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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 4.6.2021

adopting the Joint Research Centre's work programme for 2021-2022 under Decision (EU) 2021/764 of the Council establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, and Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/765 establishing the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2021-2025 complementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

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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 (EU) 2021/764 of 10 May 2021 establishing the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, and repealing Decision 2013/743/EU¹, and in particular Article 13(2) d) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/765 of 10 May 2021 establishing the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2021-2025 complementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and repealing Regulation (Euratom) 2018/1563², and in particular Article 11(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Joint Research Centre (JRC) contributes to Horizon Europe’s general objectives and priorities, and provides independent scientific knowledge, advice and technical support for EU policies throughout the policy cycle. The JRC focuses on strengthening the knowledge base for policymaking; global challenges (health; culture, creativity and an inclusive society; civil security for society; digital, industry and space; climate, energy and mobility; food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment); innovation, economic development and competitiveness; scientific excellence; and territorial development and support for Member States and regions.
- (2) The JRC supports the specific objectives stipulated in Article 3 (2) of Council Regulation to be implemented in accordance with Annex I of this regulation. Any new activity attributed to the JRC is to be examined by the JRC Board of Governors to ensure that it is consistent with activities in the Member States.

¹ OJ L 167 I of 12.5.2021, p.1.

² OJ L 167I of 12.5.2021, p.81.

- (3) Pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Horizon Europe, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination³ the JRC should continue to provide independent customer-driven scientific evidence and technical support for Union policies throughout the whole policy cycle. The JRC's direct actions should also be implemented in a flexible, efficient and transparent manner, taking into account the relevant needs of the users of the JRC and the needs of Union policies, and ensuring the protection of the Union's financial interests. The JRC should focus its research on EU policy priorities.
- (4) The JRC will pursue partnerships in both nuclear and non-nuclear fields with leading institutions in key priority countries (e.g. the USA, Brazil, China, India, Japan and South Africa), with the Western Balkans and Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood countries, with international organisations (e.g. the UN, OECD, the World Bank, IAEA) and regional bodies (e.g. African Union Commission, CELAC, ASEAN). These partnerships will aim to ensure access to global knowledge, help enhance the EU's influence in the world and open up opportunities resulting from international cooperation. The JRC's partnerships with international partners will support strategic EU dialogues in areas such as nuclear non-proliferation, space, environment, energy, science, technology and innovation. The JRC will additionally liaise with the European External Action Service.
- (5) According to Article 4(2) of Commission Decision 96/282/Euratom, the JRC's Board of Governors assists the JRC Director-General and delivers opinions for submission on certain questions to the Commission. In particular, the JRC's Board of Governors is to deal with the preparation of a multiannual strategic planning covering all JRC activities and a corresponding multiannual work plan indicating the objectives of each work programme for the following years and including a summary description of the programme, with key dates, scientific references and estimated expenditure.
- (6) The work programmes take account of the priorities set by the Commission. They identify the policy areas, policy objectives and priorities for which the JRC is to provide customer-driven scientific and technical support, and also respond to new policy demands. The work programmes usually span 2 years.
- (7) According to Article 7 of Decision 96/282/Euratom, the JRC's 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 work plan in response to emerging opportunities and requests, crises and threats and needs relating to the development of new Union policies.
- (8) The work programme was prepared in close consultation with the Commission departments responsible for EU policies that receive support from the JRC. It was

³ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013, OJ L 170 of 12.5.2021, p. 1.

submitted to the JRC Board of Governors, which delivered a favourable opinion at its 122th meeting on 20 November 2020 in accordance with the fourth subparagraph of Article 4(2) of Decision 96/282/Euratom.

- (9) In accordance with the fourth subparagraph of Article 4(2) of Decision 96/282/Euratom, the work programmes concerning the direct actions of the JRC are to be adopted together.
- (10) This Decision respects fundamental rights and observes the principles recognised by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The work programme adopted through this decision must be implemented in accordance with these rights and principles,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

The work programme for 2021-2022, as set out in the Annex to this implementing decision, is hereby adopted for:

- (a) the JRC's non-nuclear direct actions under Horizon Europe;
- (b) the JRC's direct actions under Euratom; and
- (c) the JRC's scientific and technical support activities for other Commission Directorates-General and other EU institutions.

Done at Brussels, 4.6.2021

For the Commission
Mariya GABRIEL
Member of the Commission