



Brussels, 28.2.2017
C(2017) 1288 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 28.2.2017

on the adoption of multi-annual work programmes under Council Decision 2013/743/EU and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1314/2013, to be carried out by means of direct actions by the Joint Research Centre for the period 2017-2018, and amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2016) 730

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 28.2.2017

on the adoption of multi-annual work programmes under Council Decision 2013/743/EU and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1314/2013, to be carried out by means of direct actions by the Joint Research Centre for the period 2017-2018, and amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2016) 730

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom),

Having regard to Council Decision 2013/743/EU of 3 December 2013 establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)¹, and in particular Article 5(4) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1314/2013 of 16 December 2013 on the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2014-2018) complementing the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation², and in particular Article 11(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Joint Research Centre (JRC) contributes to the general objective and priorities of Horizon 2020 by providing scientific and technical support for European Union policies. The specific objective is to provide customer-driven scientific and technical support for the policies, while showing flexibility in responding to new policy demands. This support focuses on (1) excellence in science; (2) industrial leadership; and (3) the following societal challenges: health, demographic change and wellbeing; food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry; marine, maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy; secure, clean and efficient energy; smart, green and integrated transport; climate action, the environment, resource efficiency and raw materials; ‘Europe in a changing world: inclusive, innovative and reflective societies’; and ‘Secure societies – protecting the freedom and security of Europe and its citizens’.
- (2) The specific objectives of the JRC’s direct actions under Annex I to the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2014-2018) complementing Horizon 2020 are to (a) improve nuclear safety including: nuclear reactor and fuel safety, waste management including final geological disposal and partitioning and transmutation; decommissioning, and emergency preparedness; (b) improve nuclear security including: nuclear safeguards, non-proliferation, combating illicit trafficking, and nuclear forensics; (c) increase excellence in the nuclear science base for standardisation; (d) fostering knowledge management, education, and training; and (e) support the policy of the Union on nuclear safety and security. The assigning of any new activity to the JRC should be examined by the

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 965.

² OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 948.

JRC's Board of Governors to check its consistency with existing activities in the Member States.

- (3) According to Part VI, Section 2 of Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council³, the JRC is an integral part of the European Research Area (ERA) and will continue actively to support its functioning through close collaboration with peers and stakeholders, maximising access to its facilities, training researchers and close cooperation with Member States and international institutions that pursue similar objectives.
- (4) Under Part VI of Annex I to Decision 2013/743/EU, the JRC shall contribute to the general objective and priorities of Horizon 2020 by providing scientific and technical support to Union policies, in collaboration with relevant national and regional research stakeholders, where appropriate. The JRC activities will be conducted taking into account relevant initiatives at the level of regions, Member States or the Union, within the perspective of shaping the ERA.
- (5) The JRC will strengthen scientific cooperation with major international organisations and non-EU countries (e.g. UN bodies, the OECD, the United States of America, Japan, China, Brazil and India) in areas with a strong global dimension, such as climate change, food security and nanotechnology. This work will be coordinated with the international cooperation and development activities of the EU and its Member States.
- (6) Under the fourth subparagraph of Article 4(2) of Commission Decision 96/282/Euratom⁴, the JRC Board of Governors shall assist the JRC Director-General and deliver opinions for submission to the Commission, dealing in particular with the preparation of the multi-annual strategic planning covering all JRC activities, and each year, no later than 31 December, the corresponding annual work plan indicating the objectives of each work programme for the following year and including a summary description of the programme, with key dates, scientific references and estimated expenditure.
- (7) The multi-annual work programmes, which take into account the priorities underpinning the Commission's Work Programme, are set out in key orientations, each of which covers two years. These identify the EU policy areas for which the JRC will provide customer-driven scientific and technical support and respond to new policy demands, and the policy objectives and priorities to be pursued with JRC support. The multi-annual work programmes are detailed in an annual work plan for the subsequent two years, which constitutes a 'rolling plan' to be reviewed and amended annually. The amendment of the Commission Implementing Decision C(2016) 730 consists in the replacement of the Annex to Commission Implementing Decision C(2016) 730 by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision.
- (8) Under Article 5(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013, within the priorities, specific objectives and broad lines of activities referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the same Article, account may be taken of new and unforeseen needs that arise during the period of implementation of Horizon 2020. This may, if duly justified, include responses to

³ Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 104).

⁴ Commission Decision 96/282/Euratom of 10 April 1996 on the reorganisation of the Joint Research Centre (OJ L 107, 30.4.1996, p. 12).

emerging opportunities, crises and threats, as well as responses to needs relating to the development of new Union policies.

- (9) Under Article 3(5) of Regulation (Euratom) No 1314/2013, within the specific objectives referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the same Article, account may be taken of new and unforeseen needs that arise during the period of implementation of the Euratom Programme, including responses to emerging opportunities, crises and threats, to needs relating to the development of new Union policies, and to the piloting of support actions planned under future programmes.
- (10) Under Article 7 of Decision 96/282/Euratom, the JRC Director-General shall be responsible for the proper execution of the programmes assigned to the JRC. He shall direct, by his decisions, the activities of the directorates and services, and in particular decide between the alternative methods of implementing the programmes' objectives. He may make changes to the annual work plan in response to emerging opportunities, crises and threats, and needs relating to the development of new Union policies.
- (11) The multi-annual work programmes were prepared in close consultation with the Commission departments responsible for the EU policies supported by the JRC. They were submitted to the JRC Board of Governors, which delivered a favourable opinion at its 110th meeting on 17-18 November 2016, under the fourth subparagraph of Article 4(2) of Decision 96/282/Euratom.
- (12) In accordance with the fourth subparagraph of Article 4(2) of Decision 96/282/Euratom, the multi-annual work programmes concerning the direct actions of the JRC should be adopted together.
- (13) This Decision respects the fundamental rights and observes the principles recognised by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The multi-annual work programmes adopted through this Decision must be implemented in accordance with these rights and principles,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The 2017-2018 multi-annual work programmes (as set out in the Annex) for the Joint Research Centre's non-nuclear direct actions under Horizon 2020 and its direct actions under Euratom are hereby adopted.

Article 2

The work programmes shall be subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2017, following the adoption of that budget for 2017 by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

Article 3

For 2017, the Annex to Commission Implementing Decision C(2016) 730 is replaced by the text in the Annex to this Decision.

Done at Brussels, 28.2.2017

For the Commission
Tibor NAVRACSICS
Member of the Commission