

# Science Europe contributes to consultation on MFF to support R&D and a standalone FP10

## Key points of Science Europe responses to the Public Consultation on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)

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Preparations for the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) are underway. In light of this, Science Europe welcomes the opportunity to respond to the [Public Consultation on the MFF](#), from the perspective of National Research Funding Organisations (RFOs) and Research Performing Organisations (RPOs).

Science will be crucial to address the multifaceted challenges Europe faces, and strong R&I serves as a foundation for improving economic strength and global competitiveness as well as strategic, cultural, and societal development.

A key point of the Science Europe responses is that the new MFF should support European integration, and that it should be a cornerstone of strong European Research and Innovation (R&I) sector. Secondly, the MFF should promote the strategic alignment of national and EU funds, to help achieve the target of 3% national GDP invested into R&I. Thirdly, the MFF should host a ring-fenced fund for a dedicated EU Research & Innovation Framework Programme (FP10).

In line with previous Science Europe Positions<sup>1</sup>, the MFF can support these points by supporting a standalone FP10, building on the successes of Horizon Europe Programme and ensuring the independence of the European Research Council (ERC) and the European Innovation Council (EIC). The MFF must lay down the groundwork for an FP10 that promotes the kind of collaborative, fundamental, and blue-sky research vital to addressing present and future challenges. Furthermore, FP10 should attract and retain talent, support researcher mobility, open and secure research, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, environmental sustainability, and academic freedom.

There are several important aspects that should be elaborated upon in the near future. These include how to assess the performance of FP10 within the MFF and how to implement the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) principle without arbitrarily impeding the freedom of scientific enquiry, or incurring significant administrative burdens.

Science Europe expresses gratitude to its Member Organisations, in particular, those in the Working Group on EU R&I Framework Programmes, in preparing the responses to this consultation.

1: See [‘10 Key Messages for the 10th EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation’](#), [‘What European Research Needs’](#) and [‘Working Together for a Strong and Standalone FP10’](#)