

EUA - Newsletter

European Parliament and Commission at odds over EFSI

April 24, 2015

On 20 April the Committees of the European Parliament responsible for Economic and Monetary Affairs and for Budgets adopted their joint report on the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). The report removes any reference to Horizon 2020 as a source to support the fund.

Indeed the Committees propose to fill the fund gradually in the annual budgetary procedure until it reaches €8 billion by 2022.

The Committee for Industry, Research and Energy had followed the same line in its opinion on the EFSI proposal adopted last week.

EUA very much welcomes the efforts of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to find alternative ways of supporting EFSI. The challenge, going forward, will be to avoid the Commission's proposed bulk cut to Horizon 2020 turning into year-on-year cuts determined by the EU's annual budget procedure. EUA reaffirms that investment in research and innovation is crucial for the competitiveness of Europe and its universities.

Indeed the Association urges the European Parliament to remain committed to protecting European research and calls upon the European Commission and the Council of Ministers to reconsider the use of Horizon 2020 in subsequent negotiations.

Negotiations between the European Parliament and Council are to start on 23 April, with the aim of establishing a compromise to be voted by Parliament as a whole in June. This should allow EFSI to be operational by mid-2015, as proposed by the Commission. Together with its member national rectors' conferences, EUA will continue to monitor the process and voice the sector's concerns.

A link to EUA's policy brief on EFSI is available [here](#).

Click [here](#) to view the joint report adopted by Committees of the European Parliament responsible for Economic and Monetary Affairs and for Budgets on EFSI.