



# BioMed Alliance position statement on Ehler's draft ITRE report on the next Horizon Europe (FP10)

The **BioMed Alliance**, representing **34 leading European medical societies and over 400,000 researchers and health professionals**, welcomes MEP Christian Ehler's draft report on the **next Horizon Europe 2028-2034 (FP10)**<sup>1</sup> regulation proposal, which was recently presented by the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research, and Energy (ITRE). As a non-profit organisation dedicated to advancing healthcare and biomedical research, BioMed Alliance has been actively following and contributing to the ongoing discussions surrounding Horizon Europe and the future of FP10.

We believe that this report introduces important improvements to the EU's research and innovation framework, particularly in addressing the **longstanding challenges in the health research sector, such as bureaucratic inefficiencies, fragmented decision-making, and delays in translating research into clinical applications**. Among its most notable recommendations are a substantial increase in the Horizon Europe budget to €220 billion (in line with the Draghi and Heitor reports) and reforms to governance structures that would introduce expert-led management and enhance the autonomy of key bodies like the European Research Council (ERC) and the European Innovation Council (EIC). The report also emphasises the importance of supporting early-career researchers and simplifying the participation process.

## Proposed measures

We support the **proposed €220 billion FP10 budget**, as it is essential for advancing health research, addressing emerging health challenges, and delivering mid- to long-term economic benefits. This increased budget for FP10 is not only needed to facilitate the development of innovative health solutions and advance translational research, but also to close the innovation gap with global competitors like the US and China. Thereby it will help to ensure that Europe remains at the forefront of biomedical discovery and innovation, particularly in tackling key challenges such as antimicrobial resistance, chronic diseases, and the rising threat of pandemics.

The creation of two independent Councils within FP10, the **Council for European Competitiveness Research** and the **European Council for Global Societal Challenges Research**, is a key measure to improve coordination in FP10 and ensure funding decisions are expert-driven and aligned with societal needs. These Councils should guide research priorities and provide strategic advice on funding calls, ensuring that decisions reflect scientific excellence and the real-world challenges of healthcare, driven by the collective expertise of specialists from research, healthcare, innovation, and industry.

We advocate for **FP10 to remain a standalone programme with a separate budget from the European Competitiveness Fund**. Without a dedicated budget and strategy, there is a risk that current priorities covered under Horizon Europe such as collaborative research, basic research and research related to rare diseases could be overshadowed by broader industrial and economic goals. A standalone programme would ensure that health research receives the attention and resources needed to address the full range of health challenges across Europe, from basic science to clinical applications, for the benefit of European citizens.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information see e.g.: [\\*PR\\_COD\\_1amCom](#)



## Biomedical Alliance in Europe

BioMed Alliance also supports the **initiatives aimed at attracting and retaining early-career researchers** by providing flexible, excellence-driven funding through mechanisms like the European Research Council (ERC). Strengthening these programmes is essential for cultivating talent across Europe and ensuring that our next generation of researchers has the resources to thrive in competitive, high-impact fields. Moreover, fostering equitable opportunities, especially in less-resourced regions, is key to building a diverse and inclusive research community.

**Simplify the Horizon Europe participation process** and **increase transparency** are also essential steps to make the programme more accessible to a broader range of institutions, particularly for smaller organisations and those in less-resourced regions. The complexity of the current funding process and administrative burdens can create significant barriers, limiting the ability of diverse institutions to compete effectively. By streamlining application procedures, offering clearer guidelines, and expanding the use of mechanisms like lump sum funding, the EU can foster greater inclusivity, and support a more dynamic, competitive research ecosystem.

### Conclusion

BioMed Alliance supports the reforms proposed in the draft ITRE Committee report on the proposal for a regulation establishing the next Horizon Europe, as proposed by Rapporteur Ehler. Strengthening governance, increasing funding, and fostering coordination and collaboration across EU bodies will enable the next Horizon Europe to drive innovation, effectively tackle Europe's health challenges, and improve patient outcomes. Europe must maintain its commitment to health research, with sustained investment and a long-term vision for scientific progress and public health.