

Taking stock of ECF

Matthijs Timmermans

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Political context



Sauli Niinistö
"Strengthen civil & military preparedness"

Manuel Heitor:
"220 billion for FP10"



Enrico Letta:
"Fifth freedom crucial in the internal market"

Mario Draghi:
"Invest in EU competitiveness"

“Europe’s competitiveness – and its position in the race to a clean and digital economy – will depend on starting a new age of invention and ingenuity. This requires **putting research and innovation, science and technology, at the heart of our economy.**

We will increase our research spending to focus more on strategic priorities, on groundbreaking fundamental research and disruptive innovation, and on scientific excellence.”

■ *Europe’s Choice, guidelines 2024-2029*

But where was FP10?

“In a nutshell, **the Competitiveness Fund will offer support for the investment journey of a project.** From an idea to the market. From research to start-up, scale up and global manufacturing.

But let me be clear: **Our framework programme Horizon Europe will stay as a self-standing programme.** It is an outstanding brand – the most renowned research programme worldwide.

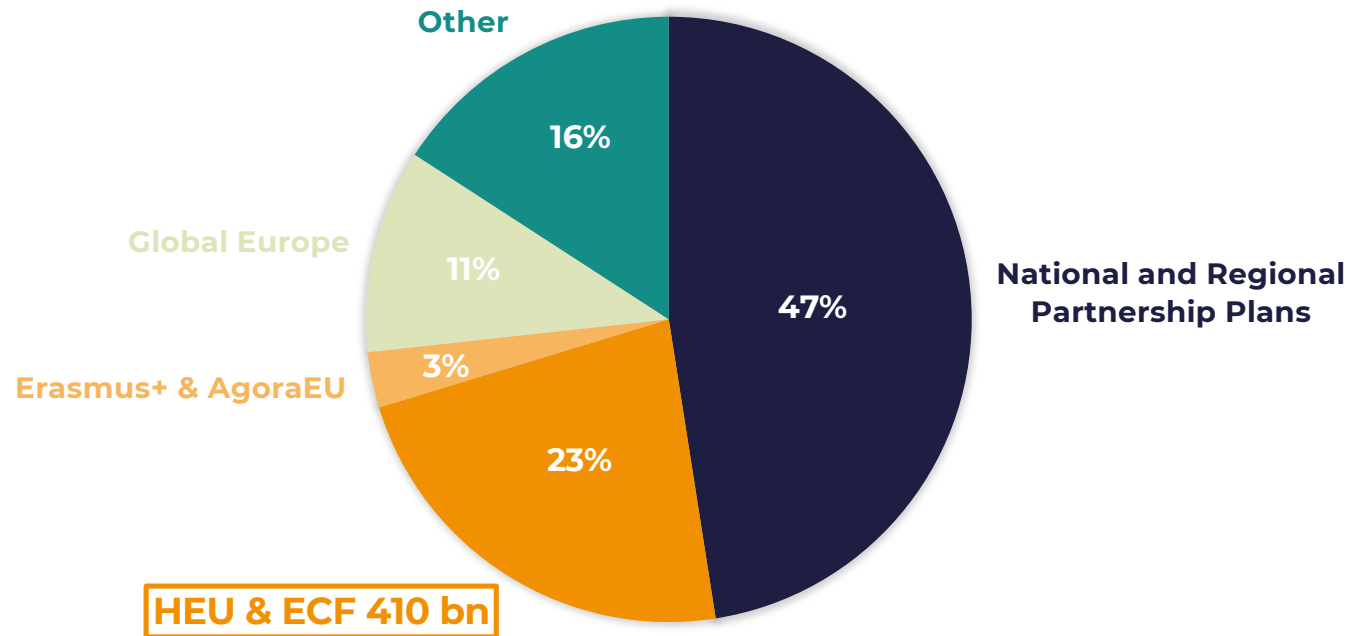
But it will be tightly connected to our Competitiveness Fund. We need a seamless flow from fundamental research to applied research to start-ups to scale-up.”

■ *Annual Budget Conference, May 2025*

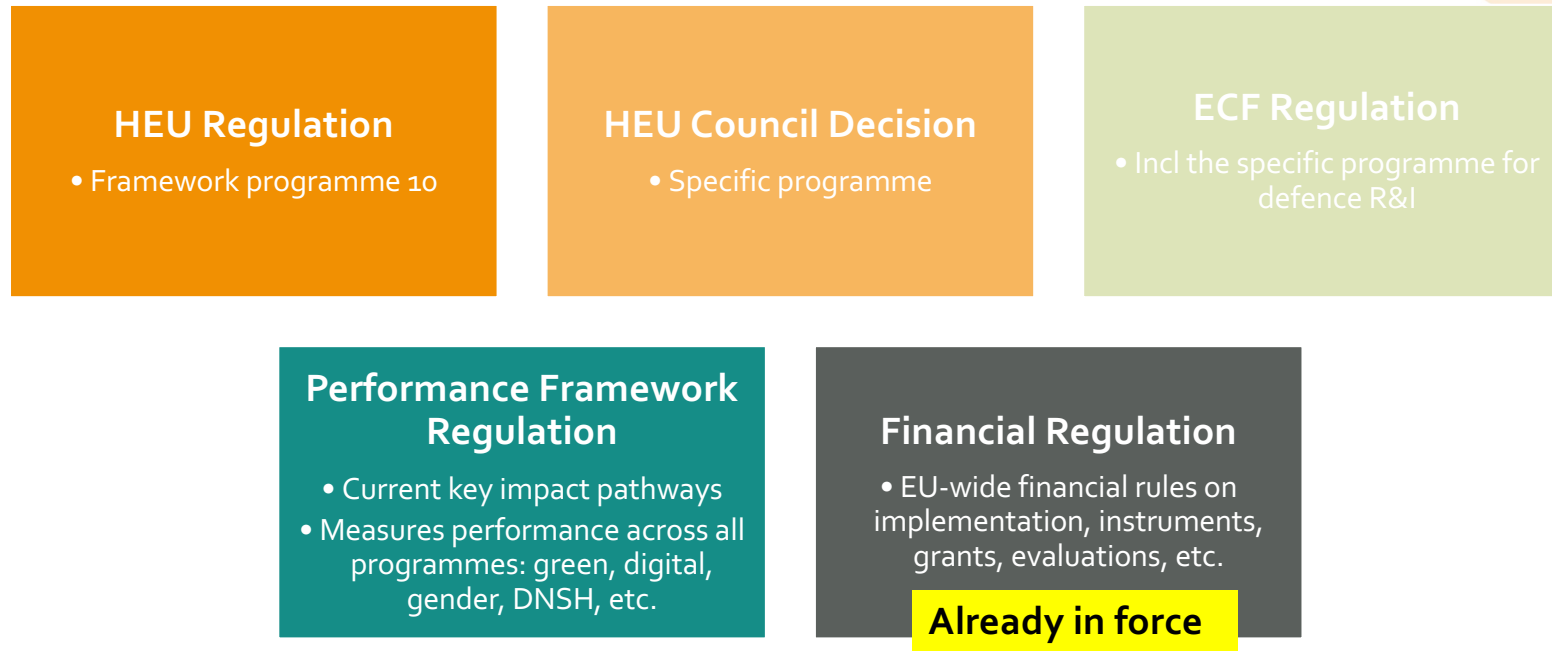


A new multiannual budget

MFF 2028–2034



What was proposed?

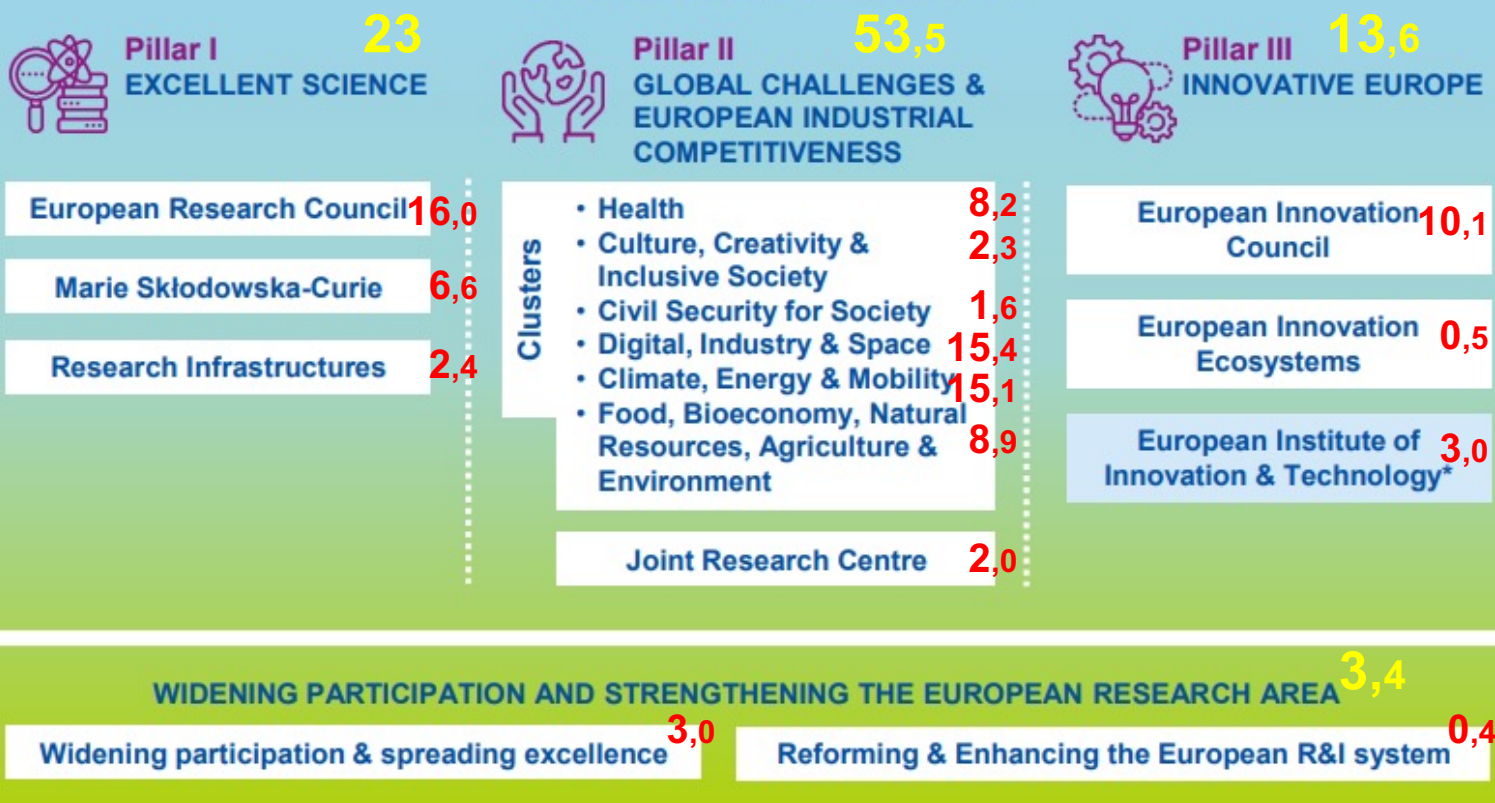


= not easy to keep track of

HORIZON EUROPE

SPECIFIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE & EIT*

Exclusive focus on civil applications



* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

EU 7-year cycles

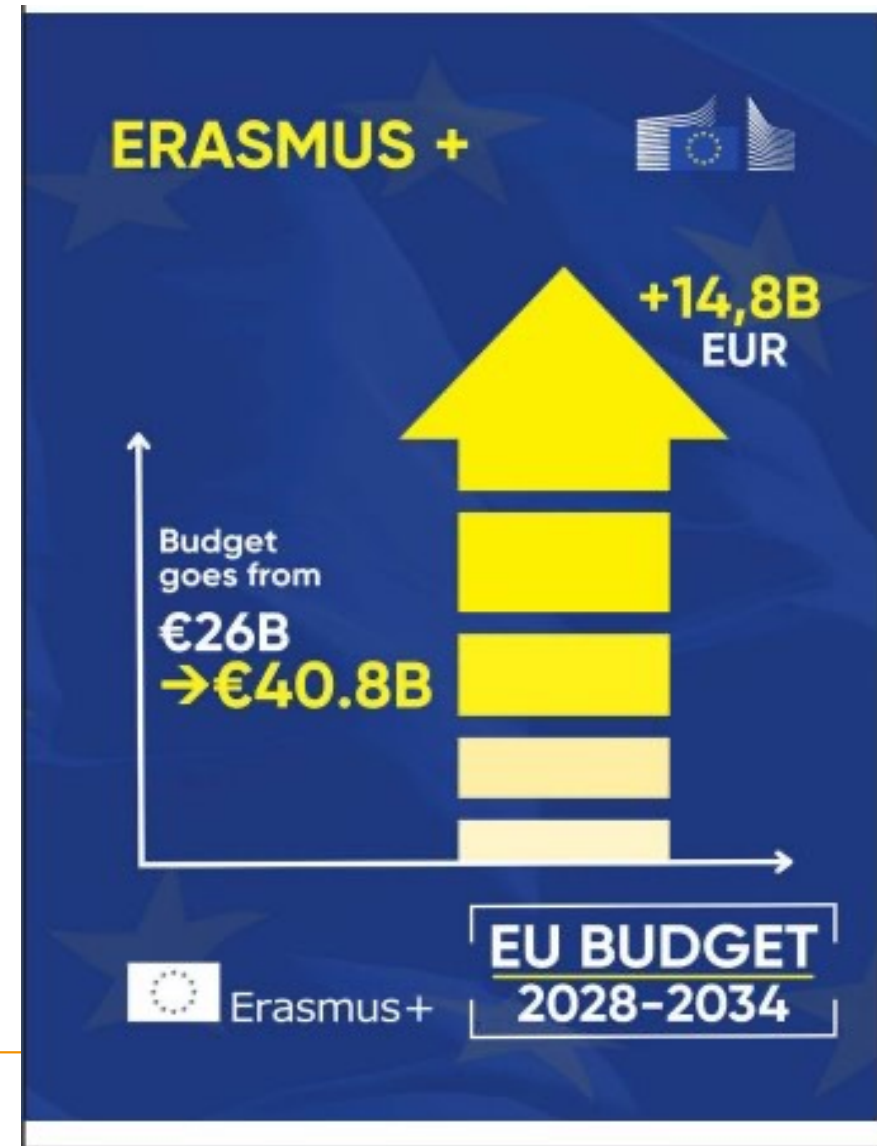
- A big decision moment
- Erasmus+ (2028-2034)
Education, skills and exchange
- Horizon Europe (2028-2034)
Research and innovation



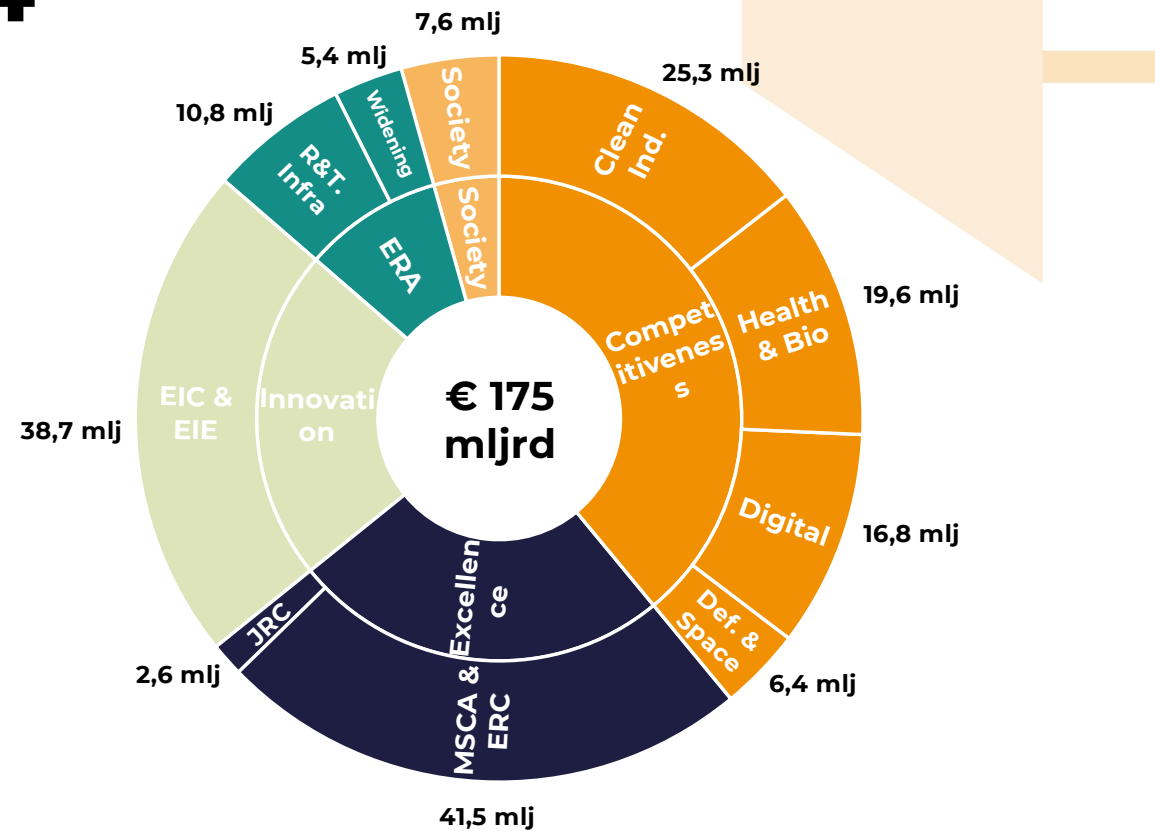
EU 7-year cycles

■ Erasmus+ (2028-2034):
Education, skills and exchange
Proposal: 25 billion > 40.8 billion

■ Horizon Europe (2028-2034)
Research and innovation
Proposal: 90 billion > 175 billion

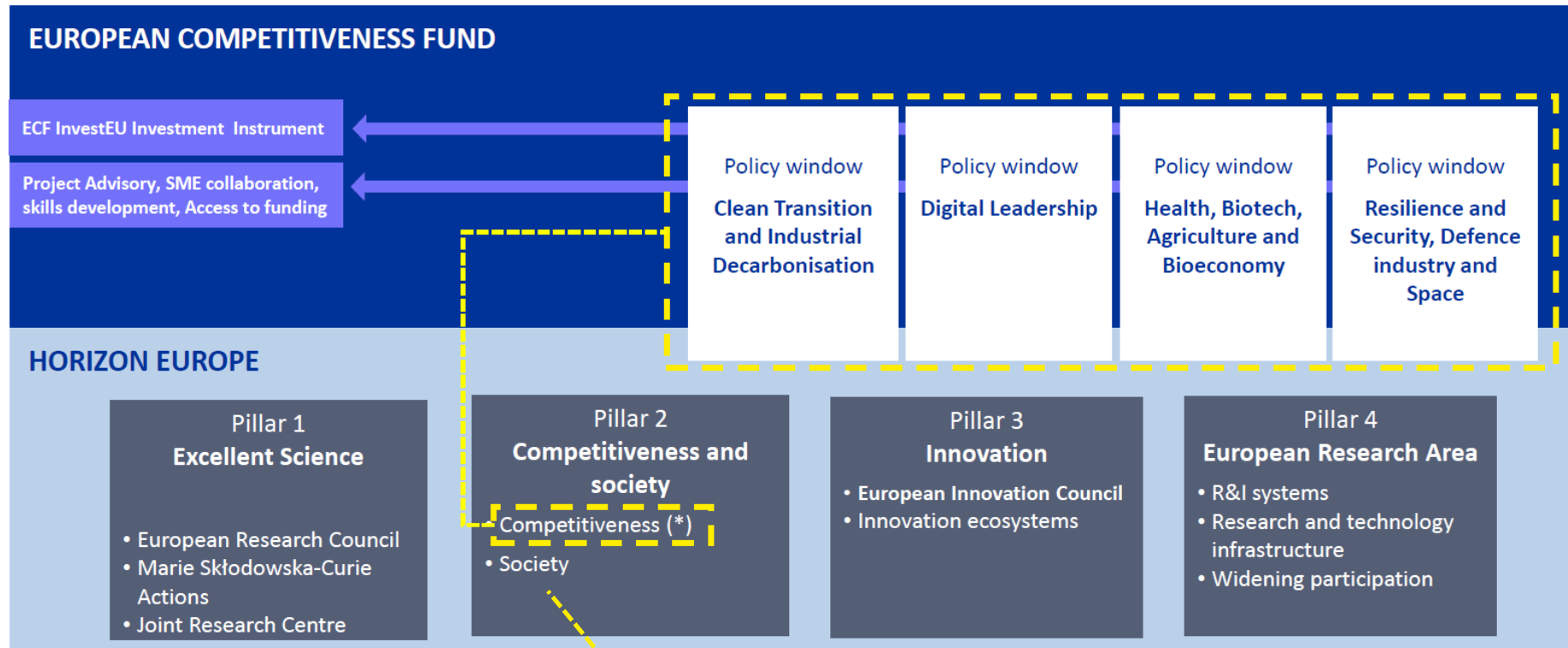


FP10 2028 – 2034



Back to ECF

Structure of FP10 and ECF



* Consistent with activities of the European Competitiveness Fund



Neth-ER

Netherlands house for
Education and Research

Global Societal Challenges
Missions
New European Bauhaus



ECF – key characteristics

Flexibility

- From 13 programmes to **one large, adaptable pot of money.**
- Designed to respond quickly to crises and shifting industrial priorities.
- Allows blending of grants, loans, and guarantees depending on sectoral needs.

Centralised annual steering mechanism

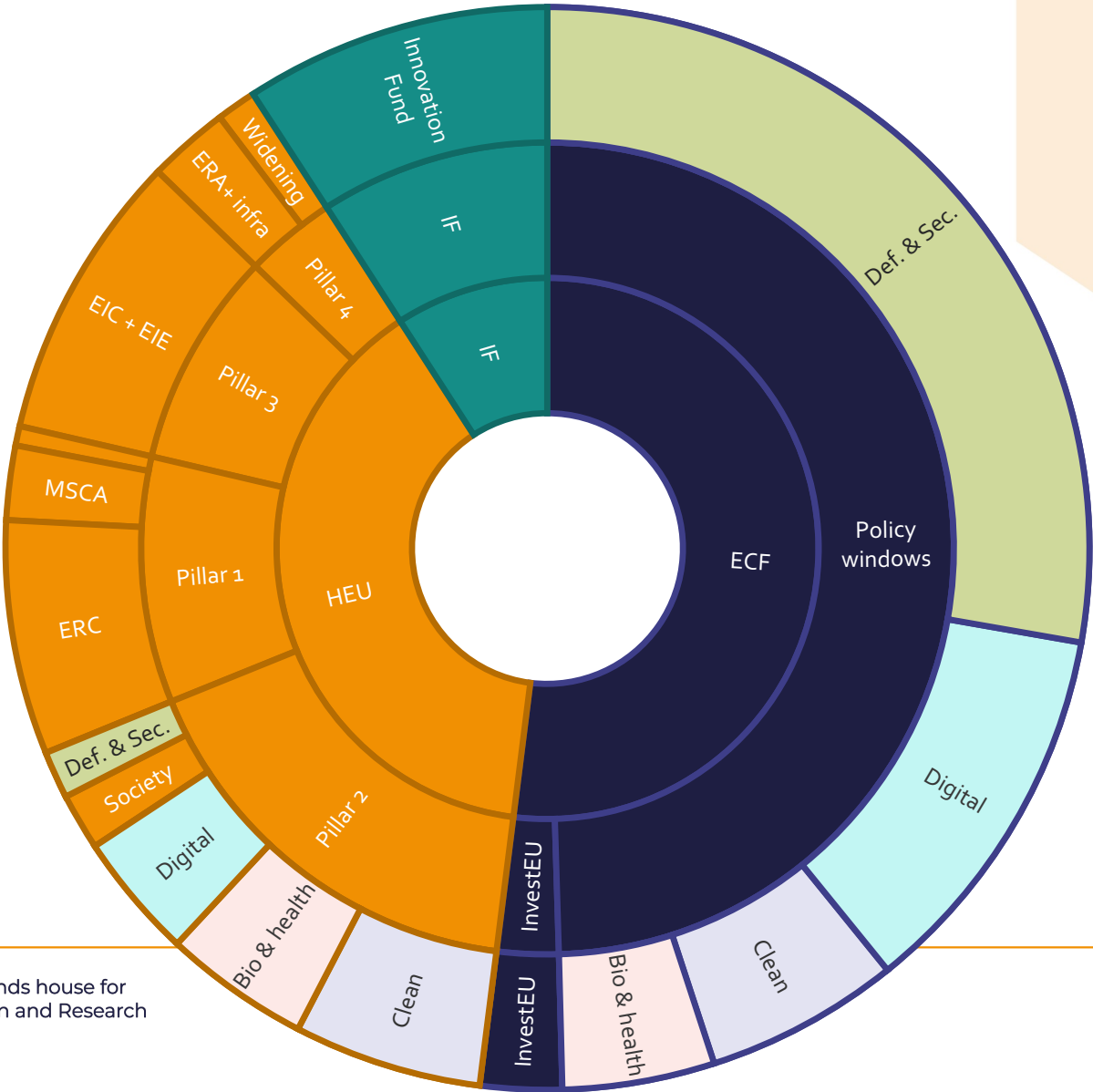
- Commission, Council and Parliament to agree on priorities in annual budget procedure
- Strategic Stakeholder Board to advise on direction and identify long-term trends
- Details to follow: “Competitiveness Coordination Tool”
- Moonshots: example of strategic priorities?
- **Power shift to centre:** who decides on investments? More dynamic, more political.

Executive discretion in implementation stage

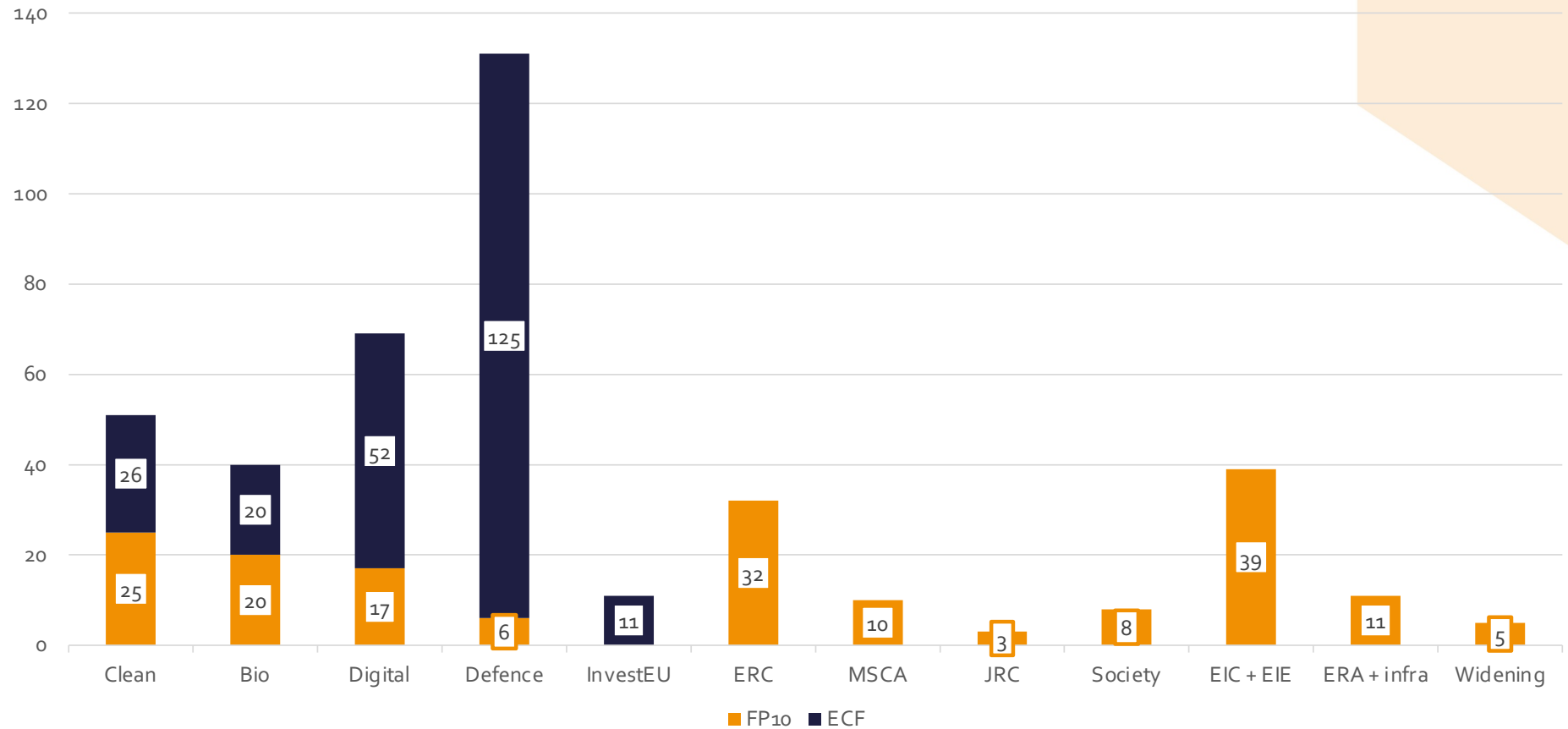
- Key details delegated to work programmes (eligibility, evaluation criteria, award procedures, etc.)
- Significantly reduced member state control over work programmes
- Reduced reliance on experts in evaluating proposals

Budget for competitiveness

ECF 234 bn
FP10 175 bn
IF 41 bn
450 bn

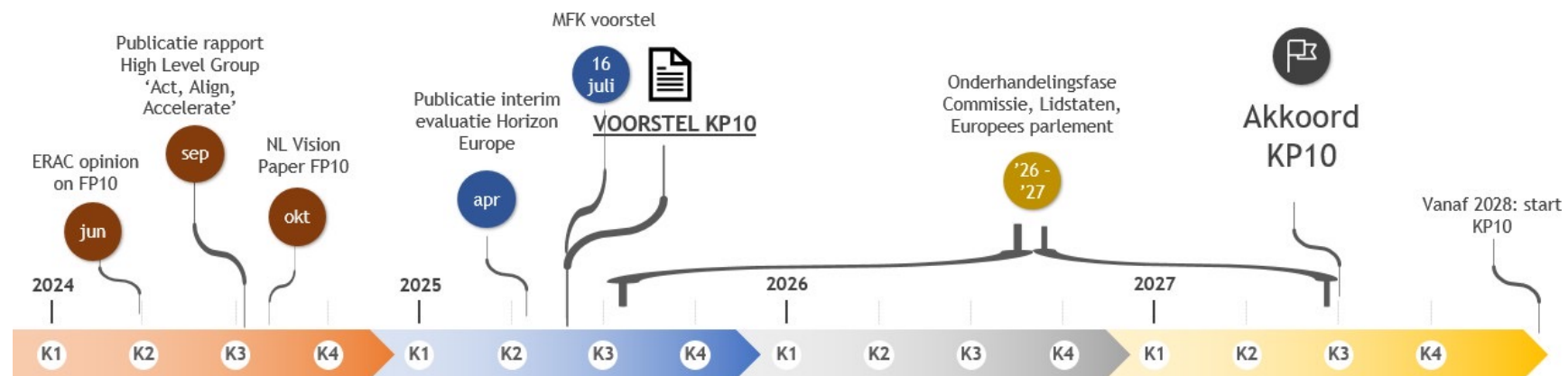


Budget distribution in bn.



What's next?

Looking forward: FP10 negotiations



European Parliament

ECF	ECF	FP10	FP10	SP10	SP10
					
<u>Ehler</u>	<u>Nica</u>	<u>Ehler</u>	<u>Gálvez</u>	<u>Repasi</u>	<u>Lakos</u>
Co-rapporteur	Co-rapporteur	Rapporteur	Shadow rapp.	Rapporteur	Shadow rapp.
DE - EPP	RO – S&D	DE - EPP	ES – S&D	DE – S&D	HU - EPP

Each political group to appoint shadow rapporteurs
(liberals, greens, conservatives, etc.)

Conclusions - looking ahead

■ Governance:

- How will the balance of power between Commission, Parliament and Member States evolve in ECF & FP10?

■ Budget & Priorities:

- Will climate, digital and defence envelopes remain intact, or shift under political pressure?

■ Implementation:

- Can the new Performance Framework deliver simplification without adding new reporting burdens?

■ Synergies:

- How will FP10 + SP connect with the ECF to ensure impact from research to market?

Thank you!



timmermans@neth-er.eu

Further reading

■ Neth-ER publications:

- [Commissie gooit het Horizon Europe budget omhoog in het nieuwe MFK-voorstel](#)
- [Hoger budget voor kennis in MFK-voorstel Europese Commissie](#)

■ Commission Proposals:

- [FP10](#) and [Specific Programme](#)
- [ECF](#)

■ BNC-fiches

- [FP10](#)
- [ECF](#)

■ Legislative observatory

- [FP10](#) and [Specific Programme](#)
- [ECF](#)