



European Innovation Council Board Statement on the Commission's FP10 Proposal

Earlier this year we, the European Innovation Council (EIC) Board, called for an expansion of the EIC under FP10¹, and underlined the importance of an integrated and holistic EIC, covering the entirety of the innovator's journey with a budget that is commensurate with its mission.

We therefore strongly welcome the Commission's proposal for the EIC under FP10 which not only retains but strongly reinforces the integrity of the European innovators journey with a standalone innovation pillar centred around the EIC.

The Commission's proposal has also taken onboard several of our key recommendations including most fundamentally a significant uplift to the EIC's budget of ca. x3.5, essential for an ambitious mission, making it possible to better meet the exceptionally high-quality demand for support across all its instruments.

Other critical elements in the proposal include the endorsement of a more ambitious Challenge model with an enhanced role for the EIC Programme Managers to develop and implement these EIC Challenges aligned with policy priorities.

The explicit reference to the EIC's highly successful Transition scheme is also welcome as this is essential to help build synergies and further strengthen the valorisation potential of the EIC for ideas emerging from EU, national and regional initiatives.

The Commission proposal for the EIC Fund also contains important provisions to enable follow-on funding and for a Fund structure that can attract other public or private investors, key elements to scale finance and companies here in Europe.

Finally, welcome that the EIC will continue to have an independent work programme as it is essential to be able to set priorities independently and operate effectively in support of the innovator's journey from research until scale-up. We were also pleased to see that the role of an independent EIC Board is retained as the EIC must draw on the knowledge and expertise of

¹ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/circabc-ewpp/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/12e50af2-4157-4696-8427-9b7b00457eac/download>

innovators across all stages, domains and backgrounds to ensure we stay attuned to and support the European innovators journey.

However, one of our key recommendations which is not evident in the Commission's proposal concerns the reflows to the EIC Fund: Revenues or amounts resulting from exits should be reusable by the EIC Fund to ensure that it can provide essential follow-on funding.

On the basis of the Commission's proposals, the EIC Board finds it important that certain elements are further clarified in terms of how they would be implemented. This includes in particular:

- (i) Characteristics of the ARPA-like approach to be implemented through the EIC Challenges: This requires a clear process to ensure that broad policy priorities inform and provide the EIC Programme Managers with the freedom to define Challenges and implement these with the necessary flexibility in support of the innovators journey from research to scale-up. This requires an understanding of the interactions with the European Competitiveness Fund
- (ii) Role and operation of the Transition instrument: The Transition instrument should become the key agile interface to accelerate the flow of ideas from research to innovation for Union and nationally funded programmes. It must allow EIC Programme Managers to fast-track high impact ideas without requiring formal calls, but with due consideration to ensure necessary transparency and accountability.
- (iii) Increased synergies with the European Research Council and the Pillar 2 (competitiveness and society) of the future Horizon Europe programme. This concerns the more flexible use of the Transition instrument, but also other aspects such as the Fast Track scheme and collaboration on the Observatory on Emerging Technologies.
- (iv) Role in defence and dual use technologies: The Board considers that the operational and budgetary requirements of supporting defence and dual use must be fully considered. Subject to the entry into force of the defence mini-omnibus regulation, the Board will already advise on these aspects for the implementation of dual use and defence in the remaining work programmes under the current EIC.

The EIC Board is willing to contribute to these elements with more detailed and specific advice resulting from the upcoming Board meetings.