How are FP10 and the ECF adopted?

The European Commission, European Parliament and Council of the EU work together to turn a proposal into EU legislation.

European Commission

1. Proposal

The Commission proposes **the legislation.**

European Commission

The EU's executive body. It develops EU policies and prepares and presents legislative proposals, such as those for FP10 and the ECF.

European Parliament

2. Develops its position

Represents EU citizens. Examines the proposal, suggests amendments and adopts its position.

Council of the EU

2. Develops its position

Represents the 27 EU Member States. Examines the proposal, suggests amendments and adopts its position.

European Parliament

Directly elected by EU citizens. It scrutinises the proposal, proposes amendments and establishes its negotiating position.

Council of the EU

Represents the governments of the 27 EU Member States. It examines the proposal and establishes the Member States' negotiating position.

3. Negotiations

Parliament and Council negotiate a common text.

The Commission participates and helps facilitate a compromise.

Parliament + Council (co-legislators)

They negotiate to reach agreement on the same legislative text. The Commission participates in the negotiations.

4. Formal adoption

The agreed text is formally adopted by both the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.

European Parliament + Council

Both institutions must formally adopt the final text.

5. Implementation

The legislation is published in the Official Journal of the European Union and the programmes can start.

2028

From 2028

FP10 and the ECF are intended to cover the period 2028 – 2034.

Note: This diagram shows the ordinary legislative procedure, which applies to the main FP10 Framework Programme Regulation and the ECF Regulation. The separate Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe follows a different procedure: the European Parliament is consulted and provides its opinion, while the Council formally adopts the decision.

European Competitiveness Fund - Timeline

Date or period	Milestone
16 July 2025	The Commission published its proposal for a regulation establishing the European Competitiveness Fund, including the specific programme for defence research and innovation. The Commission proposed **€234.3 billion** for the ECF itself, alongside €175 billion for Horizon Europe within the wider competitiveness architecture.
20 April 2026	The co-rapporteurs in the European Parliament's ITRE Committee published their draft report. This was followed by more than 2,000 amendments and opinions from other parliamentary committees.
16 June 2026	The Council of the European Union reached a **partial general approach** (*negotiating position*) on the ECF regulation. It clarified connections with other EU programmes, including Horizon Europe, and **strengthened Member State involvement in governance**. Financial and horizontal provisions remain outside this partial position pending the wider negotiations for the EU budget 2028 – 2034.
10 November 2026	The ITRE Committee adopted its report on the ECF and voted to enter interinstitutional negotiations and approved the decision to enter negotiations. The committee's proposed changes include a higher budget, revised governance and dedicated "Horizon Europe Pathway Actions" intended to help move research results towards market deployment.
Forthcoming, following the EP mandate	Interinstitutional negotiations on the regulation can take place between the European Parliament and the Council, with the Commission involved in the process. Key issues include the final budget, governance, allocations between policy windows and the operational relationship with Horizon Europe and other programmes.
Timing not yet fixed	Following a provisional interinstitutional agreement, the European Parliament and the Council must formally adopt the regulation.
Before implementation	The ECF's financial provisions must be aligned with the final EU budget for 2028–2034. The Commission and Member States will also need to prepare the governance, work programmes, implementation arrangements and common funding infrastructure.
1 January 2028	The European Competitiveness Fund is intended to enter into force. This remains dependent on timely completion of the legislative and budgetary negotiations.