Positions of the European Commission, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament for the upcoming Negotiations on European Partnerships under Horizon Europe 2028-2034

Issue	European Commission - July 2025 proposal	Council of the European Union - June 2026 Partial General Approach	European Parliament - October 2026 draft compromise texts
Partnership Models	Work-programme based implementation as the default, based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Treaty-based partnerships require specific justification.	Work-programme based partnerships use an MoU, supplemented by a contract for financial contributions. Treaty-based partnerships remain an option in justified cases.	Favours implementation through Articles 185 and 187 TFEU. Partnerships are based on contractual arrangements.
Single Basic Act (SBA)	A Single Basic Act would establish Joint Undertakings with harmonised rules.	A Single Basic Act for Article 187 Joint Undertakings; separate acts for Article 185 initiatives. These acts would specify partners' contribution rules.	A common legal framework for Article 187 bodies, with harmonised rules where appropriate. Each body would be established through an annex specifying commitments and funding sources.
Portfolio size and budget limits	A limited, coherent portfolio; no numerical ceiling.	A limited portfolio. A proposed ceiling on partnerships' share of Pillar II funding (remains unspecified).	A maximum of 35 partnerships at any time (not specified if solely FP10 partnerships or FP9 and FP10 combined). EIT KICs would fall outside this count. No general minimum EU contribution per partnership.
Who shapes priorities?	Commission proposes partnership areas, followed by competitive, open selection.	Council guidance and early Member State involvement shape the portfolio.	Commission consults Parliament and Member States, and where possible associated countries and stakeholders. An independent High-Level Council advises on partnership areas.
Partner composition and tripartite participation	Generally tripartite: EU + public partners + private partners. Public entities from at least 5 Member States, together with representative private entities.	Flexible composition: EU + public and/or private partners. Public entities from at least 10 Member States and/or, where appropriate, representative private entities.	Generally tripartite: EU + public partners + private partners. Public entities from at least 5 Member States or associated countries, together with representative private entities.
Funding commitments	Other partners' financial contributions must at least match the EU contribution.	Matching overall contributions for Treaty-based partnerships; maximum leverage sought for work-programme partnerships.	Other partners' contributions must at least match the EU contribution; financial and/or in-kind commitments are recognised.
Cash and in-kind contributions	Financial contributions to the operational budget and co-financing of partners' own or members' funded project participation. No explicit in-kind category or additional-activities provision.	Financial contributions to operational and administrative budgets, including national participant funding; explicit in-kind contributions covering partners' own project costs. Additional activities are not listed.	Financial contributions to the administrative budget; explicit in-kind contributions through own or members' project participation and additional activities.
Implementation and calls	Partnership resources are centrally managed, except in justified cases.	Single award procedures managed by EU granting authorities or entrusted bodies; national contributions remain subject to national rules.	Independent, excellence-based peer review; calls published on the Funding & Tenders Portal; a single set of reporting requirements.
Research, Innovation and Deployment	Close links with the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF); Treaty-based bodies may implement funding from several EU programmes.	Horizon funds for research and innovation; ECF can support deployment. A deployment agenda supplements the research and innovation agenda where relevant.	Shared Strategic Research, Innovation and Deployment Agenda (SRIDA). Horizon funding is reserved for R&I, with separate but coordinated Horizon–ECF governance.
Monitoring and renewal	Lifecycle planning, common monitoring indicators, independent assessment and transition strategies.	Data available for at least ten years after closure; explicit powers to reduce, suspend or end funding for non-compliance.	Biennial reporting to Parliament and Council; independent evaluation before renewal; protection of public-interest research during transition.

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