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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 18.3.2019

on the adoption of multi-annual work programmes under Council Decision 2013/743/EU and Council Regulation (Euratom) 2018/1563, to be carried out by the Joint Research Centre for the period 2019-2020, and amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2018) 1386

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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) and repealing Decisions 2006/971/EC, 2006/972/EC, 2006/973/EC, 2006/974/EC and 2006/975/EC¹, and in particular Article 5(4) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (Euratom) 2018/1563 of 15 October 2018 on the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2019-2020) complementing the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and repealing Regulation (Euratom) No 1314/2013², 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 Union policies³. The specific objective is to provide customer-driven scientific and technical support for those policies while showing flexibility in responding to new policy demands. That support focuses on excellence in science and industrial leadership. It also focuses on certain societal challenges, namely 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’ The specific objectives of the JRC’s direct actions under Annex I to Regulation (Euratom) 2018/1563 are to (a) improve nuclear safety; (b) improve nuclear security;

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 965.

² OJ L 262, 19.10.2018, p. 1.

³ Some support activities are funded through the appropriations attributed to those DGs under their respective legal bases, by means of internal administrative arrangements. They are in principle covered by the work programmes/financing decisions adopted by those DGs and they are included in this work programme for information.

(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 attribution of any new activity to the JRC, is to be examined by the JRC's Board of Governors to check its consistency with existing activities in the Member States. According to Section 2 of Part VI of Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴, 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 and through the training of researchers and by close cooperation with Member States and international institutions that pursue similar objectives. Pursuant to Part VI of Annex I to Decision 2013/743/EU, the JRC is to 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 are to be conducted taking into account relevant initiatives at the level of regions, Member States or the Union, within the perspective of shaping the ERA. The JRC is to strengthen scientific cooperation with major international organisations and third 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. That work is to be coordinated with the international cooperation and development activities of the Union and its Member States.

- (2) Pursuant to Article 4(2) of Commission Decision 96/282/Euratom⁵, the JRC Board of Governors is to assist the JRC Director-General and deliver opinions for submission to the Commission on certain questions. In particular, the JRC Board of Governors is to deal 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. 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. Those multi-annual work programmes identify the Union policy areas for which the JRC is to provide customer-driven scientific and technical support and respond to new policy demands, and the policy objectives and priorities to be pursued with support from the JRC. 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
- (3) Pursuant to Article 5(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 account may be taken of new and unforeseen needs that arise during the period of implementation of Horizon 2020, within the priorities, specific objectives and broad lines of activities referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of that Article Such needs may, if duly justified,

⁴ 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) and repealing Decision No 1982/2006/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 104).

⁵ 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).

relate to emerging opportunities, crises and threats, or the development of new Union policies.

- (4) Under Article 3(5) of Regulation (Euratom) 2018/1563 account may be taken of new and unforeseen needs that arise during the period of implementation of the Euratom Programme within the priorities, specific objectives and broad lines of activities referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of that Article. Such needs *may* relate to emerging opportunities, crises and threats, to the development of new Union policies or to the piloting of support actions planned under future programmes.
- (5) Under Article 7 of Decision 96/282/Euratom, the JRC Director-General is 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.
- (6) The multi-annual work programmes were prepared in close consultation with the Commission departments responsible for the Union policies supported by the JRC. They were submitted to the JRC Board of Governors, which delivered a favourable opinion at its 116th meeting on 15-16 November 2018 in accordance with the fourth subparagraph of Article 4(2) of Decision 96/282/Euratom.
- (7) 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 are to be adopted together.
- (8) It is therefore necessary to amend Commission Implementing Decision C(2018) 1386⁶ by replacing its Annex for 2019,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The 2019-2020 multi-annual work programmes, as set out in the Annex, are hereby adopted for:

- (a) the JRC's non-nuclear direct actions under Horizon 2020;
- (b) the JRC's direct actions under Euratom;
- (c) scientific and technical support activities carried out by the JRC for the other Directorate Generals of the Commission and the other European Union institutions.

⁶ Commission Implementing Decision C(2018) 1386 of 9 March 2018 on the adoption of multi-annual work programmes under Council Decision 2014/743/EU and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1314/2013, to be carried out through direct actions by the Joint Research Centre in 2018-2019, and amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2017) 1288.

Article 2

For 2019, the Annex to Commission Implementing Decision C(2018) 1386 is replaced by the text in the Annex to this Decision.

Done at Brussels, 18.3.2019

For the Commission
Tibor NAVRACSICS
Member of the Commission