloud computing, edge computing, and artificial intelligence, cybersecurity technologies, robotics, 5G and advanced connectivity and virtual realities, including actions related to deep and digital technologies for the development of defence and aerospace applications. Clean technologies should include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; heat pumps; electricity grid; renewable fuels of non-biological origin; sustainable alternative fuels; electrolyzers and fuel cells; **carbon capture, utilisation and storage**; energy efficiency; hydrogen and its related **infrastructure**; smart energy solutions; technologies vital to sustainability such as water purification and desalination; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials, and technologies for the

Amendment

(4) There is a need to support critical technologies in the following fields: deep and digital technologies, clean technologies, and biotechnologies (including the respective critical raw materials value chains), in particular projects, companies and sectors with a critical role for EU's competitiveness and resilience and its value chains. By way of example, deep technologies and digital technologies should include microelectronics, high-performance computing, quantum technologies (i.e., computing, communication and sensing technologies), cloud computing, edge computing, and artificial intelligence, cybersecurity technologies, robotics, 5G and advanced connectivity and virtual realities, including actions related to deep and digital technologies for the development of defence and aerospace applications. Clean technologies should include, among others, renewable energy; electricity and heat storage; heat pumps; electricity grid; renewable fuels of non-biological origin; sustainable alternative fuels; electrolyzers and fuel cells; energy efficiency; **green** hydrogen and its related **infrastructure**; smart energy solutions; technologies vital to sustainability such as water purification and desalination; advanced materials such as nanomaterials, composites and future clean construction materials, and technologies for the sustainable extraction and processing of

sustainable extraction and processing of critical raw materials. Biotechnology should be considered to include technologies such as biomolecules and its applications, pharmaceuticals and medical technologies vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. The Commission may issue guidance to further specify the scope of the technologies in these three fields considered to be critical in accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective programmes in light of the common strategic objective. Moreover, technologies in any of these three fields which are subjects of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, in accordance with the respective programme rules, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not yet been completely covered.

critical raw materials. Biotechnology should be considered to include technologies such as biomolecules and its applications, pharmaceuticals and medical technologies vital for health security, crop biotechnology, and industrial biotechnology, such as for waste disposal, and biomanufacturing. The Commission may issue guidance to further specify the scope of the technologies in these three fields considered to be critical in accordance with this Regulation, in order to promote a common interpretation of the projects, companies and sectors to be supported under the respective programmes in light of the common strategic objective. Moreover, technologies in any of these three fields which are subjects of an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU should be deemed to be critical, and individual projects within the scope of such an IPCEI should be eligible for funding, in accordance with the respective programme rules, to the extent that the identified funding gap and the eligible costs have not yet been completely covered.

Or. en

Amendment 16

Josianne Cutajar, Rovana Plumb

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) Strengthening the manufacturing capacity of key technologies in the Union will not be possible without a sizeable skilled workforce. However, labour and skills shortages have increased in all sectors including those considered key for

Amendment

(5) Strengthening the manufacturing capacity of key technologies in the Union will not be possible without a sizeable skilled workforce. However, labour and skills shortages have increased in all sectors including those considered key for

the green and digital transition and endanger the rise of key technologies, also in the context of demographic change. Therefore, it is necessary to boost the activation of more people to the labour market relevant for strategic sectors, in particular through the creation of jobs and apprenticeships for young, disadvantaged persons, in particular, young people not in employment, education or training. Such support will complement a number of other actions aimed at meeting the skills needs stemming from the transition, outlined in the EU Skills Agenda.⁴⁵

the green and digital transition and endanger the rise of key technologies, also in the context of demographic change, ***especially in disadvantaged regions, including rural and remote areas and islands, which suffer from brain drain.*** Therefore, it is necessary to boost the activation of more people to the labour market relevant for strategic sectors, in particular ***through quality and inclusive skilling, upskilling and re-skilling measures and*** through the creation of jobs and apprenticeships for young, disadvantaged persons, in particular, young people not in employment, education or training ***as well as for people living in sparsely and depopulated rural and remote areas and islands. It is also necessary to increase support for the provision of enhanced information sessions and advisory services concerning skills development and EU-funded opportunities.*** Such support will complement a number of other actions aimed at meeting the skills needs stemming from the transition, outlined in the EU Skills Agenda.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Communication on a European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, COM(2020) 274 final.

⁴⁵ Communication on a European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, COM(2020) 274 final.

Or. en

Amendment 17

Peter Pollák

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) Strengthening the manufacturing capacity of key technologies in the Union will not be possible without a sizeable

Amendment

(5) Strengthening the manufacturing capacity of key technologies in the Union will not be possible without a sizeable

skilled workforce. However, labour and skills shortages have increased in all sectors including those considered key for the green and digital transition and endanger the rise of key technologies, also in the context of demographic change. Therefore, it is necessary to boost the activation of more people to the labour market relevant for strategic sectors, in particular through the creation of jobs and apprenticeships for young, disadvantaged persons, in particular, young people not in employment, education or training. Such support will complement a number of other actions aimed at meeting the skills needs stemming from the transition, outlined in the EU Skills Agenda.⁴⁵

skilled workforce. However, labour and skills shortages have increased in all sectors including those considered key for the green and digital transition and endanger the rise of key technologies, also in the context of demographic change. Therefore, it is necessary to boost the activation of more people to the labour market relevant for strategic sectors, in particular through the creation of jobs and apprenticeships for young, disadvantaged persons, in particular, young people not in employment, education or training. ***There is also need to find effective solutions in enforcing employment policies for the long-term unemployed and marginalized groups in such a way that they will be able to get out a qualified workforce out of these communities. Fostering cooperation and social dialogue with companies are indispensable.*** Such support will complement a number of other actions aimed at meeting the skills needs stemming from the transition, outlined in the EU Skills Agenda.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Communication on a European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, COM(2020) 274 final.

⁴⁵ Communication on a European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, COM(2020) 274 final.

Or. en

Amendment 18 Daniel Buda

Proposal for a regulation Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) Strengthening the manufacturing capacity of key technologies in the Union will not be possible without a sizeable skilled workforce. However, labour and skills shortages have increased in all

Amendment

(5) Strengthening the manufacturing capacity of key technologies in the Union will not be possible without a sizeable skilled workforce. However, labour and skills shortages have increased in all

sectors including those considered key for the green and digital transition and endanger the rise of key technologies, also in the context of demographic change. Therefore, it is necessary to boost the activation of more people to the labour market relevant for strategic sectors, in particular through the creation of jobs and apprenticeships for young, disadvantaged persons, in particular, young people not in employment, education or training. Such support will complement a number of other actions aimed at meeting the skills needs stemming from the transition, outlined in the EU Skills Agenda.⁴⁵

sectors including those considered key for the green and digital transition and endanger the rise of key technologies, also in the context of demographic change. Therefore, it is necessary to boost the activation of more people to the labour market relevant for strategic sectors, in particular through the creation of jobs and apprenticeships for young *people, industrial placements to help develop young persons' practical skills and public-private sector cooperation, and for* disadvantaged persons, *and* in particular *for* young people not in employment, education or training.

Such support will complement a number of other actions aimed at meeting the skills needs stemming from the transition, outlined in the EU Skills Agenda.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Communication on a European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, COM(2020) 274 final.

⁴⁵ Communication on a European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, COM(2020) 274 final.

Or. ro

Amendment 19 Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) Strengthening the manufacturing capacity of key technologies in the Union will not be possible without a sizeable skilled workforce. However, labour and skills shortages have increased in all sectors including those considered key for the green and digital transition and endanger the rise of key technologies, also in the context of demographic change. Therefore, it is necessary to boost the

Amendment

(5) Strengthening the manufacturing capacity of key technologies in the Union will not be possible without a sizeable skilled workforce *including with digital skills, engineering and other technical skills* . However, labour and skills shortages have increased in all sectors including those considered key for the green and digital transition (*including, coordination and planning skills for more*

activation of more people to the labour market relevant for strategic sectors, in particular through the creation of jobs and apprenticeships for young, disadvantaged persons, in particular, young people not in employment, education or training. Such support will complement a number of other actions aimed at meeting the skills needs stemming from the transition, outlined in the EU Skills Agenda.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Communication on a European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, COM(2020) 274 final.

complex projects) and endanger the rise of key technologies, also in the context of demographic change. Therefore, it is necessary to boost the activation of more people to the labour market relevant for strategic sectors, in particular through the creation of jobs and apprenticeships for young, disadvantaged persons, in particular, young people not in employment, education or training. Such support will complement a number of other actions aimed at meeting the skills needs stemming from the transition, outlined in the EU Skills Agenda.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Communication on a European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, COM(2020) 274 final.

Or. en

Amendment 20

Rovana Plumb, Marcos Ros Sempere, Nora Mebarek, Josianne Cutajar, Adrian-Dragoş Benea, Matthias Ecke

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) Strengthening the manufacturing capacity of key technologies in the Union will not be possible without a sizeable skilled workforce. However, labour and skills shortages have increased in all sectors including those considered key for the green and digital transition and endanger the rise of key technologies, also in the context of demographic change. Therefore, it is necessary to boost the activation of more people to the labour market relevant for strategic sectors, in particular through the creation of jobs and apprenticeships for young, disadvantaged persons, in particular, young people not in

Amendment

(5) Strengthening the *development and* manufacturing capacity of key technologies in the Union will not be possible without a sizeable skilled workforce. However, labour and skills shortages have increased in all sectors including those considered key for the green and digital transition and endanger the rise of key technologies, also in the context of demographic change. Therefore, it is necessary to boost the activation of more people to the labour market relevant for strategic sectors, in particular through the creation of jobs and apprenticeships for young, disadvantaged persons, in

employment, education or training. Such support will complement a number of other actions aimed at meeting the skills needs stemming from the transition, outlined in the EU Skills Agenda.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Communication on a European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, COM(2020) 274 final.

particular, young people not in employment, education or training. Such support will complement a number of other actions aimed at meeting the skills needs stemming from the transition, outlined in the EU Skills Agenda.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Communication on a European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, COM(2020) 274 final.

Or. en

Amendment 21
Josianne Cutajar, Rovana Plumb

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(5a) With a view to ensuring the availability of skilled workforce and to consolidating the digital and green transition, it is necessary to encourage cooperation, mobility programmes and exchange of knowledge and best practices between educational, research and innovation institutions, businesses, and local communities, especially young people

Or. en

Amendment 22
Rovana Plumb, Marcos Ros Sempere, Nora Mebarek, Adrian-Dragoş Benea, Matthias Ecke

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6) The scale of investments needed for the transition require **a full** mobilisation of funding available under existing EU programmes and funds, inclusive those granting a budgetary guarantee for financing and investment operations and implementation of financial instruments and blending operations. Such funding should be deployed in a more flexible manner, to provide timely and targeted support for critical technologies in strategic sectors. Therefore, a Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform ('STEP') should **give a structural answer** to the Union investment needs by helping to better channel the existing EU funds towards critical investments aimed at supporting the development or manufacturing of critical technologies, while preserving a level playing field in the Single Market, thereby preserving cohesion and aiming at a geographically balanced **distribution** of projects financed under the STEP in accordance with the respective programme mandates.

(6) The scale of investments needed for the transition require **an intelligent** mobilisation of funding available under existing EU programmes and funds, inclusive those granting a budgetary guarantee for financing and investment operations and implementation of financial instruments and blending operations. Such funding should be deployed in a more flexible manner, to provide timely and targeted support for critical technologies in strategic sectors. Therefore, a Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform ('STEP') should **contribute to respond** to the Union investment needs by helping to better channel the existing EU funds towards critical investments aimed at supporting the development or manufacturing of critical technologies, while preserving a level playing field in the Single Market, thereby preserving cohesion and aiming at a **distribution of projects financed under STEP in a** geographically balanced **way amongst all regions of the EU** of projects financed under the STEP in accordance with the respective programme mandates.

Or. en

Amendment 23

Rosa D'Amato

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6a) In order to promote the economic, territorial and social cohesion of territories throughout the whole EU, STEP priorities and projects should be pursued in full compliance with the Partnership principle, ensuring an inclusive consultation process with regional and local authorities, social

partners, civil society organisations, youth organisations and other relevant stakeholders; relevant national and regional authorities should ensure that projects financed with Cohesion policy resources under STEP have a lasting positive impact on the creation of quality jobs at local level.

Or. en

Amendment 24

Rosa D'Amato

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 6 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6b) Whereas STEP projects should not only comply with Union's and national labour law, social rights and workers' rights, as well as applicable collective agreement, but should go beyond minimum Union and national legal requirements with fair and adequate wages and well-defined objectives in terms of skilling, reskilling and upskilling, measures to improve gender equality and diversity at work, and quality and paid apprenticeships.

Or. en

Amendment 25

Irène Tolleret, Stéphane Bijoux, Susana Solís Pérez, Laurence Farreng

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(7) The STEP should identify resources which should be implemented within the

(7) The STEP should identify resources which should be implemented within the

existing Union programmes and funds, the InvestEU, Horizon Europe, European Defence Fund and Innovation Fund. This should be accompanied by providing additional funding of EUR 10 billion. Of this, EUR 5 billion should be used to increase the endowment of the Innovation Fund⁴⁶ and EUR 3 billion to increase the total amount of the EU guarantee available for the EU compartment under the InvestEU Regulation to EUR 7,5 billion,⁴⁷ taking into account the relevant provisioning rate. EUR 0.5 billion should be made available to increase the financial envelope under the Horizon Europe Regulation,⁴⁸ which should be amended accordingly; and EUR 1.5 billion to the European Defence Fund.⁴⁹

existing Union programmes and funds, the InvestEU, Horizon Europe, European Defence Fund and Innovation Fund. This should be accompanied by providing additional funding of EUR 10 billion, ***by means of the revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework***. Of this, EUR 5 billion should be used to increase the endowment of the Innovation Fund⁴⁶ and EUR 3 billion to increase the total amount of the EU guarantee available for the EU compartment under the InvestEU Regulation to EUR 7,5 billion,⁴⁷ taking into account the relevant provisioning rate. EUR 0.5 billion should be made available to increase the financial envelope under the Horizon Europe Regulation,⁴⁸ which should be amended accordingly; and EUR 1.5 billion to the European Defence Fund.⁴⁹

⁴⁶ Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading (OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, p. 32).

⁴⁷ Regulation (EU) 2021/523 establishing the InvestEU Programme (OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 30).

⁴⁸ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 establishing Horizon Europe (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1).

⁴⁹ Regulation (EU) 2021/697 establishing the European Defense Fund (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 149.)

⁴⁶ Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading (OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, p. 32).

⁴⁷ Regulation (EU) 2021/523 establishing the InvestEU Programme (OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 30).

⁴⁸ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 establishing Horizon Europe (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1).

⁴⁹ Regulation (EU) 2021/697 establishing the European Defense Fund (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 149.)

Or. en

Amendment 26

Mauri Pekkarinen

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(7) The STEP should identify resources which should be implemented within the existing Union programmes and funds, the InvestEU, Horizon Europe, European Defence Fund and Innovation Fund. This should be accompanied by providing additional funding of EUR **10** billion. ***Of this***, EUR 5 billion should be used to increase the endowment of the Innovation Fund⁴⁶ and EUR 3 billion to increase the total amount of the EU guarantee available for the EU compartment under the InvestEU Regulation to EUR 7,5 billion,⁴⁷ taking into account the relevant provisioning rate. EUR 0.5 billion should be made available to increase the financial envelope under the Horizon Europe Regulation,⁴⁸ which should be amended accordingly; and EUR 1.5 billion to the European Defence Fund.⁴⁹

⁴⁶ Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading (OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, p. 32).

⁴⁷ Regulation (EU) 2021/523 establishing the InvestEU Programme (OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 30).

⁴⁸ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 establishing Horizon Europe (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1).

⁴⁹ Regulation (EU) 2021/697 establishing the European Defense Fund (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 149.)

(7) The STEP should identify resources which should be implemented within the existing Union programmes and funds, the InvestEU, Horizon Europe, European Defence Fund and Innovation Fund. This should be accompanied by providing additional funding of EUR **5** billion. ***In addition***, EUR 5 billion ***worth of ETS allowances*** should be used to increase the endowment of the Innovation Fund⁴⁶ and EUR 3 billion to increase the total amount of the EU guarantee available for the EU compartment under the InvestEU Regulation to EUR 7,5 billion,⁴⁷ taking into account the relevant provisioning rate. EUR 0.5 billion should be made available to increase the financial envelope under the Horizon Europe Regulation,⁴⁸ which should be amended accordingly; and EUR 1.5 billion to the European Defence Fund.⁴⁹

⁴⁶ Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading (OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, p. 32).

⁴⁷ Regulation (EU) 2021/523 establishing the InvestEU Programme (OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 30).

⁴⁸ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 establishing Horizon Europe (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1).

⁴⁹ Regulation (EU) 2021/697 establishing the European Defense Fund (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 149.)

Or. en

Amendment 27

Daniel Buda

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 8**

(8) A Sovereignty Seal should be awarded to projects contributing to the STEP objectives, provided that the project has been assessed and complies with the minimum quality requirements, in particular eligibility, exclusion and award criteria, provided by a call for proposals under Horizon Europe, the Digital Europe programme⁵⁰, the EU4Health programme⁵¹, the European Defence Fund or the Innovation Fund, and regardless of whether the project has received funding under those instruments. These minimum quality requirements will be established with a view to identify high quality projects. This Seal should be used as a quality label, to help projects attract public and private investments by certifying its contribution to the STEP objectives. Moreover, the Seal will promote better access to EU funding, notably by facilitating cumulative or combined funding from several Union instruments.

⁵⁰ Regulation (EU) 2021/694 establishing the Digital Europe Programme (OJ L 166, 11.5.2021, p. 1).

⁵¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/522 establishing a Programme for the Union's action in the field of health, EU4Health Programme (OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 1).

(8) A Sovereignty Seal should be awarded to projects contributing to the STEP objectives, provided that the project has been assessed and complies with the minimum quality requirements, in particular eligibility, exclusion and award criteria, provided by a call for proposals under Horizon Europe, the Digital Europe programme⁵⁰, the EU4Health programme⁵¹, the European Defence Fund or the Innovation Fund, and regardless of whether the project has received funding under those instruments. ***The process for verifying the eligibility and evaluation criteria should be transparent and fair.*** These minimum quality requirements will be established with a view to identify high quality projects. This Seal should be used as a quality label, to help projects attract public and private investments by certifying its contribution to the STEP objectives. Moreover, the Seal will promote better access to EU funding, notably by facilitating cumulative or combined funding from several Union instruments.

⁵⁰ Regulation (EU) 2021/694 establishing the Digital Europe Programme (OJ L 166, 11.5.2021, p. 1).

⁵¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/522 establishing a Programme for the Union's action in the field of health, EU4Health Programme (OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 1).

Or. ro

Amendment 28
Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 9

(9) To that end, it should be possible to rely on assessments made for the purposes of other Union programmes in accordance with Articles 126 and 127 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046,⁵² in order to reduce administrative burden for beneficiaries of Union funds and encourage investment in priority technologies. Provided they comply with the provisions of the RRF Regulation,⁵³ Member States should consider including actions awarded the Sovereignty Seal when **preparing** their recovery and resilience plans and when proposing their Recovering and Resilience Plans and when deciding on investment projects to be financed from its share of the Modernisation Fund. The Sovereignty Seal should also be taken into account by the Commission in the context of the procedure provided for in Article 19 of the EIB Statute and of the policy check laid down in Article 23 of the InvestEU Regulation. In addition, the implementing partners should be required to examine projects having been awarded the Sovereignty Seal in case they fall within their geographic and activity scope in accordance with Article 26(5) of that Regulation. Authorities in charge of programmes falling under STEP should also be encouraged to consider support for strategic projects identified in accordance with the Net Zero Industry and the Critical Raw Materials Acts that are within the scope of Article 2 of the Regulation and for which rules on cumulative funding may apply.

⁵² Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

⁵³ Regulation (EU) 2021/241 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility (OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17).

(9) To that end, it should be possible to rely on assessments made for the purposes of other Union programmes in accordance with Articles 126 and 127 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046,⁵² in order to reduce administrative burden for beneficiaries of Union funds and encourage investment in priority technologies. Provided they comply with the provisions of the RRF Regulation,⁵³ Member States should consider including actions awarded the Sovereignty Seal when **revising** their recovery and resilience plans and when proposing their Recovering and Resilience Plans and when deciding on investment projects to be financed from its share of the Modernisation Fund. The Sovereignty Seal should also be taken into account by the Commission in the context of the procedure provided for in Article 19 of the EIB Statute and of the policy check laid down in Article 23 of the InvestEU Regulation. In addition, the implementing partners should be required to examine projects having been awarded the Sovereignty Seal in case they fall within their geographic and activity scope in accordance with Article 26(5) of that Regulation. Authorities in charge of programmes falling under STEP should also be encouraged to consider support for strategic projects identified in accordance with the Net Zero Industry and the Critical Raw Materials Acts that are within the scope of Article 2 of the Regulation and for which rules on cumulative funding may apply.

⁵² Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

⁵³ Regulation (EU) 2021/241 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility (OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17).

Amendment 29
Daniel Buda

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) A new publicly available website (the ‘Sovereignty Portal’) should be set up by the Commission to provide information on available support to companies and project promoters seeking funds for STEP investments. To that end, it should display in an accessible and user-friendly manner the funding opportunities for STEP investments available under the EU budget. This should include information about directly managed programmes, such as Horizon Europe, the Digital Europe programme, the EU4Health programme, and the Innovation Fund, and also other programmes such as InvestEU, the RRF, and cohesion policy funds. Moreover, the Sovereignty Portal should help increase the visibility for STEP investments towards investors, by listing the projects that have been awarded a Sovereignty Seal. The Portal should also list the national competent authorities responsible for acting as contact points for the implementation of the STEP at national level.

Amendment

(10) A new publicly available website (the ‘Sovereignty Portal’) should be set up by the Commission to provide information on available support to companies and project promoters seeking funds for STEP investments. To that end, it should display in an accessible and user-friendly manner the funding opportunities for STEP investments available under the EU budget. This should include information about directly managed programmes, such as Horizon Europe, the Digital Europe programme, the EU4Health programme, and the Innovation Fund, and also other programmes such as InvestEU, the RRF, and cohesion policy funds. Moreover, the Sovereignty Portal should help increase the visibility for STEP investments towards investors, by listing the projects that have been awarded a Sovereignty Seal. The Portal should also list the national competent authorities responsible for acting as contact points for the implementation of the STEP at national level. ***There could also be an interactive aspect to the Portal to enable users to introduce their project specifications and receive personalised advice.***

Amendment 30
Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) A new publicly available website (the ‘Sovereignty Portal’) should be set up by the Commission to provide information on available support to companies and project promoters seeking funds for STEP investments. To that end, it should display in an accessible and user-friendly manner the funding opportunities for STEP investments available under the EU budget. This should include information about directly managed programmes, such as Horizon Europe, the Digital Europe programme, the EU4Health programme, and the Innovation Fund, and also other programmes such as InvestEU, the RRF, and cohesion policy funds. Moreover, the Sovereignty Portal should help increase the visibility for STEP investments towards investors, by listing the projects that have been awarded a Sovereignty Seal. The Portal should also list the national competent authorities responsible for acting as contact points for the implementation of the STEP at national level.

Amendment

(10) A new publicly available website (the ‘Sovereignty Portal’) should be set up by the Commission to provide information on available support to companies, ***including SMEs***, and project promoters seeking funds for STEP investments. To that end, it should display in an accessible and user-friendly manner the funding opportunities for STEP investments available under the EU budget. This should include information about directly managed programmes, such as Horizon Europe, the Digital Europe programme, the EU4Health programme, and the Innovation Fund, and also other programmes such as InvestEU, the RRF, and cohesion policy funds. Moreover, the Sovereignty Portal should help increase the visibility for STEP investments towards investors, by listing the projects that have been awarded a Sovereignty Seal. The Portal should also list the national competent authorities responsible for acting as contact points for the implementation of the STEP at national level.

Or. en

Amendment 31

Daniel Buda

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 10 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(10a) The Portal must be available in all the official EU languages to ensure that the information is accessible to all Member States;

Or. ro

Amendment 32
Mauri Pekkarinen

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(11) While the STEP relies on the reprogramming and reinforcement of existing programmes for supporting strategic investments, it is also an important element for testing the feasibility and preparation of new interventions as a step towards a European Sovereignty Fund. The evaluation in 2025 will assess the relevance of the actions undertaken and serve as basis for assessing the need for an upscaling of the support towards strategic sectors.

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 33
Irène Tolleret, Stéphane Bijoux, Susana Solís Pérez, Laurence Farreng

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(11) While the STEP relies on the reprogramming and reinforcement of existing programmes for supporting strategic investments, it is also an important element for testing the feasibility and preparation of new interventions as a step towards a European Sovereignty Fund. The evaluation in 2025 will assess the relevance of the actions undertaken and serve as basis for assessing the need for an upscaling of the support towards strategic sectors.

(11) While the STEP relies on the reprogramming and reinforcement of existing programmes for supporting strategic investments, it is also an important element for testing the feasibility and preparation of new interventions as a step towards a European Sovereignty Fund. The *European Sovereignty Fund should strengthen the Union's strategic autonomy in key sectors while supporting the completion of the green and digital transitions.* The evaluation in 2025 will assess the relevance of the actions

undertaken and serve as basis for assessing the need for an upscaling of the support towards strategic sectors.

Or. en

Amendment 34
Dan-Ştefan Motreanu

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) While the STEP relies on the reprogramming and reinforcement of existing programmes for supporting strategic investments, it is also an important *element for testing the feasibility and preparation of new interventions as a* step towards *a* European Sovereignty Fund. The evaluation in 2025 will assess the relevance of the actions undertaken and serve as basis for assessing the need for an upscaling of the support towards strategic sectors.

Amendment

(11) While the STEP relies on the reprogramming and reinforcement of existing programmes for supporting strategic investments, it is also an important step towards *the creation of a dedicated* European Sovereignty Fund *post 2027*. The evaluation in 2025 will assess the relevance of the actions undertaken and serve as basis for assessing the need for an upscaling of the support towards strategic sectors.

Or. en

Justification

Considers that cohesion policy should maintain its focus on reducing socio-economic development gaps between EU regions, while STEP should benefit from a dedicated, robust program post 2027.

Amendment 35
Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) While the STEP relies on the reprogramming and reinforcement of

Amendment

(11) While the STEP relies on the reprogramming and reinforcement of

existing programmes for supporting strategic investments, it is also *an important element for testing the feasibility and preparation of new interventions as a step* towards a European Sovereignty Fund. The evaluation in 2025 *will assess* the relevance of the *actions* undertaken *and* serve as basis for assessing the need for an upscaling of the support towards strategic sectors.

existing programmes for supporting strategic investments, it is also *a critical test* towards *the establishment of* a European Sovereignty Fund. *At the latest with* the evaluation in 2025 the relevance of the *action* undertaken *will be assessed and the evaluation could* serve as basis for assessing the need for an upscaling of the support towards strategic sectors.

Or. en

Amendment 36 **Denis Nesci**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 12**

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) Directive 2003/87/EC⁵⁴ should be amended to allow for additional financing with a financial envelope for the period 2024-2027 of EUR 5 billion. The Innovation Fund supports investments in innovative low-carbon technologies, which is a scope that is to be covered by the STEP. The increase in volume of the Innovation Fund should therefore allow to provide financing responding to the objective of supporting the development or manufacturing in the Union of critical clean technologies. In line with the objectives of ensuring cohesion and promoting the Single Market, and in order to support the green transition and the development of clean technologies throughout the Union, the additional financial envelope should be made available through calls for proposals open to entities from Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for

Amendment

(12) Directive 2003/87/EC⁵⁴ should be amended to allow for additional financing with a financial envelope for the period 2024-2027 of EUR 5 billion. The Innovation Fund supports investments in innovative low-carbon technologies, which is a scope that is to be covered by the STEP. The increase in volume of the Innovation Fund should therefore allow to provide financing responding to the objective of supporting the development or manufacturing in the Union of critical clean technologies. In line with the objectives of ensuring cohesion and promoting the Single Market, and in order to support the green transition and the development of clean technologies throughout the Union, the additional financial envelope should be made available through calls for proposals open to entities from Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017. *In addition, the*

the period 2015-2017.

additional financial envelope should be made available also to support entities participating in the IPCEIs in critical clean technologies.

⁵⁴ Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading (OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, p. 32).

⁵⁴ Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading (OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, p. 32).

Or. en

Amendment 37 **Mauri Pekkarinen**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 12**

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) Directive 2003/87/EC⁵⁴ should be amended to allow for additional financing with a financial envelope for the period 2024-2027 of EUR 5 billion. The Innovation Fund supports investments in innovative low-carbon technologies, which is a scope that is to be covered by the STEP. The increase in volume of the Innovation Fund should therefore allow to provide financing responding to the objective of supporting the development or manufacturing in the Union of critical clean technologies. In line with the objectives of ensuring cohesion and promoting the Single Market, and in order to support the green transition and the development of clean technologies throughout the Union, the additional financial envelope should be made available through calls for proposals open to entities ***from Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017.***

Amendment

(12) Directive 2003/87/EC⁵⁴ should be amended to allow for additional financing with a financial envelope for the period 2024-2027 of EUR 5 billion. The Innovation Fund supports investments in innovative low-carbon technologies, which is a scope that is to be covered by the STEP. The increase in volume of the Innovation Fund should therefore allow to provide financing responding to the objective of supporting the development or manufacturing in the Union of critical clean technologies. In line with the objectives of ensuring cohesion and promoting the Single Market, and in order to support the green transition and the development of clean technologies throughout the Union, the additional financial envelope should be made available through calls for proposals open to entities ***in less developed and transition regions.***

⁵⁴ Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading (OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, p. 32).

⁵⁴ Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading (OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, p. 32).

Or. en

Justification

Cohesion funds should remain focused on the areas that need the most support.

Amendment 38

Rosa D'Amato

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) In order to extend support possibilities for investments aimed at strengthening industrial development and reinforcement of value chains in strategic sectors, the scope of support from the ERDF should be extended by providing for new specific objectives under the ERDF, without prejudice to the rules on eligibility of expenditure and climate spending as set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060⁵⁵ and Regulation (EU) 2021/1058⁵⁶. ***In strategic sectors, it should also be possible to support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs, which can make a significant contribution to the development of less developed and transition regions, as well as in more developed regions of Member States with a GDP per capita below the EU average. Managing authorities are encouraged to promote the collaboration between large enterprises and local SMEs, supply chains, innovation and technology ecosystems. This would allow reinforcing Europe's overall capacity to strengthen its position in those sectors through***

Amendment

(13) In order to extend support possibilities for investments aimed at strengthening industrial development and reinforcement of value chains in strategic sectors, the scope of support from the ERDF should be extended by providing for new specific objectives under the ERDF, without prejudice to the rules on eligibility of expenditure and climate spending as set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060⁵⁵ and Regulation (EU) 2021/1058⁵⁶. ***The resources programmed for these new specific objectives should be limited to a maximum of 5 % of the initial national allocation of the ERDF.***

providing access to all Member States for such investments, thus counteracting the risk of increasing disparities.

⁵⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).

⁵⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 31).

⁵⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).

⁵⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 31).

Or. en

Justification

In the current proposal, there is no limit to the Member States' possibility of reprogramming Cohesion policy allocations to the new STEP priorities. The rationale of this amendment lies in providing a capping to the amount of resources that could be used for these new priorities and aims at avoiding the risks of substantial changes in the programmes (with a potential huge diversion of regional policy resources) for the rest of 2021-2027 programming period,

Amendment 39 **Dan-Ștefan Motreanu**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 13**

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) In order to extend support possibilities for investments aimed at strengthening industrial development and reinforcement of value chains in strategic sectors, the scope of support from the ERDF should be extended by providing for new specific objectives under the ERDF, without prejudice to the rules on eligibility of expenditure and climate spending as set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060⁵⁵ and Regulation (EU) 2021/1058⁵⁶. In strategic sectors, it should also be possible to support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs, which can make a significant contribution to the development of less developed and

Amendment

(13) In order to extend support possibilities for investments aimed at strengthening industrial development and reinforcement of value chains in strategic sectors, the scope of support from the ERDF should be extended by providing for new specific objectives under the ERDF, without prejudice to the rules on eligibility of expenditure and climate spending as set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060⁵⁵ and Regulation (EU) 2021/1058⁵⁶. In strategic sectors, it should also be possible to support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs, which can make a significant contribution to the development of less developed and

transition regions, as well as in more developed regions of Member States with a GDP per capita below the EU average. Managing authorities are encouraged to promote the collaboration between large enterprises and local SMEs, supply chains, innovation and technology ecosystems. This would allow reinforcing Europe's overall capacity to strengthen its position in those sectors through providing access to all Member States for such investments, thus counteracting the risk of increasing disparities.

transition regions, as well as in more developed regions of Member States with a GDP per capita below the EU average. Managing authorities are encouraged to promote the collaboration between large enterprises and local SMEs, supply chains, innovation and technology ecosystems. ***In synergy with the Harnessing Talent initiative, managing authorities should facilitate partnerships between large enterprises and local universities in order to mitigate brain drain, enhance innovation, foster economic growth, and advance social progress in less developed regions.*** This would allow reinforcing Europe's overall capacity to strengthen its position in those sectors through providing access to all Member States for such investments, thus counteracting the risk of increasing disparities.

⁵⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).

⁵⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 31).

⁵⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).

⁵⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 31).

Or. en

Amendment 40 **Martina Michels**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 13**

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) In order to extend support possibilities for investments aimed at strengthening industrial development and reinforcement of value chains in strategic sectors, the scope of support from the ERDF should be extended by providing for new specific objectives under the ERDF,

Amendment

(13) In order to extend support possibilities for investments aimed at strengthening industrial development and reinforcement of value chains in strategic sectors, the scope of support from the ERDF should be extended by providing for new specific objectives under the ERDF,

without prejudice to the rules on eligibility of expenditure and climate spending as set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060⁵⁵ and Regulation (EU) 2021/1058⁵⁶. ***In strategic sectors, it should also be possible to support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs, which can make a significant contribution to the development of less developed and transition regions, as well as in more developed regions of Member States with a GDP per capita below the EU average.*** Managing authorities are encouraged to promote the collaboration between large enterprises and local SMEs, supply chains, innovation and technology ecosystems. This would allow reinforcing Europe's overall capacity to strengthen its position in those sectors through providing access to all Member States for such investments, thus counteracting the risk of increasing disparities.

⁵⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).

⁵⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 31).

without prejudice to the rules on eligibility of expenditure and climate spending as set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060⁵⁵ and Regulation (EU) 2021/1058⁵⁶. Managing authorities are encouraged to promote the collaboration between large enterprises and local SMEs, supply chains, innovation and technology ecosystems. This would allow reinforcing Europe's overall capacity to strengthen its position in those sectors through providing access to all Member States for such investments, thus counteracting the risk of increasing disparities.

⁵⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).

⁵⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 31).

Or. en

Amendment 41

Peter Pollák

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) In order to extend support possibilities for investments aimed at strengthening industrial development and reinforcement of value chains in strategic sectors, the scope of support from the

Amendment

(13) In order to extend support possibilities for investments aimed at strengthening industrial development and reinforcement of value chains in strategic sectors, the scope of support from the

ERDF should be extended by providing for new specific objectives under the ERDF, without prejudice to the rules on eligibility of expenditure and climate spending as set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060⁵⁵ and Regulation (EU) 2021/1058⁵⁶. In strategic sectors, it should also be possible to support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs, which can make a significant contribution to the development of less developed and transition regions, as well as in more developed regions of Member States with a GDP per capita below the EU average. Managing authorities are encouraged to promote the collaboration between large enterprises and local SMEs, supply chains, innovation and technology ecosystems. This would allow reinforcing Europe's overall capacity to strengthen its position in those sectors through providing access to all Member States for such investments, thus counteracting the risk of increasing disparities.

⁵⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).

⁵⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 31).

ERDF should be extended by providing for new specific objectives under the ERDF, without prejudice to the rules on eligibility of expenditure and climate spending as set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060⁵⁵ and Regulation (EU) 2021/1058⁵⁶. In strategic sectors, it should also be possible to support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs, which can make a significant contribution to the development of less developed and transition regions, as well as in more developed regions of Member States with a GDP per capita below the EU average. Managing authorities are encouraged to promote the collaboration between large enterprises and local SMEs, supply chains, innovation and technology ecosystems, *especially those which enforces the employment of long-term unemployed and marginalised groups through their corporate social responsibility strategies*. This would allow reinforcing Europe's overall capacity to strengthen its position in those sectors through providing access to all Member States for such investments, thus counteracting the risk of increasing disparities.

⁵⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).

⁵⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 31).

Or. en

Amendment 42

Rovana Plumb, Marcos Ros Sempere, Nora Mebarek, Adrian-Dragoş Benea, Matthias Ecke

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 13

(13) In order to extend support possibilities for investments aimed at strengthening industrial development and reinforcement of value chains in strategic sectors, the scope of support from the ERDF should be extended by providing for new specific objectives under the ERDF, without prejudice to the rules on eligibility of expenditure and climate spending as set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060⁵⁵ and Regulation (EU) 2021/1058⁵⁶. In strategic sectors, it should also be possible to support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs, which can make a significant contribution to the development of less developed and transition regions, as well as in more developed regions of Member States with a GDP per capita below the EU average. Managing authorities are encouraged to promote the collaboration between large enterprises and local SMEs, supply chains, innovation and technology ecosystems. This would allow reinforcing Europe's overall capacity to strengthen its position in those sectors through providing access to all Member States for such investments, thus counteracting the risk of increasing disparities.

⁵⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).

⁵⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 31).

(13) In order to extend support possibilities for investments aimed at strengthening industrial development and reinforcement of value chains in strategic sectors, the scope of support from the ERDF should be extended by providing for new specific objectives under the ERDF, without prejudice to the rules on eligibility of expenditure and climate spending as set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060⁵⁵ and Regulation (EU) 2021/1058⁵⁶. In strategic sectors, it should also be possible to support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs **and mid-caps which remain the focus and** which can make a significant contribution to the development of less developed and transition regions, **territories defined in the Just Transition Plans**, as well as in more developed regions of Member States with a GDP per capita below the EU average. Managing authorities are encouraged to promote the collaboration between large enterprises and local SMEs, supply chains, innovation and technology ecosystems. This would allow reinforcing Europe's overall capacity to strengthen its position in those sectors through providing access to all Member States for such investments, thus counteracting the risk of increasing disparities.

⁵⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).

⁵⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 31).

Or. en

Amendment 43

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) In order to extend support possibilities for investments aimed at strengthening industrial development and reinforcement of value chains in strategic sectors, the scope of support from the ERDF should be extended by providing for new specific objectives under the ERDF, without prejudice to the rules on eligibility of expenditure and climate spending as set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060⁵⁵ and Regulation (EU) 2021/1058⁵⁶. In strategic sectors, it should also be possible to support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs, which can make a significant contribution to the development of less developed and transition regions, ***as well as in more developed regions of Member States with a GDP per capita below the EU average.*** Managing authorities are encouraged to promote the collaboration between large enterprises and local SMEs, supply chains, innovation and technology ecosystems. This would allow reinforcing Europe's overall capacity to strengthen its position in those sectors through providing access to all Member States for such investments, thus counteracting the risk of increasing disparities.

⁵⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).

⁵⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 31).

Amendment

(13) In order to extend support possibilities for investments aimed at strengthening industrial development and reinforcement of value chains in strategic sectors, the scope of support from the ERDF should be extended by providing for new specific objectives under the ERDF, without prejudice to the rules on eligibility of expenditure and climate spending as set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060⁵⁵ and Regulation (EU) 2021/1058⁵⁶. In strategic sectors, it should also be possible to support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs, which can make a significant contribution to the development of less developed and transition regions. Managing authorities are encouraged to promote the collaboration between large enterprises and local SMEs, supply chains, innovation and technology ecosystems. This would allow reinforcing Europe's overall capacity to strengthen its position in those sectors through providing access to all Member States for such investments, thus counteracting the risk of increasing disparities.

⁵⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).

⁵⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 31).

Or. en

Justification

Cohesion funds should remain focused on the areas that need the most support.

Amendment 44

Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) In order to extend support possibilities for investments aimed at strengthening industrial development and reinforcement of value chains in strategic sectors, the scope of support from the ERDF should be extended by providing for new specific objectives under the ERDF, without prejudice to the rules on eligibility of expenditure and climate spending as set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060⁵⁵ and Regulation (EU) 2021/1058⁵⁶. In strategic sectors, it should also be possible to support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs, which can make a significant contribution to the development of less developed and transition regions, as well as in more developed regions of Member States with a GDP per capita below the EU average. Managing authorities are encouraged to promote the collaboration between large enterprises and local SMEs, supply chains, innovation and technology ecosystems. This would allow reinforcing Europe's overall capacity to strengthen its position in those sectors through providing access to all Member States for such investments, thus counteracting the risk of increasing disparities.

⁵⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).

Amendment

(13) In order to extend support possibilities for investments aimed at strengthening industrial development and reinforcement of value chains in strategic sectors, the scope of support from the ERDF should be extended by providing for new specific objectives under the ERDF, without prejudice to the rules on eligibility of expenditure and climate spending as set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060⁵⁵ and Regulation (EU) 2021/1058⁵⁶. In strategic sectors, it should also be possible to support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs, which can make a significant contribution to the development of less developed and transition regions, as well as in more developed regions of Member States with a GDP per capita below the EU average. Managing authorities are encouraged to promote the collaboration ***and partnerships*** between large enterprises and ***in particular*** local SMEs, supply chains, innovation and technology ecosystems. This would allow reinforcing Europe's overall capacity to strengthen its position in those sectors through providing access to all Member States for such investments, thus counteracting the risk of increasing disparities.

⁵⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).

⁵⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 31).

⁵⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 31).

Or. en

Amendment 45 **Ondřej Knotek**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 13**

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) In order to extend support possibilities for investments aimed at strengthening industrial development and reinforcement of value chains in strategic sectors, the scope of support from the ERDF should be extended by providing for new *specific objectives under the ERDF*, without prejudice to the rules on eligibility of expenditure and climate spending as set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060⁵⁵ and Regulation (EU) 2021/1058⁵⁶. In strategic sectors, it should also be possible to support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs, which can make a significant contribution to the development of less developed and transition regions, as well as in more developed regions of Member States with a GDP per capita below the EU average. Managing authorities are encouraged to promote the collaboration between large enterprises and local SMEs, supply chains, innovation and technology ecosystems. This would allow reinforcing Europe's overall capacity to strengthen its position in those sectors through providing access to all Member States for such investments, thus counteracting the risk of increasing disparities.

⁵⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down

Amendment

(13) In order to extend support possibilities for investments aimed at strengthening industrial development and reinforcement of value chains in strategic sectors, the scope of support from the ERDF should be extended by providing for new *intervention fields*, without prejudice to the rules on eligibility of expenditure and climate spending as set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060⁵⁵ and Regulation (EU) 2021/1058⁵⁶. In strategic sectors, it should also be possible to support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs, which can make a significant contribution to the development of less developed and transition regions, as well as in more developed regions of Member States with a GDP per capita below the EU average. Managing authorities are encouraged to promote the collaboration between large enterprises and local SMEs, supply chains, innovation and technology ecosystems. This would allow reinforcing Europe's overall capacity to strengthen its position in those sectors through providing access to all Member States for such investments, thus counteracting the risk of increasing disparities.

⁵⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 laying down

common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).

⁵⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 31).

common provisions (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).

⁵⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 31).

Or. en

Amendment 46

Rosa D'Amato

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 14

Text proposed by the Commission

(14) *The scope of support of the JTF, laid down in Regulation (EU) 2021/1056,⁵⁷ should also be extended to cover investments in clean technologies contributing to the objectives of the STEP by large enterprises, provided that they are compatible with the expected contribution to the transition to climate neutrality as set out in the territorial just transition plans. The support provided for such investments should not require a revision of the territorial just transition plan where that revision would be exclusively linked to the gap analysis justifying the investment from the perspective of job creation.*

⁵⁷ Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 establishing the Just Transition Fund (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 1).

Amendment

(14) *Whereas the establishment of a Just Transition Fund (JTF) is aimed at supporting regions and territories most affected by the transition towards a climate-neutral economy and by phasing out of coal and other carbon-intensive industries which is a key component of a resilient and future oriented industry; whereas JTF clearly promotes a just and social green transition by financing the diversification and modernisation of the local economy and by mitigating the potential negative repercussions on employment which is a key Union priority; whereas the Fund is not endowed with sufficient resources to sufficiently address regional and local needs and no further reduction of its budgetary allocation should be then allowed.*

Or. en

Amendment 47
Martina Michels

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 14

Text proposed by the Commission

(14) The scope of support of the JTF, laid down in Regulation (EU) 2021/1056,⁵⁷ should also be extended to cover investments in clean technologies ***contributing to the objectives of the STEP by large enterprises***, provided that they are compatible with the expected contribution to the transition to climate neutrality as set out in the territorial just transition plans. The support provided for such investments should not require a revision of the territorial just transition plan where that revision would be exclusively linked to the gap analysis justifying the investment from the perspective of job creation.

⁵⁷ Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 establishing the Just Transition Fund (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 1).

Amendment

(14) The scope of support of the JTF, laid down in Regulation (EU) 2021/1056,⁵⁷ should also be extended to cover ***projects to address shortages of labour and skills critical to quality jobs in support of the STEP objectives to promote*** investments in clean technologies provided that they are compatible with the expected contribution to the transition to climate neutrality as set out in the territorial just transition plans. The support provided for such investments should not require a revision of the territorial just transition plan where that revision would be exclusively linked to the gap analysis justifying the investment from the perspective of job creation.

⁵⁷ Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 establishing the Just Transition Fund (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 1).

Or. en

Amendment 48
Martina Michels

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) ***In order to help accelerate investments and provide immediate liquidity for investments supporting the STEP objectives under the ERDF, the ESF+⁵⁹ and the JTF, an additional amount of exceptional pre-financing should be provided in the form of a one-***

Amendment

(16) When implementing the new STEP objectives, managing authorities are encouraged to apply certain social criteria ***and*** promote social positive outcomes, such as creating apprenticeships and jobs for young disadvantaged persons, in particular young persons not in

off payment with respect to the priorities dedicated to investments supporting the STEP objectives. The additional pre-financing should apply to the whole of the JTF allocation given the need to accelerate its implementation and the strong links of the JTF to support Member States towards the STEP objectives. The rules applying for those amounts of exceptional pre-financing should be consistent with the rules applicable to pre-financing set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. Moreover, to further incentivise the uptake of such investments and ensure its faster implementation, the possibility for an increased EU financing rate of 100% for the STEP priorities should be available.

When implementing the new STEP objectives, managing authorities are encouraged to apply certain social criteria **or** promote social positive outcomes, such as creating apprenticeships and jobs for young disadvantaged persons, in particular young persons not in employment, education or training, applying the social award criteria in the Directives on public procurement when a project is implemented by a body subject to public procurement, and paying the applicable wages as agreed through collective bargaining.

employment, education or training, applying the social award criteria in the Directives on public procurement when a project is implemented by a body subject to public procurement, and paying the applicable wages as agreed through collective bargaining.

⁵⁹ *Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21).*

Or. en

Amendment 49
Mauri Pekkarinen

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 16

(16) In order to help accelerate investments and provide immediate liquidity for investments supporting the STEP objectives under the ERDF, the ESF+⁵⁹ and the JTF, an additional amount of exceptional pre-financing should be provided in the form of a one-off payment with respect to the priorities dedicated to investments supporting the STEP objectives. The additional pre-financing should apply to the whole of the JTF allocation given the need to accelerate its implementation and the strong links of the JTF to support Member States towards the STEP objectives. The rules applying for those amounts of exceptional pre-financing should be consistent with the rules applicable to pre-financing set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. Moreover, to further incentivise the uptake of such investments and ensure its faster implementation, the possibility for an increased EU financing rate of 100% for the STEP priorities should be available. When implementing the new STEP objectives, managing authorities are encouraged to apply certain social criteria or promote social positive outcomes, such as creating apprenticeships and jobs for young disadvantaged persons, in particular young persons not in employment, education or training, applying the social award criteria in the Directives on public procurement when a project is implemented by a body subject to public procurement, and paying the applicable wages as agreed through collective bargaining.

(16) In order to help accelerate investments and provide immediate liquidity for investments supporting the STEP objectives under the ERDF, the ESF+⁵⁹ and the JTF, an additional amount of exceptional pre-financing should be provided in the form of a one-off payment with respect to the priorities dedicated to investments supporting the STEP objectives. The additional pre-financing should apply to the whole of the JTF allocation given the need to accelerate its implementation and the strong links of the JTF to support Member States towards the STEP objectives. The rules applying for those amounts of exceptional pre-financing should be consistent with the rules applicable to pre-financing set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. ***In the allocation of JTF funding, it is advisable to consider the ramifications of various apportionment strategies on the debt servicing expenses associated with the financing derived from the Next Generation EU initiative.*** Moreover, to further incentivise the uptake of such investments and ensure its faster implementation, the possibility for an increased EU financing rate of 100% for the STEP priorities should be available. When implementing the new STEP objectives, managing authorities are encouraged to apply certain social criteria or promote social positive outcomes, such as creating apprenticeships and jobs for young disadvantaged persons, in particular young persons not in employment, education or training, applying the social award criteria in the Directives on public procurement when a project is implemented by a body subject to public procurement, and paying the applicable wages as agreed through collective bargaining.

⁵⁹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing

⁵⁹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing

the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21).

the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21).

Or. en

Amendment 50

Rosa D'Amato

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) In order to help accelerate investments and provide immediate liquidity for investments supporting the STEP objectives under the ERDF, the ESF+⁵⁹ and the JTF, an additional amount of exceptional pre-financing should be provided in the form of a one-off payment with respect to the priorities dedicated to investments supporting the STEP objectives. The additional pre-financing should apply to the whole of the JTF allocation given the need to accelerate its implementation ***and the strong links of the JTF to support Member States towards the STEP objectives.*** The rules applying for those amounts of exceptional pre-financing should be consistent with the rules applicable to pre-financing set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. ***Moreover, to further incentivise the uptake of such investments and ensure its faster implementation, the possibility for an increased EU financing rate of 100% for the STEP priorities should be available.*** When implementing the new STEP objectives, managing authorities ***are encouraged to*** apply certain social criteria ***or*** promote social positive outcomes, such as creating apprenticeships and jobs for young disadvantaged ***persons***, in particular young persons not in employment, education or training, applying the social award criteria in the Directives on public

Amendment

(16) In order to help accelerate investments and provide immediate liquidity for investments supporting the STEP objectives under the ERDF, the ESF+⁵⁹ and the JTF, an additional amount of exceptional pre-financing should be provided in the form of a one-off payment with respect to the priorities dedicated to investments supporting the STEP objectives. The additional pre-financing should apply to the whole of the JTF allocation given the need to accelerate its implementation. The rules applying for those amounts of exceptional pre-financing should be consistent with the rules applicable to pre-financing set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. When implementing the new STEP objectives, managing authorities ***should*** apply certain ***strict*** social criteria ***in order to*** promote social positive outcomes, such as creating ***paid*** apprenticeships and ***quality*** jobs for young ***persons from*** disadvantaged ***background***, in particular young persons not in employment, education or training, applying the social award criteria in the Directives on public procurement when a project is implemented by a body subject to public procurement, and paying the applicable wages as agreed through collective bargaining.

procurement when a project is implemented by a body subject to public procurement, and paying the applicable wages as agreed through collective bargaining.

⁵⁹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21).

⁵⁹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21).

Or. en

Amendment 51

Mauri Pekkarinen

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) In order to help accelerate investments and provide immediate liquidity for investments supporting the STEP objectives under the ERDF, the ESF+⁵⁹ and the JTF, an additional amount of exceptional pre-financing should be provided in the form of a one-off payment with respect to the priorities dedicated to investments supporting the STEP objectives. The additional pre-financing should apply to the whole of the JTF allocation given the need to accelerate its implementation and the strong links of the JTF to support Member States towards the STEP objectives. The rules applying for those amounts of exceptional pre-financing should be consistent with the rules applicable to pre-financing set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. ***Moreover, to further incentivise the uptake of such investments and ensure its faster implementation, the possibility for an increased EU financing rate of 100% for the STEP priorities should be available.*** When implementing the new STEP objectives, managing authorities are

Amendment

(16) In order to help accelerate investments and provide immediate liquidity for investments supporting the STEP objectives under the ERDF, the ESF+⁵⁹ and the JTF, an additional amount of exceptional pre-financing should be provided in the form of a one-off payment with respect to the priorities dedicated to investments supporting the STEP objectives. The additional pre-financing should apply to the whole of the JTF allocation given the need to accelerate its implementation and the strong links of the JTF to support Member States towards the STEP objectives. The rules applying for those amounts of exceptional pre-financing should be consistent with the rules applicable to pre-financing set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. When implementing the new STEP objectives, managing authorities are encouraged to apply certain social criteria or promote social positive outcomes, such as creating apprenticeships and jobs for young disadvantaged persons, in particular young persons not in employment, education or

encouraged to apply certain social criteria or promote social positive outcomes, such as creating apprenticeships and jobs for young disadvantaged persons, in particular young persons not in employment, education or training, applying the social award criteria in the Directives on public procurement when a project is implemented by a body subject to public procurement, and paying the applicable wages as agreed through collective bargaining.

⁵⁹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21).

training, applying the social award criteria in the Directives on public procurement when a project is implemented by a body subject to public procurement, and paying the applicable wages as agreed through collective bargaining.

⁵⁹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21).

Or. en

Amendment 52

Irène Tolleret, Stéphane Bijoux, Susana Solís Pérez, Laurence Farreng

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) In order to help accelerate investments and provide immediate liquidity for investments supporting the STEP objectives under the ERDF, the ESF+⁵⁹ and the JTF, an additional amount of exceptional pre-financing should be provided in the form of a one-off payment with respect to the priorities dedicated to investments supporting the STEP objectives. The additional pre-financing should apply to the whole of the JTF allocation given the need to accelerate its implementation and the strong links of the JTF to support Member States towards the STEP objectives. The rules applying for those amounts of exceptional pre-financing should be consistent with the rules applicable to pre-financing set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. Moreover, to

Amendment

(16) In order to help accelerate investments and provide immediate liquidity for investments supporting the STEP objectives under the ERDF, the ESF+⁵⁹ and the JTF, an additional amount of exceptional pre-financing should be provided in the form of a one-off payment with respect to the priorities dedicated to investments supporting the STEP objectives. The additional pre-financing should apply to the whole of the JTF allocation given the need to accelerate its implementation and the strong links of the JTF to support Member States towards the STEP objectives. The rules applying for those amounts of exceptional pre-financing should be consistent with the rules applicable to pre-financing set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. Moreover, to

further incentivise the uptake of such investments and ensure its faster implementation, the possibility for ***an increased*** EU financing rate of 100% for the STEP priorities should be available. When implementing the new STEP objectives, managing authorities are encouraged to apply certain social criteria or promote social positive outcomes, such as creating apprenticeships and jobs for young disadvantaged persons, in particular young persons not in employment, education or training, applying the social award criteria in the Directives on public procurement when a project is implemented by a body subject to public procurement, and paying the applicable wages as agreed through collective bargaining.

⁵⁹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21).

further incentivise the uptake of such investments and ensure its faster implementation, the possibility for ***a maximum*** EU financing rate of 100% for the STEP priorities should be available. When implementing the new STEP objectives, managing authorities are encouraged to apply certain social criteria or promote social positive outcomes, such as creating apprenticeships and jobs for young disadvantaged persons, in particular young persons not in employment, education or training, applying the social award criteria in the Directives on public procurement when a project is implemented by a body subject to public procurement, and paying the applicable wages as agreed through collective bargaining.

⁵⁹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21).

Or. en

Amendment 53 Ondřej Knotek

Proposal for a regulation Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) In order to help accelerate investments and provide immediate liquidity for investments supporting the STEP objectives under the ERDF, the ESF+⁵⁹ and the JTF, an additional amount of exceptional pre-financing should be provided in the form of a one-off payment with respect ***to the priorities dedicated to*** investments supporting the STEP objectives. The additional pre-financing should apply to the whole of the JTF allocation given the need to accelerate its

Amendment

(16) In order to help accelerate investments and provide immediate liquidity for investments supporting the STEP objectives under the ERDF, the ESF+⁵⁹ and the JTF, an additional amount of exceptional pre-financing should be provided in the form of a one-off payment with respect to investments supporting the STEP objectives. The additional pre-financing should apply to the whole of the JTF allocation given the need to accelerate its implementation and the strong links of

implementation and the strong links of the JTF to support Member States towards the STEP objectives. The rules applying for those amounts of exceptional pre-financing should be consistent with the rules applicable to pre-financing set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. Moreover, to further incentivise the uptake of such investments and ensure its faster implementation, the possibility for an increased EU financing rate of 100% for the STEP **priorities** should be available. When implementing the new STEP objectives, managing authorities are encouraged to apply certain social criteria or promote social positive outcomes, such as creating apprenticeships and jobs for young disadvantaged persons, in particular young persons not in employment, education or training, applying the social award criteria in the Directives on public procurement when a project is implemented by a body subject to public procurement, and paying the applicable wages as agreed through collective bargaining.

the JTF to support Member States towards the STEP objectives. The rules applying for those amounts of exceptional pre-financing should be consistent with the rules applicable to pre-financing set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. Moreover, to further incentivise the uptake of such investments and ensure its faster implementation, the possibility for an increased EU financing rate of 100% for the STEP **investments** should be available. When implementing the new STEP objectives, managing authorities are encouraged to apply certain social criteria or promote social positive outcomes, such as creating apprenticeships and jobs for young disadvantaged persons, in particular young persons not in employment, education or training, applying the social award criteria in the Directives on public procurement when a project is implemented by a body subject to public procurement, and paying the applicable wages as agreed through collective bargaining.

⁵⁹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21).

⁵⁹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21).

Or. en

Amendment 54

Ondřej Knotek

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 18

Text proposed by the Commission

(18) The regulatory framework for the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes has been adapted over the past years to provide Member States and regions with additional with additional

Amendment

(18) The regulatory framework for the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes has been adapted over the past years to provide Member States and regions with additional with additional

flexibility in terms of implementation rules and more liquidity to tackle the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war or aggression against Ukraine. These measures, introduced at the end of the programming period, require sufficient time and administrative resources to be fully exploited and implemented; also at a time where Member States will focus resources on revising the 2021-2027 operational programmes linked to the STEP objectives. With a view to alleviate the administrative burden on programme authorities and to prevent possible loss of funds at closure for purely administrative reasons, the deadlines for the administrative closure of the programmes under the 2014-2020 period should be extended in Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013⁶¹ and Regulation (EU) No 223/2014⁶². More specifically, the deadline for the submission of that final payment application should be extended by 12 months. Furthermore, the deadline for the submission of the closure documents should also be extended by 12 months. In the context of this amendment, it is appropriate to clarify that distribution of food and material bought until the end of the eligibility period (end-2023) may continue after that date. In order to ensure a sound implementation of the EU budget and respect for the payment ceilings, payments to be made in 2025 should be capped at 1 % of the financial appropriations from resources under the Multiannual Financial Framework per programme. Amounts due exceeding the ceiling of 1% of programme appropriations per fund for 2025 would not be paid in 2025 nor in subsequent years but only used for the clearance of pre-financing. Unused amounts shall be decommitted in accordance with the general rules for decommitment at closure.

flexibility in terms of implementation rules and more liquidity to tackle the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war or aggression against Ukraine. These measures, introduced at the end of the programming period, require sufficient time and administrative resources to be fully exploited and implemented; also at a time where Member States will focus resources on revising the 2021-2027 operational programmes linked to the STEP objectives. With a view to alleviate the administrative burden on programme authorities and to prevent possible loss of funds at closure for purely administrative reasons, the deadlines for the administrative closure of the programmes under the 2014-2020 period should be extended in Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013⁶¹ and Regulation (EU) No 223/2014⁶². More specifically, the deadline for the submission of that final payment application should be extended by 12 months. Furthermore, the deadline for the submission of the closure documents should also be extended by 12 months. ***Therefore, Member States may submit the final payment application for each programme any time by 31 July 2025 and the closure documents any time by 15 February 2026.*** In the context of this amendment, it is appropriate to clarify that distribution of food and material bought until the end of the eligibility period (end-2023) may continue after that date. In order to ensure a sound implementation of the EU budget and respect for the payment ceilings, payments to be made in 2025 ***following the interim payment applications submitted by the certifying authority after 31 October 2024*** should be capped at 1 % of the financial appropriations from resources under the Multiannual Financial Framework per programme. Amounts due exceeding the ceiling of 1% of programme appropriations per fund for 2025 would not be paid in 2025 nor in subsequent years but only used for the clearance of pre-financing. Unused

amounts shall be decommitted in accordance with the general rules for decommitment at closure.

⁶¹ Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 laying down common provisions (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

⁶² Regulation (EU) 223/2014 on the Fund for European Aid on the Most Deprived (OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1).

⁶¹ Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 laying down common provisions (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

⁶² Regulation (EU) 223/2014 on the Fund for European Aid on the Most Deprived (OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1).

Or. en

Amendment 55

Rovana Plumb, Marcos Ros Sempere, Nora Mebarek, Josianne Cutajar, Adrian-Dragoş Benea, Matthias Ecke

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 18

Text proposed by the Commission

(18) The regulatory framework for the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes has been adapted over the past years to provide Member States and regions with additional with additional flexibility in terms of implementation rules and more liquidity to tackle the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war or aggression against Ukraine. These measures, introduced at the end of the programming period, require sufficient time and administrative resources to be fully exploited and implemented; also at a time where Member States will focus resources on revising the 2021-2027 operational programmes linked to the STEP objectives. With a view to alleviate the administrative burden on programme authorities and to prevent possible loss of funds at closure for purely administrative reasons, the deadlines for the administrative closure of the programmes under the 2014-2020 period should be extended in Regulation (EU) No

Amendment

(18) The regulatory framework for the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes has been adapted over the past years to provide Member States and regions with additional with additional flexibility in terms of implementation rules and more liquidity to tackle the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war or aggression against Ukraine. These measures, introduced at the end of the programming period, require sufficient time and administrative resources to be fully exploited and implemented; also at a time where Member States will focus resources on revising the 2021-2027 operational programmes linked to the STEP objectives. With a view to alleviate the administrative burden on programme authorities and to prevent possible loss of funds at closure for purely administrative reasons, the deadlines for the administrative closure of the programmes under the 2014-2020 period should be extended in Regulation (EU) No

1303/2013⁶¹ and Regulation (EU) No 223/2014⁶². More specifically, the deadline for the submission of that final payment application should be extended by 12 months. Furthermore, the deadline for the submission of the closure documents should also be extended by 12 months. In the context of this amendment, it is appropriate to clarify that distribution of food and material bought until the end of the eligibility period (end-2023) may continue after that date. In order to ensure a sound implementation of the EU budget and respect for the payment ceilings, payments to be made in 2025 should be capped at 1 % of the financial appropriations from resources under the Multiannual Financial Framework per programme. Amounts due exceeding the ceiling of 1% of programme appropriations per fund for 2025 would not be paid in 2025 nor in subsequent years but only used for the clearance of pre-financing. Unused amounts shall be decommitted in accordance with the general rules for decommitment at closure.

⁶¹ Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 laying down common provisions (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

⁶² Regulation (EU) 223/2014 on the Fund for European Aid on the Most Deprived (OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1).

1303/2013⁶¹ and Regulation (EU) No 223/2014⁶². More specifically, the deadline for the submission of that final payment application should be extended by 12 months. Furthermore, the deadline for the submission of the closure documents should also be extended by 12 months. ***The last accounting year of the period should accordingly be extended until June 30, 2025 in order to give Member States sufficient time to finalise the processes linked to the closure of projects.*** In the context of this amendment, it is appropriate to clarify that distribution of food and material bought until the end of the eligibility period (end-2023) may continue after that date. In order to ensure a sound implementation of the EU budget and respect for the payment ceilings, payments to be made in 2025 should be capped at 1 % of the financial appropriations from resources under the Multiannual Financial Framework per programme. Amounts due exceeding the ceiling of 1% of programme appropriations per fund for 2025 would not be paid in 2025 nor in subsequent years but only used for the clearance of pre-financing. Unused amounts shall be decommitted in accordance with the general rules for decommitment at closure.

⁶¹ Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 laying down common provisions (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

⁶² Regulation (EU) 223/2014 on the Fund for European Aid on the Most Deprived (OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1).

Or. en

Justification

Without an extension of the final accounting year, controls by the intermediate bodies and managing authorities would have to be finalized by 30 June 2024, which would significantly hamper the possibility to extend project implementation periods in the way the situation demands. A real effect can only be reached if the accounting year is extended analogously to the deadline for the submission of the closure documents.

Amendment 56
Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 18

Text proposed by the Commission

(18) The regulatory framework for the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes has been adapted over the past years to provide Member States and regions with additional with additional flexibility in terms of implementation rules and more liquidity to tackle the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war or aggression against Ukraine. These measures, introduced at the end of the programming period, require sufficient time and administrative resources to be fully exploited and implemented; also at a time where Member States will focus resources on revising the 2021-2027 operational programmes linked to the STEP objectives. With a view to alleviate the administrative burden on programme authorities and to prevent possible loss of funds at closure for purely administrative reasons, the deadlines for the administrative closure of the programmes under the 2014-2020 period should be extended in Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013⁶¹ and Regulation (EU) No 223/2014⁶². More specifically, the deadline for the submission of that final payment application should be extended by 12 months. Furthermore, the deadline for the submission of the closure documents should also be extended by 12 months. In the context of this amendment, it is appropriate to clarify that distribution of food and material bought until the end of the eligibility period (end-2023) may continue after that date. In order to ensure a sound implementation of the EU budget and respect for the payment ceilings, payments to be made in 2025 should be

Amendment

(18) The regulatory framework for the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes has been adapted over the past years to provide Member States and regions with additional with additional flexibility in terms of implementation rules and more liquidity to tackle the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war or aggression against Ukraine. These measures, introduced at the end of the programming period, require sufficient time and administrative resources to be fully exploited and implemented; also at a time where Member States will focus resources on revising the 2021-2027 operational programmes linked to the STEP objectives. With a view to alleviate the administrative burden on programme authorities and to prevent possible loss of funds at closure for purely administrative reasons, the deadlines for the administrative closure of the programmes under the 2014-2020 period should be extended in Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013⁶¹ and Regulation (EU) No 223/2014⁶². More specifically, the deadline for the submission of that final payment application should be extended by 12 months. Furthermore, the deadline for the submission of the closure documents should also be extended by 12 months. In the context of this amendment, it is appropriate to clarify that distribution of food and material bought until the end of the eligibility period (end-2023) may continue after that date. In order to ensure a sound implementation of the EU budget and respect for the payment ceilings, payments to be made in 2025 should be

capped at 1 % of the financial appropriations from resources under the Multiannual Financial Framework per programme. Amounts due exceeding the ceiling of 1% of programme appropriations per fund for 2025 would not be paid in 2025 *nor in subsequent years but only used for the clearance of pre-financing*. Unused amounts shall be decommitted in accordance with the general rules for decommitment at closure.

⁶¹ Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 laying down common provisions (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

⁶² Regulation (EU) 223/2014 on the Fund for European Aid on the Most Deprived (OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1).

capped at 1 % of the financial appropriations from resources under the Multiannual Financial Framework per programme. Amounts due exceeding the ceiling of 1% of programme appropriations per fund for 2025 would not be paid in 2025 *should be paid within the framework of the payment of the final balance according to the article 141*. Unused amounts shall be decommitted in accordance with the general rules for decommitment at closure.

⁶¹ Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 laying down common provisions (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

⁶² Regulation (EU) 223/2014 on the Fund for European Aid on the Most Deprived (OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1).

Or. en

Amendment 57

Younous Omarjee

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 18

Text proposed by the Commission

(18) The regulatory framework for the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes has been adapted over the past years to provide Member States and regions with additional with additional flexibility in terms of implementation rules and more liquidity to tackle the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war or aggression against Ukraine. These measures, introduced at the end of the programming period, require sufficient time and administrative resources to be fully exploited and implemented; also at a time where Member States will focus resources on revising the 2021-2027 operational programmes linked to the

Amendment

(18) The regulatory framework for the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes has been adapted over the past years to provide Member States and regions with additional with additional flexibility in terms of implementation rules and more liquidity to tackle the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war or aggression against Ukraine. These measures, introduced at the end of the programming period, require sufficient time and administrative resources to be fully exploited and implemented; also at a time where Member States will focus resources on revising the 2021-2027 operational programmes linked to the

STEP objectives. With a view to alleviate the administrative burden on programme authorities and to prevent possible loss of funds at closure for purely administrative reasons, the deadlines for the administrative closure of the programmes under the 2014-2020 period should be extended in Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013⁶¹ and Regulation (EU) No 223/2014⁶². More specifically, the deadline for the submission of that final payment application should be extended by 12 months. Furthermore, the deadline for the submission of the closure documents should also be extended by 12 months. In the context of this amendment, it is appropriate to clarify that distribution of food and material bought until the end of the eligibility period (end-2023) may continue after that date. In order to ensure a sound implementation of the EU budget and respect for the payment ceilings, payments to be made in 2025 should be capped ***at 1 % of the financial appropriations from resources under the Multiannual Financial Framework per programme***. Amounts due exceeding the ***ceiling of 1% of*** programme appropriations per fund for 2025 would not be paid in 2025 nor in subsequent years but only used for the clearance of pre-financing. Unused amounts shall be decommitted in accordance with the general rules for decommitment at closure.

⁶¹ Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 laying down common provisions (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

⁶² Regulation (EU) 223/2014 on the Fund for European Aid on the Most Deprived (OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1).

STEP objectives. With a view to alleviate the administrative burden on programme authorities and to prevent possible loss of funds at closure for purely administrative reasons, the deadlines for the administrative closure of the programmes under the 2014-2020 period should be extended in Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013⁶¹ and Regulation (EU) No 223/2014⁶². More specifically, the deadline for the submission of that final payment application should be extended by 12 months. Furthermore, the deadline for the submission of the closure documents should also be extended by 12 months. In the context of this amendment, it is appropriate to clarify that distribution of food and material bought until the end of the eligibility period (end-2023) may continue after that date. In order to ensure a sound implementation of the EU budget and respect for the payment ceilings, payments to be made in 2025 should be capped. Amounts due exceeding the ***ceilings for*** programme appropriations per fund for 2025 would not be paid in 2025 nor in subsequent years but only used for the clearance of pre-financing. Unused amounts shall be decommitted in accordance with the general rules for decommitment at closure.

Provision should also be made for a specific derogation for the outermost regions.

⁶¹ Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 laying down common provisions (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

⁶² Regulation (EU) 223/2014 on the Fund for European Aid on the Most Deprived (OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1).

Or. fr

Amendment 58
Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 19

Text proposed by the Commission

(19) InvestEU is the EU flagship programme to boost investment, especially the green and digital transition, by providing demand-driven financing, including through blending mechanisms, and technical assistance. Such approach contributes to crowd in additional public and private capital. Given the high market demand of InvestEU guarantee, the EU compartment of InvestEU should be reinforced to correspond to the objectives of the STEP. This will, among other things, reinforce InvestEU's existing possibility to invest in projects forming part of an IPCEI, within the identified critical technology sectors. In addition, Member States are encouraged to contribute to the InvestEU Member State compartment to support financial products in line with the STEP objectives, without prejudice to applicable State aid rules. It should be possible for Member States to include as a measure in their recovery and resilience plans a cash contribution for the purpose of the Member State compartment of InvestEU to support objectives of the STEP. That additional contribution to support objectives of the STEP could reach up to 6% of their recovery and resilience plan's total financial allocation to the Member State compartment of InvestEU. Additional flexibility and clarifications should also be introduced to better pursue the objectives of the STEP.

Amendment

(19) InvestEU is the EU flagship programme to boost investment, especially the green and digital transition, by providing demand-driven financing, including through blending mechanisms, and technical assistance. Such approach contributes to crowd in additional public and private capital. Given the high market demand of InvestEU guarantee, the EU compartment of InvestEU should be reinforced to correspond to the objectives of the STEP. This will, among other things, reinforce InvestEU's existing possibility to invest in projects forming part of an IPCEI, within the identified critical technology sectors. In addition, Member States are encouraged to contribute to the InvestEU Member State compartment to support financial products in line with the STEP objectives, without prejudice to applicable State aid rules. It should be possible for Member States, ***on a voluntary bases***, to include as a measure in their recovery and resilience plans a cash contribution for the purpose of the Member State compartment of InvestEU to support objectives of the STEP. That additional contribution to support objectives of the STEP could reach up to 6% of their recovery and resilience plan's total financial allocation to the Member State compartment of InvestEU. Additional flexibility and clarifications should also be introduced to better pursue the objectives of the STEP.

Or. en

Amendment 59
Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 20

Text proposed by the Commission

(20) Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation, and its European Innovation Council (EIC) provides for support for innovations with potential breakthrough and disruptive nature with scale-up potential that may be too risky for private investors. Additional flexibility should be provided for under Horizon Europe, so that the EIC Accelerator can provide equity-only support to non-bankable SMEs, including start-ups, and non-bankable SMEs and small mid-caps, carrying out innovation in the technologies supported by the STEP and regardless of whether they previously received other types of support from the EIC Accelerator. The implementation of the EIC Fund is currently limited to a maximum investment amount of EUR 15 million except in exceptional cases and cannot accommodate follow-on financing rounds or larger investment amounts. Allowing for equity-only support for non-bankable SMEs and small mid-caps would address the existing market gap with investments needs in the range of EUR 15 to 50 million. Moreover, experience has shown that the amounts committed for the EIC Pilot under Horizon2020 are not fully used. These unused funds should be made available for the purposes of the EIC Accelerator under Horizon Europe. The Horizon Europe Regulation should also be amended to reflect the increased envelope for the European Defence Fund.

Amendment

(20) Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation, and its European Innovation Council (EIC) provides for support for innovations with potential breakthrough and disruptive nature with scale-up potential that may be too risky for private investors. Additional flexibility should be provided for under Horizon Europe, so that the EIC Accelerator can provide equity-only support to non-bankable SMEs, including start-ups, and non-bankable SMEs and small mid-caps, carrying out innovation in the technologies supported by the STEP and regardless of whether they previously received other types of support from the EIC Accelerator. The implementation of the EIC Fund is currently limited to a maximum investment amount of EUR 15 million except in exceptional cases and cannot accommodate follow-on financing rounds or larger investment amounts. Allowing for equity-only support for non-bankable SMEs and small mid-caps would address the existing market gap with investments needs in the range of EUR 15 to 50 million. ***The equity-only support shall be provided by additional financial resources provided by STEP regulation.*** Moreover, experience has shown that the amounts committed for the EIC Pilot under Horizon2020 are not fully used. These unused funds should be made available for the purposes of the EIC Accelerator under Horizon Europe. The Horizon Europe Regulation should also be amended to reflect the increased envelope for the European Defence Fund.

Or. en

Amendment 60
Nora Mebarek

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – title

Text proposed by the Commission

STEP objectives

Amendment

STEP objectives **and eligibility**

Or. en

Amendment 61
Martina Michels

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

1. To strengthen European sovereignty and security, accelerate the Union's green and digital transitions and enhance **its** competitiveness, reduce its strategic dependencies, favour a level playing field in the Single Market for investments throughout the Union, and promote inclusive access to attractive, quality jobs, the Platform shall **pursue** the following **objectives**:

Amendment

1. ***In order*** to strengthen European sovereignty and security, ***to*** accelerate the Union's ***socially balanced*** green and digital transitions and enhance competitiveness ***and cohesive development of all its regions***, ***to*** reduce its strategic dependencies, favour a level playing field in the Single Market for investments throughout the Union, and ***to*** promote inclusive access to attractive, quality jobs, the Platform shall ***support*** the following ***sets of measures***:

Or. en

Amendment 62
Josianne Cutajar, Rovana Plumb

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

1. To strengthen European

Amendment

1. To strengthen European

sovereignty and security, accelerate the Union's green and digital transitions and enhance its competitiveness, reduce its strategic dependencies, favour a level playing field in the Single Market for investments throughout the Union, and promote inclusive access to attractive, quality jobs, the Platform shall pursue the following objectives:

sovereignty and security, accelerate the Union's green and digital transitions and enhance its competitiveness, reduce its strategic dependencies, favour a level playing field in the Single Market for investments throughout the Union, ***foster cross-border participation, including of SMEs***, and promote inclusive access to attractive, quality jobs, the Platform shall pursue the following objectives:

Or. en

Justification

Opening-up value chains to foster cross-border participation, especially of SMEs, increases the possibility of new entrants to plug-in to existing supply chains and strengthens cohesion and resilience in the Union, avoiding concentrations in a few Member States.

Amendment 63

Dan-Ștefan Motreanu

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

1. To strengthen European sovereignty and security, accelerate the Union's green and digital transitions and enhance its competitiveness, reduce its strategic dependencies, favour a level playing field in the Single Market for investments throughout the Union, and promote inclusive access to attractive, quality jobs, the Platform shall pursue the following objectives:

Amendment

1. To strengthen European sovereignty and security, accelerate the Union's green and digital transitions and enhance its competitiveness, reduce its strategic dependencies, favour a level playing field in the Single Market for investments throughout the Union, and promote inclusive access to attractive, quality jobs, ***mitigate brain drain***, the Platform shall pursue the following objectives:

Or. en

Justification

STEP should be a fundamental tool in retaining and attracting the high-qualified people with skills and competences needed to innovate and reduce strategic EU dependencies.

Amendment 64

Rosa D'Amato

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

1. To strengthen European sovereignty and security, accelerate the Union's green and digital transitions and enhance its competitiveness, reduce its strategic dependencies, favour a level playing field in the Single Market for investments throughout the Union, and promote inclusive access to attractive, quality jobs, the Platform shall pursue the following objectives:

Amendment

1. To strengthen European **industrial** sovereignty and security, accelerate the Union's green and digital transitions and enhance its competitiveness, reduce its strategic dependencies, favour a level playing field in the Single Market for investments throughout the Union, and promote inclusive access to attractive, quality jobs, the Platform shall pursue the following objectives:

Or. en

Amendment 65

Rovana Plumb, Marcos Ros Sempere, Nora Mebarek, Josianne Cutajar, Adrian-Dragoş Benea, Matthias Ecke

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

1. To strengthen European sovereignty and security, accelerate the Union's green and digital transitions and enhance its competitiveness, reduce its strategic dependencies, **favour** a level playing field in the Single Market for investments throughout the Union, and promote inclusive access to attractive, quality jobs, the Platform shall pursue the following objectives:

Amendment

1. To strengthen European sovereignty and security, accelerate the Union's green and digital transitions and enhance its competitiveness, reduce its strategic dependencies, **ensure** a level playing field in the Single Market for investments throughout the Union, and promote inclusive access to attractive, quality jobs, the Platform shall pursue the following objectives:

Or. en

Amendment 66

Martina Michels

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point a – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) ***supporting*** the development or manufacturing throughout the Union, or safeguarding and strengthening the respective value chains, of critical technologies in the following fields:

Amendment

(a) ***pursuing*** the development or manufacturing throughout the Union, or safeguarding and strengthening the respective value chains, of critical ***civil*** technologies in the following fields, ***while respecting the "do no significant harm" principle within the meaning of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060:***

Or. en

Amendment 67

Rovana Plumb, Marcos Ros Sempere, Nora Mebarek, Adrian-Dragoş Benea

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point a – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) supporting the development or manufacturing throughout the Union, or safeguarding and strengthening the respective value chains, of critical technologies in the following fields:

Amendment

(a) supporting the development or manufacturing throughout the Union, ***including through establishment of new production facilities,*** or safeguarding and strengthening the respective ***European*** value chains, of critical technologies in the following fields:

Or. en

Amendment 68

Rosa D'Amato

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point a – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) supporting the development or manufacturing throughout the Union, or safeguarding and strengthening the respective **value** chains, of critical technologies in the following fields:

(a) supporting the development or manufacturing **of critical technologies** throughout the Union, or safeguarding and strengthening the respective **supply** chains, of critical technologies in the following fields:

Or. en

Amendment 69

Josianne Cutajar, Rovana Plumb

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point a – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) supporting the development **or** manufacturing throughout the Union, or safeguarding and strengthening the respective value chains, of critical technologies in the following fields:

(a) supporting the development, manufacturing **or related services** throughout the Union, or safeguarding and strengthening the respective value chains, of critical technologies in the following fields:

Or. en

Amendment 70

Rosa D'Amato

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point a – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(i) **deep and** digital technologies

(i) digital technologies

Or. en

Amendment 71

Ondřej Knotek

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point a – point iii a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iiia) low-carbon technologies

Or. en

Amendment 72

Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ba) b) supporting the development or manufacturing throughout the Union of coherent and connected technologies, also proposed by the Member States and approved by the Commission, related to the conditions set out in paragraph 2.

Or. en

Amendment 73

Rovana Plumb, Marcos Ros Sempere, Nora Mebarek, Josianne Cutajar, Adrian-Dragoş Benea, Matthias Ecke

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ba) preserving and strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion and solidarity among member states and regions.

Or. en

Justification

To ensure the "do no harm to cohesion "principle.

Amendment 74

Rovana Plumb, Marcos Ros Sempere, Nora Mebarek, Josianne Cutajar, Adrian-Dragos Benea

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) bring an innovative, cutting-edge element with significant economic potential to the Single Market;

Amendment

(a) bring an innovative, cutting-edge element with significant economic potential to the Single Market ***or to the region in which investment occurs;***

Or. en

Amendment 75

Rosa D'Amato

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) bring an innovative, cutting-edge element with significant economic potential to the Single Market;

Amendment

(a) bring an innovative, cutting-edge element with significant economic ***or environmental protection*** potential to the Single Market;

Or. en

Amendment 76

Martina Michels

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) bring an innovative, cutting-edge element with significant economic potential to the Single Market;

Amendment

(a) bring an innovative, cutting-edge element with significant economic, ***ecologic and social*** potential to the Single

Market;

Or. en

Amendment 77
Martina Michels

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) contribute to reduce or prevent strategic dependencies of the Union.

Amendment

(b) contribute to reduce or prevent strategic dependencies of the Union ***in the fields referred to in paragraph 1.***

Or. en

Amendment 78
Rovana Plumb, Marcos Ros Sempere, Nora Mebarek, Josianne Cutajar, Adrian-Dragoș Benea

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) contribute to reduce or prevent strategic dependencies of the Union.

Amendment

(b) contribute to reduce or prevent strategic dependencies of the Union, ***its Member States and its regions.***

Or. en

Amendment 79
Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Where an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI)

Amendment

3. Where an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI)

approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU relates to any of the technology fields referred to in point (a) of paragraph 1, the relevant technologies shall be deemed to be critical.

approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU relates to any of the technology fields referred to in point (a) of paragraph 1, the relevant technologies shall be deemed to be critical ***and dedicated funds should be allocated to the IPCEI.***

Or. en

Amendment 80

Rosa D'Amato

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. ***The value chain*** for the manufacturing of critical technologies referred to in the first paragraph ***relates to*** final products, as well as ***key components, specific machinery and*** critical raw materials primarily used for the production of those products.

Amendment

4. For the manufacturing of critical technologies referred to in the first paragraph ***the supply chain covers*** final ***products, key components designed and primarily used as direct input for the production of those*** products, as well as critical raw materials primarily used for the production of those products.

Or. en

Amendment 81

Mauri Pekkarinen

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. The value chain for the manufacturing of critical technologies referred to in the first paragraph relates to final products, as well as key components, specific machinery and critical raw materials primarily used for the production of those products.

Amendment

4. The value chain for the manufacturing of critical technologies referred to in the first paragraph relates to final products, as well as key components, specific machinery and critical raw materials primarily used for the production of those products ***or critical supply lines***

related to manufacturing.

Or. en

Amendment 82

Josianne Cutajar, Rovana Plumb

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. The value chain for ***the manufacturing of*** critical technologies referred to in the first paragraph relates to final products, as well as key components, specific machinery and critical raw materials primarily used for the production of those products.

Amendment

4. The value chain for critical technologies referred to in the first paragraph relates to final products, as well as key components, specific machinery and critical raw materials primarily used for the production of those products ***and related services ranging from raw materials to end user.***

Or. en

Amendment 83

Rosa D'Amato

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

4a. The field of clean technologies referred to in the first paragraph covers exclusively batteries, solar panels, wind turbines, heat-pumps, electrolyzers, and equipment for carbon capture usage and storage. For the fields of digital technologies and of biotechnologies referred to in the first paragraph, the Commission shall, by means of a delegated act adopted by [3 months after the entry into force of this Regulation], further specify the scope of the technologies considered to be critical

pursuant to the paragraph 2 of this Article.

Or. en

Amendment 84
Nora Mebarek

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

4a. Non-associated third-country entities are not eligible for support under this regulation, i.e. legal entity that is established in a non-associated third country or, where it is established in the Union or in an associated country that has its executive management structures in a non-associated third country.

Or. en

Justification

To be consistent with the objective of developing the EU's autonomy in strategic fields such as green and digital technologies, one need to establish the principle that actions receiving European funds with the STEP label should benefit European companies as a priority, while authorizing foreign companies to participate in STEP actions, providing that the action envisaged does not harm the EU's strategic autonomy in terms of ecological and digital transition

Amendment 85
Nora Mebarek

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 4 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

4b. By way of derogation from the preceding paragraph, a legal entity established in the Union or in an associated country and controlled by a

non-associated third country or a non-associated third-country entity shall be eligible to be a recipient or subcontractor involved in an action only if guarantees approved by the Member State or the associated country in which it is established in accordance with its national procedures are made available to the Commission. Those guarantees may refer to the legal entity's executive management structure established in the Union or in an associated country. If considered to be appropriate by the Member State or associated country in which the legal entity is established, those guarantees may also refer to specific governmental rights in the control over the legal entity. The guarantees provide assurances that participation in an action of such a legal entity is not contrary to the objectives set out in Article 2 of this Regulation.

Or. en

Justification

To be consistent with the objective of developing the EU's autonomy in strategic fields such as green and digital technologies, one need to establish the principle that actions receiving European funds with the STEP label should benefit European companies as a priority, while authorizing foreign companies to participate in STEP actions, providing that the action envisaged does not harm the EU's strategic autonomy in terms of ecological and digital transition

Amendment 86 **Younous Omarjee**

Proposal for a regulation **Article 4 – paragraph 1**

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall award a Sovereignty Seal to any action contributing to any of the Platform objectives, provided the action has been assessed and complies with the minimum quality requirements, in

Amendment

1. The Commission shall award a Sovereignty Seal to any action contributing to any of the Platform objectives, provided the action has been assessed and complies with the minimum quality requirements, in

particular eligibility, exclusion and award criteria, provided by a call for proposals under Regulation (EU) 2021/695, Regulation (EU) 2021/694, Regulation (EU) 2021/697, Regulation (EU) 2021/522, or Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/856.

particular eligibility, exclusion and award criteria, ***as well as the conditionalities laid down by Regulation (EU) 2021/1060***, provided by a call for proposals under Regulation (EU) 2021/695, Regulation (EU) 2021/694, Regulation (EU) 2021/697, Regulation (EU) 2021/522, or Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/856.

Or. fr

Amendment 87

Mauri Pekkarinen

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall award a Sovereignty Seal to any action contributing to any of the Platform objectives, provided the action has been assessed and complies with the minimum quality requirements, in particular eligibility, exclusion and award criteria, provided by a call for proposals under Regulation (EU) 2021/695, Regulation (EU) 2021/694, Regulation (EU) 2021/697, Regulation (EU) 2021/522, or Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/856.

Amendment

1. The Commission shall award a Sovereignty Seal to any action contributing to any of the Platform objectives, provided the action has been ***presented by the member state***, assessed and complies with the minimum quality requirements, in particular eligibility, exclusion and award criteria, provided by a call for proposals under Regulation (EU) 2021/695, Regulation (EU) 2021/694, Regulation (EU) 2021/697, Regulation (EU) 2021/522, or Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/856.

Or. en

Amendment 88

Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. The Sovereignty Seal is awarded by default to Important Project of

***Common European Interest (IPCEI)
approved by the Commission pursuant to
Article 107(3), point (b) TFEU related to
any of the technology fields referred to in
point (a), paragraph 1 of article 2***

Or. en

Amendment 89
Mauri Pekkarinen

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) financing the action through ***cumulative or*** combined funding with another Union instrument in line with the rules of the applicable basic acts.

Amendment

(b) financing the action through combined funding with another Union instrument in line with the rules of the applicable basic acts.

Or. en

Amendment 90
Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. When revising their recovery and resilience plans in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/241, Member States ***shall, without prejudice to the provisions of that Regulation,*** consider as a priority ***action*** which have been awarded a Sovereignty Seal in accordance with paragraph 1.

Amendment

3. When revising their recovery and resilience plans in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/241, Member States ***may, even in derogation of art. 21, if appropriate,*** consider as a priority ***actions*** which have been awarded a Sovereignty Seal in accordance with paragraph 1.

Or. en

Amendment 91

Rovana Plumb, Marcos Ros Sempere, Nora Mebarek, Adrian-Dragoş Benea, Matthias Ecke

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall monitor the implementation of the Platform and measure the achievement of the Platform objectives set out in Article 2. The monitoring of implementation shall be targeted and proportionate to the activities carried out under the Platform.

Amendment

1. The Commission shall monitor the implementation of the Platform and measure the achievement of the Platform objectives set out in Article 2. The monitoring of implementation shall be targeted and proportionate to the activities carried out under the Platform, ***mainly using existing reporting channels and data, the monitoring shall be further rationalised.***

Or. en

Amendment 92
Nora Mebarek

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The Commission shall report on the expenditure financed by the Platform. It shall, as appropriate, report on the achievements related to each of the specific Platform objectives.

Amendment

3. The Commission shall report on the expenditure financed by the Platform. It shall, as appropriate, report on the achievements related to each of the specific Platform objectives ***and in particular on objective 2(1)(c) (new) to ensure that the implementation of the Platform does not harm cohesion.***

Or. en

Justification

This is to ensure that the "do no harm to cohesion" principle is enforced

Amendment 93

Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The Commission shall report on the expenditure financed by the Platform. It shall, as appropriate, report on the achievements related to each of the specific Platform objectives.

Amendment

3. The Commission shall report on ***monitoring and on*** the expenditure financed by the Platform, ***with reference to each of the relevant committed funds***. It shall, as appropriate, report on the achievements related to each of the specific Platform objectives.

Or. en

Amendment 94
Mauri Pekkarinen

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The Commission shall report on the expenditure financed by the Platform. It shall, as appropriate, report on the achievements related to each of the specific Platform objectives.

Amendment

3. The Commission shall report ***annually*** on the expenditure financed by the Platform. It shall, as appropriate, report on the achievements related to each of the specific Platform objectives.

Or. en

Amendment 95
Daniel Buda

Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point d a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(da) practical guides to facilitate access to programmes and funds;

Or. ro

Amendment 96
Daniel Buda

Proposal for a regulation
Article 7 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) The annual report shall include consolidated information on the progress made in implementing the Platform objectives under each of the programmes and funds.

Amendment

(2) The annual report shall include consolidated information on the progress made in implementing the Platform objectives under each of the programmes and funds. ***That report should provide a comprehensive and transparent analysis of how financial resources have been allocated and used to achieve the objectives set. In addition, it should provide a detailed analysis of the economic, social and environmental impact of projects and initiatives supported by the STEP platform, as well as information on job creation, innovation, technological development, emission reduction and other co-benefits of the objectives of the Platform.***

Or. ro

Amendment 97
Rovana Plumb, Marcos Ros Sempere, Josianne Cutajar, Nora Mebarek, Adrian-Dragoş Benea, Matthias Ecke

Proposal for a regulation
Article 7 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The annual report shall include consolidated information on the progress made in implementing the Platform objectives under each of the programmes and funds.

Amendment

2. The annual report shall include consolidated information on the progress made in implementing the Platform objectives under each of the programmes and funds. ***It shall include qualitative and quantitative information on how Europe's economic, social and territorial cohesion is being reinforced.***

Justification

To enforce the "do no harm to cohesion "principle.

Amendment 98
Younous Omarjee

Proposal for a regulation
Article 7 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The annual report shall include consolidated information on the progress made in implementing the Platform objectives under each of the programmes and funds.

Amendment

2. The annual report shall include consolidated information on the progress made in implementing the Platform objectives under each of the programmes and funds ***and on the way in which the objectives laid down in Article 174 TFEU have been complied with and realised.***

Or. fr

Amendment 99
Mauri Pekkarinen

Proposal for a regulation
Article 7 – paragraph 3 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ba) Statistical review on the member states and the amount of approved projects and approved subsidies

Or. en

Amendment 100
Daniel Buda

Proposal for a regulation
Article 7 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3a) The annual report should be accompanied by recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the STEP platform, based on the conclusions and observations made during the implementation of the programmes;

Or. ro

Amendment 101
Nora Mebarek

Proposal for a regulation
Article 8 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. The evaluation report shall, in particular, assess to which extent the objectives have been achieved, the efficiency of the use of the resources and the European added value. It shall also consider the continued relevance of all objectives and actions, in view of their potential upscaling.

2. The evaluation report shall **provide an overview of the regions for which the programmes have been amended (including information on relevant aspects of the partnership principle), and** in particular, **shall** assess to which extent the objectives have been achieved, the efficiency of the use of the resources and the European added value. It shall also consider the continued relevance of all objectives and actions, in view of their potential upscaling. **It shall be accompanied by a thorough assessment of differentiated territorial impacts and effects on cohesion in the implementation of the Platform.**

Or. en

Justification

It is important to ensure that an ex-post evaluation of STEP addresses the territorial impact of the programme to render the "do no harm to cohesion" principle operational.

Amendment 102
Younous Omarjee

Proposal for a regulation
Article 8 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The evaluation report shall, in particular, assess to which extent the objectives have been achieved, the efficiency of the use of the resources and the European added value. It shall also consider the continued relevance of all objectives and actions, in view of their potential upscaling.

Amendment

2. The evaluation report shall, in particular, assess to which extent the objectives have been achieved, the efficiency of the use of the resources and the European added value, ***as well as the contribution to the objectives laid down in Article 174 TFEU.*** It shall also consider the continued relevance of all objectives and actions, in view of their potential upscaling.

Or. fr

Amendment 103
Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation
Article 9 – paragraph 1 – point 1
Directive 2003/87/EC
Article 10 a – paragraph 8 – subparagraph 6 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

In addition to the allowances referred to in the first to fifth subparagraphs of this paragraph, the Innovation Fund shall also implement a financial envelope for the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2027 of EUR 5 000 000 000 in current prices for supporting investments contributing to the STEP objective referred to in Article 2, point (a)(ii) of Regulation .../...⁶³ [STEP Regulation]. This financial envelope shall be made available to support investments only in Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017

Amendment

In addition to the allowances referred to in the first to fifth subparagraphs of this paragraph, the Innovation Fund shall also implement a financial envelope for the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2027 of EUR 5 000 000 000 in current prices for supporting investments contributing to the STEP objective referred to in Article 2, point (a)(ii) of Regulation .../...⁶³ [STEP Regulation]. This financial envelope shall be made available to support investments only in Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017.

In addition, up to XX % of the financial envelope shall be made available to create a window to support investments part of an IPCEI contributing to the STEP objective referred to in the aforementioned period.

⁶³ Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].

⁶³ Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].

Or. en

Amendment 104
Ondřej Knotek

Proposal for a regulation
Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 1
Regulation (EU) 2021/1058
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a – point vi (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(vi) supporting investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...⁶⁴ [STEP Regulation]

deleted

⁶⁴ Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].

Or. en

Amendment 105
Ondřej Knotek

Proposal for a regulation
Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 2
Regulation (EU) 2021/1058
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b – point ix (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

*(ix) supporting investments
contributing to the STEP objective
referred to in Article 2(1), point (a)(ii) of
Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]* **deleted**

Or. en

Amendment 106
Martina Michels

Proposal for a regulation
Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 3
Regulation (EU) 2021/1058
Article 3 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

*(3) In Article 3, the following
paragraph 1a is inserted:* **deleted**

*‘The resources under the specific
objective referred to in Article 3(1), first
subparagraph, points (a)(vi) and (b)(ix)
shall be programmed under dedicated
priorities corresponding to the respective
policy objective.*

*The Commission shall pay 30 % of the
ERDF allocation to that priority as set out
in the decision approving the programme
amendment as exceptional one-off pre-
financing in addition to the yearly pre-
financing for the programme provided for
in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation
(EU) 2021/1060 or in Article 51(2), (3)
and (4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059.
The exceptional pre-financing shall be
paid by 31 December 2024, provided the
Commission has adopted the decision
approving the programme amendment by
31 October 2024.*

*In accordance with Article 90 (5) of
Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 and Article
51(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, the
amount paid as exceptional pre-financing
shall be cleared no later than with the*

final accounting year.

In accordance with Article 90(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, any interest generated by the exceptional pre-financing shall be used for the programme concerned in the same way as the ERDF and shall be included in the accounts for the final accounting year.

In accordance with Article 97(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the exceptional pre-financing shall not be suspended.

In accordance with Article 105 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the pre-financing to be taken into account for the purposes of calculating amounts to be de-committed shall include the exceptional pre-financing paid.

By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.'

Or. en

Justification

The regular pre-financing rates and co-financing rates of the existing legislative act shall continue to apply.

Amendment 107

Ondřej Knotek

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Regulation (EU) 2021/1058

Article 3 – paragraph 1 a (new) – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The resources under the specific objective referred to in Article 3(1), first subparagraph, points (a)(vi) and (b)(ix) *deleted*

shall be programmed under dedicated priorities corresponding to the respective policy objective.

Or. en

Amendment 108

Rosa D'Amato

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Regulation (EU) 2021/1058

Article 3 – paragraph 1 a (new) – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The resources under the specific objective referred to in Article 3(1), first subparagraph, points (a)(vi) and (b)(ix) shall be programmed under dedicated priorities corresponding to the respective policy objective.

Amendment

The resources under the specific objective referred to in Article 3(1), first subparagraph, points (a)(vi) and (b)(ix) shall be programmed under dedicated priorities corresponding to the respective policy objective ***and shall be limited to a maximum of 5 % of the initial national allocation of the ERDF.***

Or. en

Justification

In the current EC proposal, there is no limit to the possibility for Member States of reprogramming Cohesion Policy resources and re-direct them towards STEP priorities. The rationale of this amendment lies thus in providing a capping that is aimed at limiting the amount of resources that could be reprogrammed by MS and at avoiding the potentially disruptive effects of these re-programming on the consistency of recently adopted Programmes and of the whole Cohesion Policy framework.

Amendment 109

Younous Omarjee

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Regulation (EU) 2021/1058

Article 3 – paragraph 1 a (new) – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The Commission shall pay 30 % of the ERDF allocation to that priority as set out in the decision approving the programme amendment as exceptional one-off pre-financing in addition to the yearly pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 or in Article 51(2), (3) and (4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059. The exceptional pre-financing shall be paid by 31 December 2024, provided the Commission has adopted the decision approving the programme amendment by 31 October 2024.

deleted

Or. fr

Amendment 110

Ondřej Knotek

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Regulation (EU) 2021/1058

Article 3 – paragraph 1 a (new) – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The Commission shall pay 30 % of the ERDF allocation to ***that priority*** as set out in the ***decision approving the programme amendment*** as exceptional one-off pre-financing in addition to the yearly pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 or in Article 51(2), (3) and (4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059. The exceptional pre-financing shall be paid by 31 December 2024, ***provided*** the Commission ***has adopted the decision approving*** the programme amendment by 31 October 2024.

The Commission shall pay 30 % of the ERDF allocation to ***investments contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../.. [STEP Regulation]*** as set out in the ***revised*** programme as exceptional one-off pre-financing in addition to the yearly pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 or in Article 51(2), (3) and (4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059. The exceptional pre-financing shall be paid by 31 December 2024, ***and shall not require a decision of the Commission amending the programme. The amendment shall be approved by the monitoring committee in advance. The Member State shall notify the revised programme to the Commission***

by 31 October 2024.

Or. en

Amendment 111

Nora Mebarek

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Regulation (EU) 2021/1058

Article 3 – paragraph 1 a (new) – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

The Commission shall pay 30 % of the ERDF allocation to that priority as set out in the decision approving the programme amendment as exceptional one-off pre-financing in addition to the yearly pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 or in Article 51(2), (3) and (4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059. The exceptional pre-financing shall be paid **by 31 December 2024**, provided **the Commission has adopted the decision approving the programme amendment by 31 October 2024**.

Amendment

The Commission shall pay 30 % of the ERDF allocation to that priority as set out in the decision approving the programme amendment as exceptional one-off pre-financing in addition to the yearly pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 or in Article 51(2), (3) and (4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059. The exceptional pre-financing shall be paid **after the completion of the mid-term review of the programs, as provided for in Article 18 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060**.

Or. en

Justification

With such a timetable, given that current programs have just been approved by the Commission, and given the time needed to prepare a revision of programs that incorporates STEP objectives, many managing authorities acknowledge they are unlikely to mobilize ERDF to support STEP actions. For the sake of simplification, given that the mid-term review of programs is already scheduled for 31/03/25, managing authorities should be given more time to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by STEP.

Amendment 112

Younous Omarjee

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Regulation (EU) 2021/1058
Article 3 – paragraph 1 a (new) – subparagraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

***In accordance with Article 90 (5) of
Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 and Article
51(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, the
amount paid as exceptional pre-financing
shall be cleared no later than with the
final accounting year.*** ***deleted***

Or. fr

Amendment 113
Younous Omarjee

Proposal for a regulation
Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 3
Regulation (EU) 2021/1058
Article 3 – paragraph 1 a (new) – subparagraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

***In accordance with Article 90(6) of
Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, any interest
generated by the exceptional pre-
financing shall be used for the
programme concerned in the same way as
the ESF+ and shall be included in the
accounts for the final accounting year.*** ***deleted***

Or. fr

Amendment 114
Younous Omarjee

Proposal for a regulation
Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 3
Regulation (EU) 2021/1058
Article 3 – paragraph 1 a (new) – subparagraph 5

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

In accordance with Article 97(1) of ***deleted***

Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the exceptional pre-financing shall not be suspended.

Or. fr

Amendment 115
Younous Omarjee

Proposal for a regulation
Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 3
Regulation (EU) 2021/1058
Article 3 – paragraph 1 a (new) – subparagraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

In accordance with Article 105(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the pre-financing to be taken into account for the purposes of calculating amounts to be de-committed shall include the exceptional pre-financing paid. ***deleted***

Or. fr

Amendment 116
Mauri Pekkarinen

Proposal for a regulation
Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 3
Regulation (EU) 2021/1058
Article 3 – paragraph 1 a (new) – subparagraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %. ***deleted***

Or. en

Amendment 117

Rosa D'Amato

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Regulation (EU) 2021/1058

Article 3 – paragraph 1 a (new) – subparagraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 118

Ondřej Knotek

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Regulation (EU) 2021/1058

Article 3 – paragraph 1 a (new) – subparagraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for *dedicated priorities established to support* the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.

By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for *investments contributing to* the STEP objectives *referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]* shall be increased to 100 %.

Or. en

Amendment 119

Irène Tolleret, Stéphane Bijoux, Susana Solís Pérez, Laurence Farreng

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Text proposed by the Commission

By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.

Amendment

By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for **investments contributing to** dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.

Or. en

Amendment 120
Younous Omarjee

Proposal for a regulation
Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 4
Regulation (EU) 2021/1058
Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point e (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4) In Article 5(2), the following point (e) is inserted: **deleted**

‘(e)

when they contribute to the specific objective under PO 1 set out in Article 3(1), first subparagraph, point (a)(vi) or to the specific objective under PO 2 set out in point (b)(ix) of that subparagraph, in less developed and transition regions, as well as more developed regions in Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017.

Point (e) shall apply to Interreg programmes where the geographical coverage of the programme within the Union consists exclusively of categories of regions set out in that point.’

Amendment 121

Rosa D'Amato

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 4

Regulation (EU) 2021/1058

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point e (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4) In Article 5(2), the following point (e) is inserted: **deleted**

‘(e)

when they contribute to the specific objective under PO 1 set out in Article 3(1), first subparagraph, point (a)(vi) or to the specific objective under PO 2 set out in point (b)(ix) of that subparagraph, in less developed and transition regions, as well as more developed regions in Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017.

Point (e) shall apply to Interreg programmes where the geographical coverage of the programme within the Union consists exclusively of categories of regions set out in that point.’

Or. en

Justification

With this amendment we delete the possibility of unlimited access of large enterprises to ERDF if they contribute to STEP objectives. It is worth reminding that in the current ERDF regulation, art.5, enterprises other than SMEs can already have access to funding under certain conditions.

Amendment 122
Mauri Pekkarinen

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 4

Regulation (EU) 2021/1058

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point e (new) – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

when they contribute to the specific objective under PO 1 set out in Article 3(1), first subparagraph, point (a)(vi) or to the specific objective under PO 2 set out in point (b)(ix) of that subparagraph, in less developed and transition regions, ***as well as more developed regions in Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017.***

Amendment

when they contribute to the specific objective under PO 1 set out in Article 3(1), first subparagraph, point (a)(vi) or to the specific objective under PO 2 set out in point (b)(ix) of that subparagraph, in less developed and transition regions.

Or. en

Justification

Cohesion funds should remain focused on the areas that need the most support.

Amendment 123
Daniel Buda

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 4

Regulation (EU) 2021/1058

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point e (new) – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

when they contribute to the specific objective under PO 1 set out in Article 3(1), ***first subparagraph, point (a)(vi)*** or to the specific objective under PO 2 ***set out in point (b)(ix) of that subparagraph***, in less developed and transition regions, as well as more developed regions in Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the

Amendment

when they contribute to the specific objective under PO 1 set out in Article 3(1) or to the specific objective under PO 2, in less developed and transition regions, as well as more developed regions in Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards

EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017.

(PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017.

Or. ro

Justification

Productive investments in large enterprises and STEP value chain development projects should receive supported under the ERDF.

Amendment 124

Dan-Ștefan Motreanu

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 4

Regulation (EU) 2021/1058

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point e (new) – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

when they contribute to the specific objective under PO 1 set out in Article 3(1), **first subparagraph, point (a)(vi)** or to the specific objective under PO 2 **set out in point (b)(ix) of that subparagraph**, in less developed and transition regions, as well as more developed regions in Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017.

Amendment

when they contribute to the specific objective under PO 1 set out in Article 3(1) or to the specific objective under PO 2 in less developed and transition regions, as well as more developed regions in Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017.

Or. en

Justification

It would be appropriate, in the less developed regions (with limited resources to provide State aid) for large companies to access not only European funds that exclusively finance STEP objectives from PO 1 and PO 2, but also European funds that finance the complementary objectives of STEP, more specifically - the rest of the policy objectives from PO 1 “a more competitive and smarter Europe” and PO 2 “a greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe”. Through this option, strong economic development hubs could be created in regions with a GDP below the EU average, where the rate of absorption of EU is low, regions where large companies would not otherwise expand

to. Accordingly, these regions could be put on the EU economic development map in record time - combating thus the brain drain phenomenon. Currently, JTF supports investments in large enterprises, which sometimes creates a disadvantage in terms of attracting large investments for regions that do not fall within the scope of the JTF. This situation could be balanced with by granting access to finance from cohesion funds PO 1 and PO 2 for large companies in regions with a GDP below the EU average. Nevertheless, this measure should not come at the expense of SMEs, which will benefit from the new opportunities and flexibilities proposed in STEP.

Amendment 125

Ondřej Knotek

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 4

Regulation (EU) 2021/1058

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point e (new) – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

when they contribute to the specific **objective** under PO 1 set out in Article **3(1), first subparagraph, point (a)(vi) or to the specific objective** under PO 2 **set out in point (b)(ix) of that subparagraph**, in less developed and transition regions, as well as more developed regions in Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017.

Amendment

‘(e) when they contribute to the **STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../[STEP Regulation]** under specific **objectives** under PO 1 set out in Article **(3) 1**, specific **objectives** under PO 2 in less developed and transition regions, as well as more developed regions in Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017.

Or. en

Amendment 126

Rovana Plumb, Marcos Ros Sempere, Nora Mebarek, Adrian-Dragoş Benea, Matthias Ecke

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 4

Regulation (EU) 2021/1058

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point e (new) – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

when they contribute to the specific objective under PO 1 *set out in Article 3(1), first subparagraph, point (a)(vi)* or to the specific objective under PO 2 *set out in point (b)(ix) of that subparagraph*, in less developed and transition regions, as well as more developed regions in Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017.

when they contribute to the ***STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation]*** under specific objective under PO 1, or to the specific objective under PO 2, in less developed and transition regions, as well as more developed regions in Member States whose average GDP per capita is below the EU average of the EU-27 measured in purchasing power standards (PPS) and calculated on the basis of Union figures for the period 2015-2017.

Or. en

Justification

Companies shall benefit from financing under PO1 and PO2 for any productive investments as well as development of the respective value chain for any measures complementary to the STEP objective in art. 2.

Amendment 127

Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 4 – point a (new)

Regulation (EU) 2021/1058

Article 5 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) (4) The Article 5(2) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 is replaced by the following:

2. Productive investments in tangible and intangible assets, as defined in the State aid legislation, in enterprises other than SMEs may be supported:

Or. en

Amendment 128

Younous Omarjee

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 5

Regulation (EU) 2021/1058

Article 5 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(5) In Article 5, the following new paragraph 3a is inserted:

deleted

‘3a. In order to contribute to the specific objectives under PO 1 set out in Article 3(1), first subparagraph, point (a)(vi) and under PO 2 set out in point (b)(ix) of that subparagraph, the ERDF shall also support training, life-long learning, reskilling and education activities’.

Or. fr

Amendment 129

Ondřej Knotek

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point 5

Regulation (EU) 2021/1058

Article 5 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. In order to contribute to the specific objectives under PO 1 set out in Article 3(1), ***first subparagraph, point (a)(vi)*** and under PO 2 ***set out in point (b)(ix) of that subparagraph***, the ERDF shall also support training, life-long learning, reskilling and education activities.

3a. In order to contribute to the specific objectives under PO 1 set out in Article 3(1), and under PO 2, the ERDF shall also support training, life-long learning, reskilling and education activities.

Or. en

Amendment 130

Rosa D'Amato

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 1 – point 1

Regulation (EU) 2021/1056

Article 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1) Article 2 is replaced by the following:

deleted

‘In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the JTF shall contribute to the specific objective of enabling regions and people to address the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition towards the Union’s 2030 targets for energy and climate and a climate-neutral economy of the Union by 2050, based on the Paris Agreement. The JTF may also support investments contributing to the STEP objective referred to in Article 2(1), point (a)(ii) of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation].’

Or. en

Justification

We consider that due its already limited budget and its specific rationale, the JTF should not be used for STEP priorities.

Amendment 131

Dan-Ștefan Motreanu

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 1 – point 1

Regulation (EU) 2021/1056

Article 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the JTF shall contribute to the specific objective of enabling regions and people to address the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition towards the Union’s 2030 targets for energy and

In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the JTF shall contribute to the specific objective of enabling regions and people to address the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition towards the Union’s 2030 targets for energy and

climate and a climate-neutral economy of the Union by 2050, based on the Paris Agreement. The JTF may also support investments contributing to the STEP objective referred to in Article 2(1), point (a)(ii) of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation].

climate and a climate-neutral economy of the Union by 2050, based on the Paris Agreement. The JTF may also support investments contributing to the STEP objective referred to in Article 2(1), point (a) of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation].

Or. en

Justification

There is a difference between points (1) and (2) of art. 11 in the Commission's proposal, in the sense that point (1) only allows JTF investments in (ii) clean technologies, while in point (2) it is specified that JTF investments are accepted in all 3 levels, respectively (i) Deep an digital technologies, (ii) Clean technologies and (iii) Biotechnologies. A unitary approach is needed to the modification of the regulations specific to the Cohesion Policy in order to allow the member states to make investments according to the needs identified at the level of the territories targeted by the JTF.

Amendment 132 **Martina Michels**

Proposal for a regulation
Article 11 – paragraph 1 – point 2
Regulation (EU) 2021/1056
Article 8 – paragraph 2 – new subparagraph

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(2) In Article 8(2) the following subparagraph is inserted: **deleted**

“The JTF may also support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...⁶⁵ [STEP Regulation]. That support may be provided irrespective of whether the gap analysis was carried out in accordance with Article 11(2)(h) and irrespective of its outcome. Such investments shall only be eligible where they do not lead to relocation as defined in point (27) of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. The provision of such support shall not require a revision of the territorial just transition plan where that

revision would be exclusively linked to the gap analysis.'

⁶⁵ *Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].*

Or. en

Amendment 133

Rosa D'Amato

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 1 – point 2

Regulation (EU) 2021/1056

Article 8 – paragraph 2 – new subparagraph

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(2) In Article 8(2) the following subparagraph is inserted: *deleted*

‘‘The JTF may also support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...⁶⁵ [STEPRegulation]. That support may be provided irrespective of whether the gap analysis was carried out in accordance with Article 11(2)(h) and irrespective of its outcome. Such investments shall only be eligible where they do not lead to relocation as defined in point (27) of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. The provision of such support shall not require a revision of the territorial just transition plan where that revision would be exclusively linked to the gap analysis.’

⁶⁵ *Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].*

Amendment 134
Martina Michels

Proposal for a regulation
Article 11 – paragraph 1 – point 2
 Regulation (EU) 2021/1056
 Article 8 – paragraph 2 – new subparagraph

Text proposed by the Commission

The JTF may also support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...⁶⁵ [STEPRegulation]. ***That support may be provided irrespective of whether the gap analysis was carried out in accordance with Article 11(2)(h) and irrespective of its outcome.*** Such investments shall only be eligible where they do not lead to relocation as defined in point (27) of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. The provision of such support shall not require a revision of the territorial just transition plan where that revision would be exclusively linked to the gap analysis.

⁶⁵ Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].

Amendment

The JTF may also support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2(**b**) of Regulation .../...⁶⁵ [STEPRegulation]. Such investments shall only be eligible where they do not lead to relocation as defined in point (27) of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, ***where apprenticeships and jobs in particular for young or disadvantaged persons or young persons not in employment, education or training for new skills are key part of the project, and where the applicable wages as agreed through collective bargaining are paid.*** The provision of such support shall not require a revision of the territorial just transition plan where that revision would be exclusively linked to the gap analysis.

⁶⁵ Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].

Amendment 135
Nora Mebarek

Proposal for a regulation
Article 11 – paragraph 1 – point 2
 Regulation (EU) 2021/1056

Article 8 – paragraph 2 – new subparagraph

Text proposed by the Commission

The JTF may also support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...⁶⁵ [STEPRegulation]. That support may be provided irrespective of whether the gap analysis was carried out in accordance with Article 11(2)(h) and irrespective of its outcome. Such investments shall only be eligible where they do not lead to relocation as defined in point (27) of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. The provision of such support shall not require a revision of the territorial just transition plan ***where that revision would be exclusively linked to the gap analysis.***

⁶⁵ Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].

Amendment

The JTF may also support productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...⁶⁵ [STEPRegulation]. That support may be provided irrespective of whether the gap analysis was carried out in accordance with Article 11(2)(h) and irrespective of its outcome. Such investments shall only be eligible where they do not lead to relocation as defined in point (27) of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. The provision of such support shall not require a revision of the territorial just transition plan.

⁶⁵ Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].

Or. en

Justification

This wording creates uncertainty about the need, or not, to modify the territorial just transition plans at a later stage. Bearing in mind the difficulties already encountered for the recent approval of these plans, one should even further simplify the use the JTF to finance STEP actions.

Amendment 136 **Mauri Pekkarinen**

Proposal for a regulation
Article 11 – paragraph 1 – point 2
Regulation (EU) 2021/1056
Article 8 – paragraph 2 – new subparagraph

Text proposed by the Commission

The JTF ***may also support*** productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs contributing to the STEP objectives

Amendment

The JTF ***also supports*** productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs contributing to the STEP objectives

referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...⁶⁵ [STEPRegulation]. That support may be provided irrespective of whether the gap analysis was carried out in accordance with Article 11(2)(h) and irrespective of its outcome. Such investments shall only be eligible where they do not lead to relocation as defined in point (27) of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. The provision of such support shall not require a revision of the territorial just transition plan where that revision would be exclusively linked to the gap analysis.

⁶⁵ Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].

referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...⁶⁵ [STEPRegulation]. That support may be provided irrespective of whether the gap analysis was carried out in accordance with Article 11(2)(h) and irrespective of its outcome. Such investments shall only be eligible where they do not lead to relocation as defined in point (27) of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. The provision of such support shall not require a revision of the territorial just transition plan where that revision would be exclusively linked to the gap analysis.

⁶⁵ Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].

Or. en

Amendment 137

Younous Omarjee

Proposal for a regulation
Article 11 – paragraph 1 – point 3
 Regulation (EU) 2021/1056
 Article 10 – paragraph 4 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) In Article 10, the following paragraph 4 is added:

‘The Commission shall pay 30% of the JTF allocation, including amounts transferred in line with Article 27 of Regulation EU 2021/1060, to a programme as set out in the decision approving the programme as exceptional one-off pre-financing in addition to the yearly pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. The exceptional pre-financing shall be paid as from [entry into force of this Regulation]. In accordance with Article 90(5) of

Amendment

deleted

Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the amount paid as exceptional pre-financing shall be cleared no later than with the final accounting year.

In accordance with Article 90(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, any interest generated by the exceptional pre-financing shall be used for the programme concerned in the same way as the ESF+ and shall be included in the accounts for the final accounting year.

In accordance with Article 97(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the exceptional pre-financing shall not be suspended.

In accordance with Article 105(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the pre-financing to be taken into account for the purposes of calculating amounts to be de-committed shall include the exceptional pre-financing paid.

By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.'

Or. fr

Amendment 138
Martina Michels

Proposal for a regulation
Article 11 – paragraph 1 – point 3
Regulation (EU) 2021/1056
Article 10 – paragraph 4 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3) In Article 10, the following paragraph 4 is added: *deleted*

'The Commission shall pay 30% of the JTF allocation, including amounts transferred in line with Article 27 of

Regulation EU 2021/1060, to a programme as set out in the decision approving the programme as exceptional one-off pre-financing in addition to the yearly pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. The exceptional pre-financing shall be paid as from [entry into force of this Regulation].

In accordance with Article 90(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the amount paid as exceptional pre-financing shall be cleared no later than with the final accounting year.

In accordance with Article 90(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, any interest generated by the exceptional pre-financing shall be used for the programme concerned in the same way as the ERDF and shall be included in the accounts for the final accounting year.

In accordance with Article 97(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the exceptional pre-financing shall not be suspended.

In accordance with Article 105(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the pre-financing to be taken into account for the purposes of calculating amounts to be de-committed shall include the exceptional pre-financing paid.

By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.'

Or. en

Justification

The regular pre-financing rates and co-financing rates of the existing legislative act shall continue to apply.

Amendment 139
Ondřej Knotek

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Regulation (EU) 2021/1056

Article 10 – paragraph 4 (new) – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The Commission shall pay 30% of the JTF allocation, including amounts transferred in line with Article 27 of Regulation EU 2021/1060, to a programme as set out in the ***decision approving the*** programme as exceptional one-off pre-financing in addition to the yearly pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. The exceptional pre-financing shall be paid as from [entry into force of this Regulation].

Amendment

The Commission shall pay 30% of the JTF allocation, including amounts transferred in line with Article 27 of Regulation EU 2021/1060, to a programme as set out in the ***revised*** programme as exceptional one-off pre-financing in addition to the yearly pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. The exceptional pre-financing shall be paid as from [entry into force of this Regulation] ***and shall not require a decision of the Commission amending the programme. The amendment shall be approved by the monitoring committee in advance. The Member State shall notify the revised programme to the Commission.***

Or. en

Amendment 140
Mauri Pekkarinen

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Regulation (EU) 2021/1056

Article 10 – paragraph 4 (new) – subparagraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.

Amendment

deleted

Amendment 141

Rosa D'Amato

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Regulation (EU) 2021/1056

Article 10 – paragraph 4 (new) – subparagraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.

deleted

Amendment 142

Ondřej Knotek

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Regulation (EU) 2021/1056

Article 10 – paragraph 4 (new) – subparagraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for ***dedicated priorities established to support the*** STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.

By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for ***investments contributing to*** STEP objectives ***referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...[STEP Regulation]*** shall be increased to 100 %.

Amendment 143

Irène Tolleret, Stéphane Bijoux, Susana Solís Pérez, Laurence Farreng

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Regulation (EU) 2021/1058

Article 10 – paragraph 4 (new) – subparagraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.

Amendment

By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for **investments contributing to** dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.

Or. en

Amendment 144

Ondřej Knotek

Proposal for a regulation

Article 12 – paragraph 1 – point 1

Regulation (EU) 2021/1057

Article 12 a (new) – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

In addition to the pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, **where the Commission approves** an amendment of a programme including one or more priorities dedicated to operations supported by the ESF+ contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...⁶⁶ [STEP Regulation], it shall make an exceptional pre-financing of 30% on the basis of the allocation to those priorities. The exceptional pre-financing shall be paid by 31 December 2024, **provided** the Commission **has adopted the decision approving** the programme amendment by 31 October 2024.

Amendment

In addition to the pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, **according to** an amendment of a programme including one or more priorities dedicated to operations supported by the ESF+ contributing to the STEP objectives referred to in Article 2 of Regulation .../...⁶⁶ [STEP Regulation], it shall make an exceptional pre-financing of 30% on the basis of the allocation to those priorities. The exceptional pre-financing shall be paid by 31 December 2024, **and shall not require a decision of** the Commission **amending** the programme. **The amendment shall be approved by the monitoring committee in advance. The Member State shall notify the revised programme to the Commission** by 31 October 2024.

⁶⁶ Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].

⁶⁶ Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].

Or. en

Amendment 145
Mauri Pekkarinen

Proposal for a regulation
Article 12 – paragraph 1 – point 1
Regulation (EU) 2021/1057
Article 12 a (new) – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 146
Irène Tolleret, Stéphane Bijoux, Susana Solís Pérez, Laurence Farreng

Proposal for a regulation
Article 12 – paragraph 1 – point 1
Regulation (EU) 2021/1057
Article 12 a (new) – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.

By way of derogation from Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the maximum co-financing rates for ***investments contributing to*** dedicated priorities established to support the STEP objectives shall be increased to 100 %.

Or. en

Amendment 147
Younous Omarjee

Proposal for a regulation
Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point 1
Regulation (EU) 2021/1060
Article 2 – point 45

Text proposed by the Commission

(45) ‘Seal of Excellence’ means the quality label attributed by the Commission in respect of a proposal, which shows that the proposal **which** has been assessed in a call for proposals under a **Union instrument is deemed to comply with the minimum quality requirements of that** Union instrument, but could not be funded due to lack of budget available for that call for proposals, and might receive support from other Union or national sources of funding; or the ‘Sovereignty Seal’ referred to in Article 4 of Regulation .../...⁶⁷ [STEP Regulation].’

⁶⁷ Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].

Amendment

(45) ‘Seal of Excellence’ means the quality label attributed by the Commission in respect of a proposal, which shows that the proposal has been assessed in a call for proposals under a Union instrument, but could not be funded due to lack of budget available for that call for proposals, and might receive support from other Union or national sources of funding **if it meets the relevant criteria and conditions**; or the ‘Sovereignty Seal’ referred to in Article 4 of Regulation .../...⁶⁷ [STEP Regulation].’

⁶⁷ Regulation .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council ... [insert full title and OJ reference].

Or. fr

Amendment 148
Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation
Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point 1 a (new)
Regulation (EU) 2021/1060
Article 13 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1a) In Article 13 “Amendment to the Partnership Agreement” paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

A Member State may submit to the Commission by 31 March 2024 an amended Partnership Agreement, taking into account the outcome of the mid-term review.

Or. en

Amendment 149

Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point 1 b (new)

Regulation (EU) 2021/1060

Article 18 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1b) "In Article 18 paragraph 1 point a is replaced by the following"

(a) The new challenge identified in relevant country specific recommendations in 2023

Or. en

Amendment 150

Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point 1 c (new)

Regulation (EU) 2021/1060

Article 18 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1c) In Article 18 paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

The Member State shall submit an assessment for each programme on the outcome of the mid-term review, including a proposal for the definitive allocation of the flexibility amount referred to in the second subparagraph of

Or. en

Amendment 151

Ondřej Knotek

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 1 – point 1

Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

Article 135 – paragraph 6 (new) – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amounts from resources other than REACT-EU reimbursed by the Commission as interim payments in 2025 shall not exceed 1 % of the total financial appropriations to the programme concerned by Fund, REACT-EU resources excluded. Amounts that would be due to be paid by the Commission in 2025 exceeding this percentage shall not be paid and shall be used exclusively for the clearing of pre-financing at closure.

Amendment

Amounts from resources other than REACT-EU reimbursed by the Commission as interim payments in 2025 ***following the interim payment applications submitted by the certifying authority after 31 October 2024*** shall not exceed 1 % of the total financial appropriations to the programme concerned by Fund, REACT-EU resources excluded. Amounts that would be due to be paid by the Commission in 2025 exceeding this percentage shall not be paid and shall be used exclusively for the clearing of pre-financing at closure.

Or. en

Amendment 152

Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 1 – point 1

Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

Article 135 – paragraph 6 (new) – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amounts from resources other than REACT-EU reimbursed by the Commission as interim payments in 2025

Amendment

Amounts from resources other than REACT-EU reimbursed by the Commission as interim payments in 2025

shall not exceed 1 % of the total financial appropriations to the programme concerned by Fund, REACT-EU resources excluded. Amounts that would be due to be paid by the Commission in 2025 exceeding this percentage shall not be paid and shall be *used exclusively for the clearing of pre-financing at closure*.

shall not exceed 1 % of the total financial appropriations to the programme concerned by Fund, REACT-EU resources excluded. Amounts that would be due to be paid by the Commission in 2025 exceeding this percentage shall not be paid and shall be *paid within the framework of the payment of the final balance according to the article 141*.

Or. en

Amendment 153
Younous Omarjee

Proposal for a regulation
Article 14 – paragraph 1 – point 1
Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013
Article 135 – paragraph 6 (new) – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amounts from resources other than REACT-EU reimbursed by the Commission as interim payments in 2025 shall not exceed **1** % of the total financial appropriations to the programme concerned by Fund, REACT-EU resources excluded. Amounts that would be due to be paid by the Commission in 2025 exceeding this percentage shall not be paid and shall be used exclusively for the clearing of pre-financing at closure.’

Amendment

Amounts from resources other than REACT-EU reimbursed by the Commission as interim payments in 2025 shall not exceed **15** % of the total financial appropriations to the programme concerned by Fund, REACT-EU resources excluded. Amounts that would be due to be paid by the Commission in 2025 exceeding this percentage shall not be paid and shall be used exclusively for the clearing of pre-financing at closure.’

Or. fr

Amendment 154
Younous Omarjee

Proposal for a regulation
Article 14 – paragraph 1 – point 1
Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013
Article 135 – paragraph 6 a (new)

6a. For the outermost regions as defined in Article 349 TFEU, by way of derogation from paragraph 2 the deadline for the submission of the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year shall be 31 December 2025. The last application for interim payment submitted by 31 December 2025 shall be deemed to be the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year.

Amounts from resources other than REACT-EU reimbursed by the Commission as interim payments in 2025 shall not exceed 20 % of the total financial appropriations to the programme concerned by Fund, REACT-EU resources excluded. Amounts that would be due to be paid by the Commission in 2025 exceeding this percentage shall not be paid and shall be used exclusively for the clearing of pre-financing at closure.'

Or. fr

Amendment 155

Rovana Plumb, Adrian-Dragoş Benea, Nora Mebarek

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 1 – point 1 a (new)

Regulation (EU) 1303/2013

Article 24 – paragraph 1 a (new)

(1a) In Article 24 the following paragraph is inserted:

"1a. By way of derogation from Article 60(1) and the first and fourth subparagraphs of Article 120(3), a co-financing rate of 100 % may be applied to expenditure declared in the final accounting year for one or more priority

axes in a programme supported by the ERDF, the ESF or the Cohesion Fund. By way of derogation from Article 30(1) and (2) and Article 96(10), the application of the co-financing rate of 100 % shall not require a Commission decision approving a programme amendment. The Member State shall notify the revised financial tables to the Commission following approval by the monitoring committee. The co-financing rate of 100 % shall apply only if the financial tables are notified to the Commission before the submission of the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year in accordance with Article 135(2)."

Or. en

Justification

This will provide an extension of 100% EU co-financing rate for the final accounting year of the 2014-2020 period by adding new Paragraph 1b in Article 24 a) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013.)

Amendment 156

Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 1 – point 1 a (new)

Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1a) By way of derogation from Article 60(1) and the first and fourth subparagraphs of Article 120(3), a co-financing rate of 100 % may be applied to expenditure declared in the final accounting year for one or more priority axes in a programme supported by the ERDF, the ESF or the Cohesion Fund.

By way of derogation from Article 30(1) and (2) and Article 96(10), the application of the co-financing rate of 100 % shall not require a Commission decision

approving a programme amendment.

The Member State shall notify the revised financial tables to the Commission following approval by the monitoring committee. The co-financing rate of 100 % shall apply only if the financial tables are notified to the Commission before the submission of the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year in accordance with Article 135(2).

Or. en

Amendment 157

Daniel Buda

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 1 – point 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1a) In Article 92b, the following subparagraph is be added:

‘By way of derogation from Article 65(2), expenditure from REACT-EU resources shall be eligible for a contribution from the ESI Funds if it has been effected by a beneficiary and paid by 31 December 2024.’

Or. ro

Amendment 158

Rovana Plumb, Nora Mebarek

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 1 – point 1 a (new)

Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

Article 2 – paragraph 29

Present text

Amendment

(29) 'accounting year', means, for the purposes of Part Three and Part Four, the

"(29) 'accounting year', means, for the purposes of Part Three and Part Four, the

period from 1 July to 30 June, except for the first accounting year of the programming period, in respect of which it means the period from the start date for eligibility of expenditure until 30 June 2015. The final accounting year shall be from 1 July 2023 to 30 June **2024**;

period from 1 July to 30 June, except for the first accounting year of the programming period, in respect of which it means the period from the start date for eligibility of expenditure until 30 June 2015. The final accounting year shall be from 1 July 2023 to 30 June **2025**;"

Or. en

(32013R1303)

Amendment 159

Ondřej Knotek

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 1 – point 2

Amendments to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 [CPR]

Article 14 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

By way of derogation from the deadline set out in the first subparagraph, Member States may submit the documents referred to under points (a), (b) and (c) for the final accounting year by 15 February 2026.

Amendment

By way of derogation from the deadline set out in the first subparagraph, Member States may submit **a final implementation report for the operational programme according to Article 141 and** the documents referred to under points (a), (b) and (c) for the final accounting year by 15 February 2026.

Or. en

Amendment 160

Daniel Buda

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 1 – point 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(2) ‘By way of derogation from Article 60(1) and the first and fourth subparagraphs of Article 120(3), at the

request of a Member State, a co-financing rate of 100 % may be applied to expenditure declared in payment applications during the last accounting year for one or more priority axes in a programme supported by the ERDF, the ESF or the Cohesion Fund.'

Or. ro

(1303/2013)

Justification

Several types of flexibility could have been envisaged to support Member States in the implementation of existing funds and to reduce the pressure on the overburdening of national budgets. In this respect, one solution could be to apply a co-financing rate of 100 % to expenditure declared in payment applications for the last accounting year for one or more priority axes in a programme supported by the ERDF, ESF or Cohesion Fund.

Amendment 161
Martina Michels

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 1 – point 2 a (new)

Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

Article 14 – paragraph 1

Present text

1. In addition to the documents referred to in Article 138, for the final accounting year from 1 July 2023 to **30 June** 2024, Member States shall submit a final implementation report for the operational programme or the last annual implementation report for the operational programme supported by the EMFF.

Amendment

(2a) In Art. 141, the first paragraph shall read as follows:

"1. In addition to the documents referred to in Article 138, for the final accounting year from 1 July 2023 to **31 December** 2024, Member States shall submit a final implementation report for the operational programme or the last annual implementation report for the operational programme supported by the EMFF."

Or. en

(REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

Amendment 162

Rovana Plumb, Nora Mebarek

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 1 – point 2 a (new)

Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

Article 141 – paragraph 1

Present text

1. In addition to the documents referred to **in** Article 138, for the final accounting **year** from 1 July 2023 to 30 June **2024**, Member States shall submit a final implementation report for the operational programme or the last annual implementation report for the operational programme supported by the EMFF.

Amendment

"In addition to the documents referred to **the** Article 138, for the final accounting **years** from 1 July 2023 to 30 June **2025**, Member States shall submit a final implementation report for the operational programme or the last annual implementation report for the operational programme supported by the EMFF."

Or. en

(32013R1303)

Amendment 163

Younous Omarjee

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Regulation (EU) No 223/2014

Article 45 – paragraph 6 (new) – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amounts reimbursed by the Commission as interim payments in 2025 shall not exceed **1** % of the total financial appropriations to the programme concerned. Amounts that would be due to be paid by the Commission in 2025 exceeding this percentage shall not be paid and shall be used exclusively for the clearing of pre-financing at closure.'

Amendment

Amounts reimbursed by the Commission as interim payments in 2025 shall not exceed **15** % of the total financial appropriations to the programme concerned. Amounts that would be due to be paid by the Commission in 2025 exceeding this percentage shall not be paid and shall be used exclusively for the clearing of pre-financing at closure.'

Or. fr

Amendment 164
Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation
Article 16 – paragraph 1 – point 6 a (new)
Regulation (EU) 2021/523
Article 13 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6a) Article 13(7) is replaced by the following: Contracts between the implementing partner and the final recipient or the financial intermediary or other entity referred to in point (a) of Article 16(1) under the EU guarantee referred to in the first subparagraph of Article 4(2) shall be signed at the latest two years after the approval of the relevant financing or investment operation by the implementing partner.

In other cases, contracts between the implementing partner and the final recipient or the financial intermediary or other entity referred to in point (a) of Article 16(1) shall be signed by 31 December 2028.

Or. en

Amendment 165
Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation
Article 16 – paragraph 1 – point 7
Regulation (EU) 2021/523
Article 23 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3. In the context of the procedures referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, the Commission shall take into account any Sovereignty Seal awarded under Article 4 of Regulation .../... [STEP

3. In the context of the procedures referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, ***without prejudice to the existing framework of the procedures provided for in Article 19 of the EIB Statute***, the

Regulation] to a project.

Commission shall take into account any Sovereignty Seal awarded under Article 4 of Regulation .../... [STEP Regulation] to a project.

Or. en

Amendment 166

Denis Nesci

Proposal for a regulation

Article 16 – paragraph 1 – point 11

Regulation (EU) 2021/523

Article 35 – paragraph 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

5a. The STEP Window should promote risk taking by implementing partners favouring their undertaking of subordinated positions in risky investment. Such risky projects would benefit from dedicated fast track process.

Or. en