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ANNEX 1

ANNEX
to the
COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

on the financing of the Programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European Statistics and the adoption of the work programme for 2026-2027

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ANNEX I

2026 Work Programme - SMP Bundle: Internal Market, Standardisation, Consumers and other financial services End-users

1. SMP BUNDLE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This part of the SMP Work Programme, referred to as the “*SMP Bundle*”, brings together predecessor programmes and former prerogative budget lines from different policy areas concerning the internal market and its governance tools, covering in particular market surveillance, company law, contract and extra-contractual law, standardisation, support for competition policy, customs and taxation, consumer and end-users of financial services, financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards, financial services, financial stability, the capital markets union and anti-money laundering.

The SMP Bundle implements the specific objectives of making the internal market more effective, company law, contract and extra-contractual law, standardisation and support for competition policy, customs and taxation, and customers and end-users in financial services. The work programme is not subject to comitology procedures.

The SMP Bundle is structured by objective and means of financing, notably:

- Article 3(2), point (a), of Regulation (EU) No 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ making the internal market more effective, including in the light of the digital transformation, by
 - (i) *facilitating the prevention and removal of discriminatory, unjustified or disproportionate obstacles and supporting the development, implementation and enforcement of Union law in the areas of the internal market for goods and services, including by improving the application of the principle of mutual recognition, of public procurement rules, of company law, of contract and extra-contractual law, of anti-money laundering rules, of the free movement of capital and of financial services and competition rules, including by developing user-centric governance tools;*
 - (ii) *supporting effective market surveillance throughout the Union, with a view to ensuring that only safe and compliant products offering a high level of protection of consumers and other end-users are made available on the Union market, including products sold online, as well as with a view to achieving greater homogeneity among, and increasing the capacity of, the market surveillance authorities across the Union.*
- Article 3(2), point (c), of Regulation (EU) No 2021/690: ensuring the effective functioning of the internal market through standardisation processes that
 - (i) *enable the financing of European standardisation and the participation of all relevant stakeholders in setting up European standards;*

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing a programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics (Single Market Programme) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 99/2013, (EU) No 1287/2013, (EU) No 254/2014 and (EU) No 652/2014 (OJ L 153, 3.5.2021, p. 1).

(ii) support the development of high-quality international financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards, facilitate their integration into the Union law, and promote the innovation and development of best practices in corporate reporting.

- Article 3(2), point (d), of Regulation (EU) No 2021/690: promoting the interests of consumers and ensuring a high level of consumer protection and product safety by (ii): in respect of consumers and other financial services end-users: *enhancing the participation of consumers, other financial services end-users and representatives of civil society in financial services policy-making; promoting a better understanding of the financial sector and of the different categories of commercialised financial products; ensuring that the interests of consumers in the area of retail financial services are protected.*

The SMP Bundle is executed through annual or multiannual work programmes and through support measures that will help achieve its objectives. The SMP bundle work programme for 2026 is the fifth to be implemented in this seven-years period, with a total budget of EUR 118 252 076. The proposed work programme will be implemented by direct management, using in particular grants and procurement, and by indirect management with the OECD. While overall responsibility for the SMP remains with the Commission, some implementing tasks are delegated to the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA).

The work programme is coordinated by DG GROW with internal governance arrangements set out within a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Directorate-Generals participating in the SMP: DGs COMP, ESTAT, FISMA, GROW, JUST, SANTE and TAXUD.

On the basis of the objectives mentioned above in Article 3(2) of the Regulation (EU) No 2021/690, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2026, as follows:

- for grants (implemented under direct management): EUR 33 853 168
- for procurement (implemented under direct management): EUR 70 111 409
- for other actions or expenditure 14 287 500
- for indirect management: EUR 350 000

1.1. Budget lines

Under budget Chapter 03 02 Single Market Programme:

- Article 03 02 01 - Making the Internal Market more effective
- Article 03 02 03 - European standardisation and international financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards
- Item 03 02 04 02 - The participation of end users in financial services policy making

1.2. Legal basis

Regulation (EU) 2021/690 establishing a programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, food and feed, and European statistics and repealing Regulations (EU) No 99/2013, (EU) No 1287/2013, (EU) No 254/2014 and (EU) No 652/2014 (the “Programme”)

Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2021/690

Article 198(d) of Regulation (EU, Euratom)2024/2509

1.3. Objectives pursued

This part of the Programme has the following specific objectives laid down in Article 3(2), points (a), (c) and point (d)(ii) of Regulation (EU) 2021/690

To contribute to making the internal market more effective or to the completion of **the internal market**, its operation and development, and in particular to:

- ensure that citizens and businesses, including social economy enterprises, can enjoy the benefits of the internal market without borders and are able to exercise those rights and take advantage of those opportunities in full;
- promote and support conformity assessment, accreditation, market surveillance, mutual recognition and policies to eliminate barriers for products in the single market;
- monitor and evaluate the measures relating to the practical exercise by citizens and businesses, including social economy enterprises, of their rights and opportunities with a view to identifying and facilitating the removal of any obstacles which may be preventing them from exercising those rights in full;
- make the internal market more effective, facilitate the prevention and removal of obstacles, support the development, implementation and enforcement of the Union law in the areas of company law, anti-money laundering, free movement of capital and financial services including the development of governance tools; protect consumers, the interests of businesses and the environment by preventing the circulation of non-compliant or dangerous products on the single market

To contribute to the Union's competition policy, including by allowing to tackle implications for competition and functioning of the internal market resulting from the green and digital transition of the economy and business environment, supporting networks and a wider and deeper cooperation with Member States and their authorities and courts, supporting cooperation with third country authorities and widening outreach activities (as defined in Regulation 2021/690).

Through the **internal market governance tools** (the Your Europe portal, hub to the single digital gateway, Your Europe Advice, SOLVIT, the Internal Market Information system and the Single Market Scoreboard);

- contribute to building trust in a better functioning Single Market and improving citizens' daily lives and businesses' ability to cross-border² trade;
- inform, raise awareness, provide tailor-made advice on EU rights for natural and legal persons, increase networking and training activities, promote knowledge and monitor and assess Member State's performance under the Single Market;
- provide support and guidance to businesses, ensure proper performance measurement via an upgraded Single Market Scoreboard, improve the provision of information to businesses on their access to finance (Your Europe),
- a range of new activities can be foreseen for more targeted support to **ecosystems**, as announced in the Commission's Industrial Strategy for Europe.

Ensuring the effective functioning of the internal market through **standardisation processes** that enable the financing of European standardisation and stakeholder participation in setting

² For the purposes of those Annexes, "cross-border" covers both: issues involving several Member States throughout Europe and issues in neighbouring regions on both sides of a shared border. The impact of the well-functioning Single market, but also where it is not yet completed are in particularly felt in the border regions, which account for 150 million people (some 30% of the Union population) and for 30% of the Union's GDP; see Communication "Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions", footnote 2, p. 2.

up European standards, in particular by:

- supporting the functioning of the European standardisation organisations;
- development of high-quality standards and standardisation deliverables;
- verifying the quality of the harmonised standards, which provide for the legal effect of presumption of conformity;
- enhancing the involvement of stakeholders representing SMEs, consumers, environmental interests and trade unions in the standardisation process (referred to as the Annex III to Regulation (EU) 1025/2012);
- promoting the international dimension of European standardisation;
- making standards accessible in all Union languages
- Studies, analyses, data collection in the area of customs and in the area of direct and indirect taxation policies;
- communication campaigns; databases access and data collection; support services and data collection in the scope of the Customs Laboratories European Network;
- development of information systems in support of the Customs and Taxation policy; the provision of publications, tools, library services and other supporting services related to the supply of tax and customs information.

The actions related to the objective of '**International financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards**' will

- support the development of high-quality international financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards, facilitate their integration into the Union law and promote the innovation and development of best practices in corporate reporting;

The action related to the objective of promoting the interests of **consumers and end-users of financial services** and the promotion of consumer protection and product safety in the area of **financial services** will contribute to:

- enhancing the participation of consumers, other financial services end-users and civil society in financial services policy-making;
- promoting a better understanding of the financial sector and of the different categories of commercialised financial products;
- ensuring that the interests of consumers in the area of retail financial services are protected.

1.4. Expected results

- Better functioning of the Single Market on the ground for citizens and businesses;
- Better consumer protection, improved level-playing field for EU businesses, increased environmental protection;
- Increased access to and use of information, advice and problem-solving services by citizens and business as a result of increased activity on Your Europe portal, SOLVIT, Your Europe Advice, Internal Market Information system (IMI), Single Market Scoreboard, Single Digital Gateway;
- Improved administrative cooperation between Member State administrations: e.g. the number of administrative exchanges through the IMI tool and the number of cases recorded in the Information and Communication System for Market Surveillance (ICSMS);
- Ensure effective, efficient, up-to-date enforcement and rules/guidance, support major objectives of competition policy and policy actions, facilitate cooperation in- and

outside EU and increase awareness of EU competition rules among various stakeholders (as defined in Regulation 2021/690);

- Improved support to the Commission's customs and taxation regulatory work to foster the implementation of the internal market;
- Production of European Standards and European standardisation deliverables, including translation in other Union languages;
- Appropriate representation and effective participation of SMEs, consumer organisations and environmental and social stakeholders in the standardisation activities;
- Promotion and enhancement of the European standardisation system and of European standards and European standardisation deliverables at international level;
- Ongoing development of high-quality international financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards, their integration into Union law where appropriate and the development of best practices in corporate reporting;
- Assessment of the implementation of Union legislation by Member States, evaluation of whether the existing legislation is fit for purpose and identification of potential areas of action where new risks emerge, with a continuous involvement of stakeholders throughout the policy cycle;
- Implementation and development of the internal market in the area of financial services, financial stability and the Capital Markets Union including sustainable finance;
- Monitoring of financial markets and financial stability;
- Ongoing enhancement of the active participation and involvement of consumers and other financial services end-users, as well as stakeholders representing the interests of consumers and other financial services end-users, in Union and in other relevant multilateral policy-making in the area of financial services. A better understanding of the financial sector and of the different categories of commercialised financial products. Protection of the interests of consumers in the area of retail financial services.

1.5. Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming

In this diverse part of the work programme on Internal Market Standardisation, Consumers and other financial services end-users, certain actions may indirectly support climate or biodiversity focus in a general context.

2. INTERNAL MARKET

2.1. Appropriations

(a) This chapter contains the appropriations for the activity "Internal market for goods and services". Amounts include appropriations arising from the participation of EEA EFTA States to the programme.

(b) The appropriations come under the following budget lines:

03.02 01 01	Operation and development of the internal market of goods and services EUR 26 472 909
03.02 01 02	Internal Market Governance Tools – EUR 5 922 328
03.02 01 03	TAXUD regulatory work support – Implementation and development of the internal market – EUR 3 500 000
03.02 01 04	Company Law – EUR 543 992

03.02 01 05	Competition policy for a stronger union in the digital age – EUR 22 580 800
03 02 01 06	Implementation and development of the internal market for financial services – EUR 6 712 656
03 02 01 07	Market Surveillance – EUR 17 312 600

(c) The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurements is EUR 65 307 785, the global budgetary envelope reserved for grants is EUR 3 800 000, the global budgetary envelope reserved for administrative arrangements and other is 8 136 500.

2.2. **Budget line 03.020101 – Operation and development of the internal market of goods and services**

2.2.1. *Appropriations*

This chapter contains the appropriations for activities related to the internal market for goods and services, public procurement, mutual recognition and in particular market surveillance. The actions to be financed are managed by DG GROW and the budget breakdown for year 2026 is as follows:

subheading	Type	Mode	Amount
2.2.2	grants	direct management	EUR 1 500 000
2.2.3	procurements	direct management	EUR 16 836 409
2.2.4	other actions	direct management	EUR 7 786 500
2.2.5	other actions	indirect management	EUR 350 000

2.2.2. *Grants*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme under this budget line is EUR 1 500 000

2.2.2.1. European Organisation Technical Assessment (EOTA) operating grant

Amount

EUR 700 000

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The beneficiary is designated in the basic act (Article 10(1), point (c), of Regulation (EU) 2021/690 referring to Articles 15 and 16 of Regulation (EU) 1025/2012) – Article 195(d) of the Financial Regulation.

Beneficiary designated by the SMP (Regulation (EU) 2021/690) and CPR (Regulation EU 305/2011)

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

Annual operating grant to support the activities of EOTA (Art 41 Construction Products Regulation – Regulation 2024/3110) Grant - ad hoc grant as foreseen by Art. 195 of the Financial Regulation.

Indicative timetable and maximum co-financing rate

Time for the direct award: Q1 2026. Maximum co-financing rate: 50%

Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG GROW.

2.2.2.2. European Cooperation for Accreditation

Amount

EUR 800 000

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Operating grant on an existing Framework Partnership Agreement with the European Cooperation for Accreditation. The beneficiary is designated by the basic act (Article 10(1), point (c), of Regulation (EU) No 2021/690), Article 14(6) of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008) - Article 195, point (d), of the Financial Regulation.

Article 14(1) of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 stipulates that the Commission shall, after consulting the Member States, recognise a body which satisfies the requirements set out in Annex I to this Regulation. Article 14(6) of the same Regulation specifies that the first body recognised shall be the European Co-operation for accreditation (EA) provided that it has concluded an agreement with the Commission.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The operating grant is to ensure the functioning of the organisation, which implements the EU's accreditation policy.

Indicative timetable and maximum co-financing rate

Direct award: Q2

Maximum co-financing rate: 95%

Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG GROW.

2.2.3. *Procurements*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement in 2026 under this work programme under this budget line is EUR 17 186 409.

2.2.3.1. Framework Contract for the procurement of economic studies and analysis to Impact Assessments

General description of the contracts envisaged

Policy preparation in the Commission is supported by both retrospective evaluations and fitness

checks, and forward looking impact assessments, which are key elements of the Union decision-making process meant to promote more informed political choices in line with Better Regulation principles. Evaluations and fitness checks assess the performance of existing policies, programmes and legislation. Impact assessments analyse problems, develop policy objectives and alternative policy options and assess their impacts. Both are based on an integrated approach that addresses impacts across the environmental, social and economic pillars, and rely on an in-depth economic analysis. The overall objective of this framework contract is to facilitate the procurement of economic studies and other supporting services which will feed into the impact assessments and evaluations or fitness checks of the policies of DG GROW. The main reference for this exercise will be the Better Regulation Guidelines and Toolbox.

Implementation

DG GROW

2.2.3.2. Framework Contract for the procurement of studies and analysis to support the application of Regulation (EU) N° 1007/2011

General description of the contracts envisaged

Framework Contract for the procurement of studies and analyses to support the application of Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011 on textile fibre names and related labelling and marking of the fibre composition of textile products. The overall objective of the framework contract is to provide technical support and relevant information about the compliance with the criteria for the inclusion of new textile fibre names in Annex I of the Regulation. It will also provide assistance in the identification of the specific technical values and parameters needed for the analysis carried out by Market Surveillance Authorities on the textile fibre composition indicated in the labelling or marking, where the new fibre is present

Implementation

DG GROW

2.2.3.3. Data, information and knowledge.

General description of the contracts envisaged

Purchase of necessary data, information (electronic or physical storage), subscriptions (specialised professional reviews, etc.) and other actions improving data, information and knowledge relevant to the internal market.

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate-General.

2.2.3.4. Impact assessments and evaluations

General description of the contracts envisaged

The impact assessments are to focus on the analysis of problems and possible policy responses to review existing legislation, and their expected economic, social and environmental impacts..

Evaluations of Union measures are necessary to assess the performance of the policy actions put in place as regards the proper functioning of the internal market for goods and services.

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate-General.

2.2.3.5. Technical support

General description of the contracts envisaged

The contracts have as an objective to provide technical support in a series of areas relating to the internal market, including support on European Assessment Documents, support for the application of different legislation (new approach directives and regulations), editorial support (including support to legal text drafting), support in the area of construction, mobile machinery, lower concentration of interest values, fire safety and testing, ecodesign, batteries, sound emissions, vehicles, mobile phones, textile, digital product passport, European Professional Card, promotion and technical support for the implementation of the European Single Procurement Document, eCertis and eForms.

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate-General.

2.2.3.6. Co-ordination groups of the Notified bodies

General description of the contracts envisaged

Technical secretariats of notified bodies have been set up with the objective to enable close co-operation between the competent bodies to ensure, as a result, consistent technical application of various Directives on goods. Those secretariats must be financed each year to allow ensuring in particular that the implementation of Union directives does not create obstacles to the good functioning of the internal market. Administrative secretariats are necessary for the coordination groups of notified bodies.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG GROW

2.2.3.7. Workshops, conferences, dissemination, meetings, trainings, awareness, compliance activities and information campaigns

General description of the contracts envisaged

Activities and workshops on the "new approach" legislation (concerning notably noise, machinery, radio and telecommunications terminal equipment, construction products, ecodesign), on REACH (notably to evaluate possible overlaps with other existing legislation), on chemicals, cosmetics, fertilising products, ecodesign for sustainable products (ESPR), public procurement, economic competitiveness of Member States, intellectual property, Digital Transformation, digital product passport, mutual recognition and any other issues related to the internal market for goods and services. Training activities, among others on sustainable and innovation public procurement, on emergency and resilience, etc. Promotion of Internal Market.

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate-General.

2.2.3.8. Translations of notified texts

General description of the contracts envisaged

Translations of texts notified by the Member States under Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council in all Union languages.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG GROW.

2.2.3.9. Studies and economic analysis concerning the internal market of goods and services

General description of the contracts envisaged

Studies concerning the internal market for goods in different areas related to the legislation currently referenced in the budgetary comments, or under preparation, in particular impact of new technologies and artificial intelligence systems on market surveillance activities and others (e.g. product safety, construction, noise, vehicles, eco-design, public procurement, intellectual property, professional qualifications,...)

Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate-General.

2.2.3.10. Information technology

General description of the contracts envisaged

IT development, maintenance, services and work on databases and IT systems. Management of databases on notification procedures and for the implementation of European legislation. Rationalisation of the existing systems in order to make them more interoperable and efficient and move towards a one-stop shop.

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate-General, in particular DIGIT.

2.2.3.11. Management of the pool of harmonised standards consultants

General description of the contracts envisaged

Technical assistance to verify the quality, and conformity to the corresponding Union legislation and policies, of European standards or European standardisation deliverables.

Additional information

Article 10(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 stipulates that: Where a harmonised standard satisfies the requirements which it aims to cover and which are set out in the corresponding Union harmonisation legislation, the Commission shall publish a reference of such harmonised standard without delay in the Official Journal of the European Union or by other means in accordance with the conditions laid down in the corresponding act of Union harmonisation legislation.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG GROW

2.2.3.12. IT activities related to development of databases and systems

Description

IT development, maintenance, services and work on databases and IT systems, including ICSMS. ICSMS is needed for the implementation of Regulation 2019/515 on Mutual Recognition (MR) of Goods, as provided in Article 11, which mandates its use for notifying market access restrictions, facilitating communication between Product Contact Points (PCPs), and enabling administrative cooperation across Member States. The ICSMS module for MR ensures a consistent and transparent notification process for negative or restrictive administrative decisions, temporary suspensions, and the sharing of the Commission's opinions, as outlined in Articles 5, 6, 8, and 10. By providing a platform for information exchange and data collection, ICSMS additionally allows the Commission to evaluate the regulation's effectiveness and indicates further needed adjustments for a more efficient application of the mutual recognition of goods within the Single Market. Furthermore, the Commission is legally obligated to establish the information and communication system (Article 7 of the Forced Labour Regulation) as a separate module within the Information and Communication System for Market Surveillance (ICSMS). This system will serve as a tool for communication and information exchange between the Commission and competent authorities, as well as between them and customs authorities. For the latter aspect, interconnections with the CRMS and the Single Window Environment for Customs will need to be established. It will also serve as a repository for various actions and decisions during the investigation phases.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate-General, in particular DIGIT

2.2.3.13. Forced labour tools and guidelines

Description

The implementation of the Regulation on forced labour will require the establishment of a Forced Labor Single Portal, which must be available in all official languages (Article 12). This portal will serve to communicate with the public about various aspects of forced labour and provide access to important tools for regulation implementation, such as the database and the single information submission point.

The Commission is required to develop guidelines (Article 11) for various aspects of the legislation's implementation, which must be made public within 18 months of the Regulation's entry into force. Support through service contracts to collect data and information, map the tools developed by different international organisations and other relevant stakeholders, and develop these guidelines would be needed. Additionally, in preparation for the guidelines and subsequent tasks as the lead competent authority, the Commission will need to acquire data sources and tools for supply chain management and traceability in order to effectively carry out its entrusted tasks.

2.2.4. *Other actions*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for administrative arrangements/service level agreements and reimbursement of experts under this work programme under this budget line is EUR 7 786 5000

2.2.4.1. Administrative arrangements/service level agreements with the JRC or other services

Amount

EUR 7 513 500

Description

Administrative arrangements/service level agreements with the JRC or other services notably in the area of automated vehicles, batteries, low carbon markets, emissions, tourism, circular plastics and other topics.

2.2.4.2. Reimbursements to experts

Amount

EUR 113 000

Description

Economic Seminars with selected scholars on various topics. Organisation of a conference on the Single market. Remunerated experts art. 204 of the Financial Regulation.

2.2.4.3. Reimbursements to experts in accordance with Article 77(4)(c) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006

Amount: EUR 10 000

Description

Art 77.4.c of REACH requires the Forum to coordinate exchange of inspectors with the aim to support harmonization and strengthening REACH enforcement in Member States. A successful programme was running between 2017-2020 that had to be paused due to Covid. This is the continuation of such programme, where travel and accommodation expenditure is financed to EU enforcement inspectors to another MS enforcement authority, on concretely defined topics.

2.2.4.4. Fellowship programme

Amount

EUR 150 000

Description

Remunerated experts art. 204 FR: Managing the group of fellow pre-selected under the fellowship action

2.2.5. *Actions implemented in indirect management*

2.2.5.1. Contribution to the ILO (International Labour Organisation) for the implementation of the Forced Labour Regulation

Amount

EUR 350 000

Contribution

Contribution to the ILO to finance Cooperation on the development of materials, support tools, and data necessary in the implementation of the Forced Labour Regulation.

Description of the activities

This agreement represents a collaborative effort to create essential materials and support tools focused on risk indicators for forced labour, along with compiling data estimates relevant to the EU. The initiative aims to enhance the effective implementation of the Forced Labour Regulation. By leveraging synergies and the expertise of international organizations like the ILO, the cooperation seeks to develop comprehensive resources and strategies to address forced labour efficiently.

2.3. Budget line 03.020102 Internal Market Governance Tools

This chapter contains the appropriations for activities related to the internal market governance tools such as awareness raising, promotion, networking, training activities, knowledge sharing, content sharing, usability improvements, management of the YEA network, outreach activities and IT support for actions.

The actions to be financed are managed by DG GROW.

2.3.1. Procurements

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement (implemented under direct management) in 2026 under this work programme under this budget line is EUR 5 922 328.

2.3.1.1. Communication activities: awareness raising, promotion, networking, training activities, knowledge sharing, content sharing, usability improvements.

General description of the contracts envisaged

Increasing the awareness about and increasing traffic to Your Europe/Single Digital Gateway, the Internal Market Information System (IMI), Your Europe Advice and the SOLVIT network through targeted promotion activities (e.g. workshops, trainings, networking events) towards the different user groups (such as workers, consumers, students, seniors, businesses as well as national, regional and local authorities) and their roof organisations, with a focus on SEA, online activities, social media and usability improvements.

Implementation

DG GROW will implement this action using its own resources and through use of framework contracts for external resources.

2.3.1.2. Single Market Scoreboard 2.0. (SMS)

General description of the contracts envisaged

The Scoreboard illustrates Member State performance within the Single Market based on a range of indicators, many from the Single Market governance tools. Performance is presented according to measurable indicators and summarised using a “traffic light” system. It is updated on a yearly basis to monitor developments. The objective of this initiative is to upgrade the IT

system of the Scoreboard into a 2.0 version for monitoring the Single Market policies that encompass the use of data analytics and data mining tools, to help identify barriers within the Single Market across sectors, by bringing together different sources of information within Union institutions and potentially beyond. The information should be presented in a more user-friendly way to reach a broader audience than the current (mostly administrations, universities and think tanks).

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to DG DIGIT.

Additional information

Single Market Scoreboard – Memorandum of Understanding between DG GROW and DG DIGIT - Annex 14.3

2.3.1.3. IT activities for the Single Digital Gateway (SDG)

General description of the contracts envisaged

The contracts will serve for IT development, translations and communication activities related to the SDG.

Implementation

DG GROW will implement this action primarily through sub-delegation and co-delegation to DG DIGIT and possibly other Directorates-General as well as with its own resources.

Additional information

The action consists of continuing implementation, running, maintenance and further development of the Single Digital Gateway (Regulation (EU) 2018/1724). The translation of the web pages of the Member States will continue. The initial investment costs will cover:

- IT development (procurement using a framework contract);
- translation (service-level agreement with the Translation Centre in Luxembourg).

As the information and assistance service as well as feedback parts of the gateway will be running as from 12 December 2020, the running costs will cover:

- licencing costs for the search facility (existing contract);
- maintenance and new needs (procurement).

The action indicators will be the quality feedback from the users, and the number of users. The budgets involved will be divided between DG GROW G4 and DG GROW G3.

2.3.1.4. Your Europe IT, Business Analysis and Support

General description of the contracts envisaged

Your Europe (YE): Cost for maintenance, technical development, business analysis, support of the Your Europe IT components and addition of functionalities. Editorial work to further develop the on-line portal, in line with the requirements for iterative improvements of the Single Digital Gateway Regulation. Day-to-day management of content and web

functionalities. Usability and accessibility improvements. Rationalisation and integration.

Implementation

DG GROW through use of framework contracts for external resources

Additional information

The Your Europe online portal provides citizens and businesses with information, and refers them directly to services such as Your Europe Advice and SOLVIT. Your Europe is the hub of the Single Digital Gateway established by Regulation 2018/1724.

The costs relate to the further development of the website, support tasks as well as training sessions and material for the users of the tool. It includes organisation of two annual meetings of the SDG coordination group as well as promotion activities.

2.3.1.5. YEST (Your Europe Supporting Tool)

General description of the contracts envisaged

IT development for improving and developing the tool.

Implementation

DG GROW will implement this action primarily through sub-delegation and co-delegation to DIGIT, and possibly other Directorates-General, as well as using its own resources.

Additional information

The action consists of continuing implementation, running, maintenance and further development of the content management system that is used to (1) operate the Your Europe website and (2) contribute to realisation of the Single Digital Gateway (Regulation (EU) 2018/1724). Costs for maintenance, technical development, support of the content management tool and addition of functionalities.

2.3.1.6. Management of the Your Europe Advice (YEA) network and outreach activities

General description of the contracts envisaged

Hosting, maintenance, rationalisation, integration and further development of the YEA-database. The budget will cover the costs for the provision of the service, outreach activities and further developing cohesion with other services e.g. SOLVIT, Your Europe.

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to DG DIGIT

Additional information

Your Europe Advice offers citizens and businesses tailored information and advice on their individual EU rights in the internal market, free of charge and in all 24 Union languages. Citizens and businesses receive comprehensive advice within maximum a week and are

directed when appropriate, to the authority or other body best placed to solve their problem.

2.3.1.7. Codelegated Credits for Internal Market Information System (IMI):

General description of the contracts envisaged

Hosting, maintenance, rationalisation, integration, further development and support of the Internal Market Information System (IMI).

Cooperation between DG DIGIT and DG GROW is governed by IMI Memorandum of understanding under Annex 5 & DIGIT Hosting and Services for Internal Market Tools Information Systems in DIGIT Data Centre. The costs of maintenance and developments of SOLVIT are also covered by the IMI budget, as SOLVIT is a module of IMI.

Implementation

DG GROW will implement this action through a co-delegation to DG DIGIT under the Memorandum of Understanding, or through a contract.

Additional information

IMI is a multilingual online application that facilitates efficient administrative cooperation between authorities in the Member States for Internal Market policy areas.

2.3.1.8. IMI – External resources - business analyst & IT support

General description of the contracts envisaged

Engagement of external resources to perform analysis and support activities, reinforcing the IMI team in DG GROW responsible for the provision of the tool, operational support, business analysis, coordinating the IMI network and expanding IMI to new areas.

Implementation

DG GROW through use of a framework contract for external resources

Additional information

Analysis and documentation for new expansion areas to be supported by IMI and provision of second line user support. Budget used for engagement of new externals or for extension of ongoing contracts.

2.3.1.9. IT related activities for Internal Market governance tools and projects

General description of the contracts envisaged

Management of legislation and of initiatives/implementation/reports and IT management

System Administration and Database management activities: Security, Operation and maintenance of Information systems, Application support, Project Management, Data Management for policy, Technical and corrective Maintenance for Administrative Information Systems, Application Support (Basic), LSA services.

Implementation

DG GROW will implement this action and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate-General, in particular DG DIGIT.

Additional information

This includes DG GROW B3 supporting services guaranteeing the coherence and efficient management of the activities deployed in the unit. (Application Support, Enterprise Project Management Office, Architecture Office, Program & project management support, Business Process Modelling, Security management, DEVOPS, System Administration, technical evolutions, technical migrations, coordination with DIGIT, hardware & software and general support) as well as tasks for the inception phase of projects (Proof of Concept, Problem Statement, Business case). All tasks for the maintenance and development of Information Systems are also covered. Most of those activities are undertaken by external personnel hired mainly through DG DIGIT or other DG's Framework Contracts

2.4. Budget line 03.020103: Taxud regulatory work support – Implementation and development of the internal market

This chapter contains the appropriations for activities related to customs and taxations regulatory work to foster the implementation of the internal market.

The actions to be financed are managed by DG TAXUD.

2.4.1. Procurements

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement (implemented under direct management) in 2026 under this work programme under this budget line is EUR 3 500 000.

2.4.1.1. Studies, impact assessments, communication campaigns, databases, tools and supporting services, information systems

General description of the contracts envisaged

Studies, consultations, communication actions, acquisition of databases and data sources, IT services and systems, and other actions targeting the implementation of the internal market in complementarity to DG TAXUD's Customs programme, Customs Control Equipment Instrument and Fiscalis programme.

In particular. Contracts are envisaged for the acquisition of support services, services for data collection and acquisition of data sources in the field of scientific customs and in taxation and other activities.

Implementation

Actions will be implemented by DG TAXUD by signing specific contracts under existing or new multi-annual framework contracts or administrative arrangements/service level agreements with JRC or other Directorates-General or Commission services as appropriate.

2.5. Budget line 03.020104 Company law

This chapter contains the appropriations for activities in the areas of company law, contract and extracontractual law.

The actions to be financed are managed by DG JUST, the budget breakdown for year 2026 is as follows:

2.5.1.	procurement	direct management	EUR 543 992
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2.5.1. *Procurement*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement in 2026 under this work programme under this budget line is EUR 543 992.

2.5.1.1. Company law (including contract law)

Activities supporting the implementation of the actions set out in points (a), (b) and (d) of Article 8.2 of Regulation 2021/690. These activities will be implemented through specific contracts under existing framework contracts or new procurements procedures.

Implementation

The action shall be implemented directly by DG JUST (direct management) or by co-delegation or cross-sub delegation with DIGIT or other Directorates-General or Commission services as appropriate.

Additional information

Studies/reports/compliance assessments and IT developments in the field of company law, contract and extra-contractual law, including the international dimension of these policies. Concerning company law, also analyses related to enforcement of recent legislation as well as technical solutions for further digitalisation. Expert meetings in the field of company law and contract law.

2.6. **Budget line 03.020105: Competition policy for a stronger union in the digital age**

This chapter contains the appropriations for activities for support to competition policy in the digital age.

The actions to be financed are managed by DG COMP, the budget breakdown for year 2026 is as follows:

2.6.1.	grants	direct management	EUR 1 300 000
2.6.2.	procurements	direct management	EUR 20 629 800
2.6.3.	other actions	direct management	EUR 651 000

2.6.1. *Grants*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grant actions under this work programme under this budget line is EUR 1 300 000.

2.6.1.1. Call for proposals for action grants to support training of national judges in EU competition law

Amount

EUR 1 000 000

Type of applicants targeted by the grant award

Public authorities, public or private non-for-profit organisations duly established in one of the eligible countries, or an international organisation

Description

The objective is to contribute to an effective and coherent application of EU competition law in the Member States and in countries associated to the Single Market Programme. This includes both the antitrust rules (Articles 101 and 102 TFEU) and the state aid rules (Articles 107 and 108 TFEU).

The focus of this call for proposals is the improvement of knowledge, application and interpretation of EU competition law.

Indicative implementation timetable: for the year 2026.

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action:

- number of national judges reached by the training and awareness raising activities.

Implementation

Actions will be implemented by DG COMP

2.6.1.2 Economic research on the heterogeneous economic effects of evolving concentration in the EU at sector level

Amount

EUR 300 000

Type of applicants targeted by the grant award

An ad hoc grant will be awarded, without a call for proposals, to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) under Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation, due to its specialised nature, technical competence and access to relevant data

Description

The overall objective of this Action is to provide evidence-based economic research on sector heterogeneity regarding the causes, evolution and economic implications of evolving concentration at industry. The research will in particular explore in what circumstances and when concentration becomes 'good' or 'bad' from an economic point of view. There are multiple ways in which different types of industries may become more concentrated, entrenched, make more profits, or have higher markups with potentially differing implications for economic performance. Even industries which have become more concentrated for 'good' reasons (e.g. superior efficiency of industry leaders) may become industries with low contestability and low interfirm competition and thus lead to 'bad' economic outcomes associated with low rivalry and high market power. This project will generate groupings of industry types and investigate the implications of proxies of competition in these different types of industries. By developing these grouping of industry types, this work aims to bridge the gap between broad macroeconomic studies and case studies on specific sectors.

Rate of co-financing: Up to 90%

Indicative implementation timetable: for the year 2026.

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action: High quality research report submitted to the Commission in due time which will document 'good' and 'bad' concentration in different types of EU industries

Implementation

Actions will be implemented by DG COMP

2.6.2. *Procurements*

2.6.2.1. Competition policy for a stronger union in the digital age

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts under this work programme under this budget line is EUR 20 629 800

General description of what the envisaged contracts will cover:

- expertise, studies, evaluations, surveys, consultations, legal or economic analysis, market data gathering, market intelligence and other types of support;
- acquisition of data and other information sources;
- capacity building activities and trainings in the field of competition or in other areas that assist the European Competition Network or third countries in implementing competition policy;
- support for exchange of best practices and expertise;
- organisation of meetings, workshops, trainings, seminars, conferences and other activities which support the development and strengthening of cooperation and cooperation structures with and between enforcement bodies, national courts and other relevant Member State authorities, third country authorities or international organisations;
- communication and advocacy activities including support tools;
- development, improvement, maintenance, acquisition and modernisation of digital tools, big data and artificial intelligence solutions, forensic IT, and related equipment and services.

Implementation

Actions will be implemented by DG COMP by signing direct contracts, specific contracts under existing or new multi-annual framework contracts or administrative arrangements/service level agreements with JRC; and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to other Directorates Generals and Offices.

Additional information

The actions will specifically focus on:

- ensuring effective and up-to-date enforcement of EU competition policy and policy actions;
- enhancing cooperation and partnerships with public administrations in the EU;
- contributing to a stronger global cooperation and partnerships with third country authorities;

- raising awareness of EU competition policy.

Expected results: Ensure effective, efficient, up-to-date enforcement and rules/guidance, support major objectives of competition policy and policy actions, facilitate cooperation in- and outside EU and increase awareness of EU competition rules among various stakeholders.

Indicative implementation timetable and payment timetable: The launch of new procedures will be spread over the year 2026.

Qualitative and quantitative result indicators for the action:

- estimate of customer benefits resulting from non-cartel antitrust interventions;
- estimate of customer benefits resulting from cartel prohibition decisions;
- estimate of customer benefits resulting from merger interventions;
- total State aid expenditure for environmental protection, renewables and energy savings as a percentage of total State aid in the EU;
- total State aid expenditure for broadband as a percentage of total State aid in the EU;
- total State aid expenditure falling under the General Block Exemption Regulation as a percentage of total State aid in the EU;
- error rate of the compliance check for State aid transparency measures;
- degree of implementation of the digital solutions modernisation plan: case management solutions, exchanges with external stakeholders and data analytics/artificial intelligence.

2.6.3. *Other actions or expenditure*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for other expenditure under this work programme under this budget line is EUR 651 000.

Description

- Membership contributions

Financial contribution to the International Competition Network. The Commission is a member of the network, which is a network of established and newer competition agencies with the common aim of addressing practical antitrust and merger enforcement and policy issues. By enhancing convergence and cooperation, the ICN promotes more efficient and effective antitrust enforcement worldwide for the benefit of consumers and businesses.

- Reimbursements to experts in accordance with Commission Decision C(2007)5858

The Commission and the competent Member State authorities as well as other advisors form together networks, developing and applying the Community competition rules in close cooperation.

- Other expenditures directly linked to the achievement of the objectives of the programme and activities of DG COMP.

Implementation

Actions will be implemented by DG COMP and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to other Directorates Generals and Offices.

2.7. **Budget line 03.020106 Implementation and development of the internal market for financial services**

This chapter contains the appropriations for activities fostering the development of the Single Market for financial services. The actions to be financed are managed by DG FISMA and the budget breakdown for year 2026 is as follows:

2.7.1.	procurement	direct management	EUR 5 862 656
2.7.2.	administrative arrangements/service level agreements or other expenditure	direct management	EUR 850 000

2.7.1. *Procurement*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement for the implementation and development of the Single Market for financial services in 2026 is EUR 5 862 656.

2.7.1.1. Implementation and development of the internal market for financial services (including anti-money laundering)

To implement the actions set out in Article 8.2 of Regulation 2021/690, around 10 to 20 direct contracts may be awarded and around 50 to 60 specific contracts may be signed under existing framework contracts.

The necessary procurement procedures (including for the conclusion of specific contracts under framework contracts) are expected to be launched throughout the year, with the implementation of the contracts expected to last between 1 and 2 years.

The activities covered could include:

- Studies, surveys, assessments, and evaluations to support the functioning of the internal market in financial services and the protection and empowerment of citizens, consumers and businesses, including in relation to the international dimensions of the internal market as well as to defend financial stability, to develop the Capital Markets Union, the Banking Union and the Savings and Investment Union, for anti-money laundering activities and countering the financing of terrorism and to support European economic and financial sovereignty;
- Assessments of the conformity of national measures transposing directives and/or assessment of the implementation of regulations (including background analyses and studies) as well as assessments of the conformity of legislation of third-countries with Union legislation (particularly candidate, potential candidate countries or countries with which the Union has association agreements);
- Development, maintenance, hosting and user support for local administrative, policy supporting and corporate information technology (IT) systems, purchase of licenses, external IT assessments/analyses together with contributions for the use of IT infrastructure and other IT services;
- Subscription to databases of information and other news services on companies and financial markets and related information;
- Implementation of DG FISMA's communication strategy (e.g. publications, social media campaigns, video production, Eurobarometer surveys, awareness-raising activities, workshops, conferences, meetings, etc.);

- Other activities required to achieve the objectives set out in Article 3(2), point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2021/690.

Implementation

The activities shall be implemented either directly by DG FISMA (direct management) or by co-delegation or cross-sub delegation with DG DIGIT, DG BUDG, PMO, OLAF or other Directorates-General or Commission services as appropriate.

2.7.2. *Administrative arrangements/service level agreements and other expenditure*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for administrative arrangements/service level agreements and other expenditure under this work programme under this budget line is EUR 850 000.

2.7.2.1. Contributions paid by the Union as subscriptions to bodies of which it is a member.

Amount

EUR 600 000

Description

Contributions paid by the Union as subscriptions to bodies of which it is a member and on which the Commission is represented by DG FISMA such as:

- The Commission's annual membership fee for participation in the International Organisation of Securities Commission (IOSCO), which is an association of securities regulatory organisations and the recognised body for securities' standard setting (IOSCO membership regulates more than 90% of the world's securities markets). Participation in IOSCO is vital to influence the international standard setting in the field of securities markets.
- The annual membership contribution to the International Financial Consumer Protection Network, which promotes and develops international standards in relation to financial consumer protection and on regulatory and supervisory matters related to financial market conduct, with an emphasis on banking and credit issues.
- The annual contribution to the International Association for Insurance Supervisors which is the international body that sets international standards on insurance supervision.
- An annual contribution/subscription for Commission membership of SUERF (Société Universitaire Européenne de Recherches Financières), the European Money and Finance Forum, which facilitates dialogue between central bankers, regulators, supervisors, academic institutions, thinktanks and the financial industry on economic, monetary and financial issues.
- The Union's subscription to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) which is an intergovernmental body defining international standards on anti-money laundering, countering terrorism financing and countering proliferation financing (the Commission is a founding member of FATF since 1989).
- A subscription to the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL), in which the Commission may

participate as a member.

2.7.2.2. Administrative arrangements/service level agreements with JRC

Amount

EUR 250 000

Description

One or more administrative arrangements/service level agreements with JRC for the provision of specialist technical assistance in the field of financial services, including anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism..

2.8. Budget line 03.020107 Market Surveillance

This chapter contains the appropriations for activities implementing measures in the field of product market surveillance.

The actions to be financed are managed by DG GROW and the budget breakdown for year 2026 is as follows:

2.8.1.	grants	direct management	EUR 1 000 000
2.8.2.	procurements	direct management	EUR 12 012 600
2.8.3.	administrative arrangements/service level agreements	direct management	EUR 4 300 000

2.8.1. Grants

2.8.1.1. Establishment and functioning of Union testing facilities

Amount

EUR 1 000 000

Type of applicants targeted by the calls for proposals

The targeted beneficiaries are market surveillance authorities, organisations representing the market surveillance authorities and Union testing facilities referred to in Article 21 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020.

Description of the activities to be funded

The objective is to support the establishment and functioning of Union testing facilities referred to in Article 21, the development of instruments of international cooperation referred to in Article 35 and the making available to the Commission of technical or scientific expertise for the purpose of assisting the Commission in its implementation of market surveillance administrative cooperation.

The objective of the proposed activities is to support the functioning of the EU Product

Compliance Network, to strengthen the operational market surveillance capacities of authorities of Member States and/or EEA EFTA countries and to address the needs identified in the national market surveillance strategies.

The proposed activities will take place in the context of Articles 31 and 33 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and in accordance with the financing provisions referred to in Article 36 of that Regulation, and will address more specifically the establishment and functioning of Union testing facilities.

Indicative timetable and maximum co-financing rate

Publication of the call: Q3 2026, time for the award: Q4 2026.

Maximum co-financing rate: N/A

Implementation

This action will be implemented by EISMEA

2.8.2. *Procurement*

2.8.2.1. IT supporting activities for Market Surveillance

General description of the contracts envisaged

IT related activities for Market Surveillance: This includes GROW.B.3 supporting services guaranteeing the coherence and efficient management of the activities deployed by the Market Surveillance unit (Application Support, Enterprise Project Management Office, Architecture Office, Program & project management support, Business Process Modelling, Security management, DEVOPS, System Administration, technical evolutions, technical migrations, coordination with DIGIT, hardware & software and general support) as well as tasks for the inception phase of projects (Proof of Concept, Problem Statement, Business case). All tasks for the maintenance of Information Systems are also covered. Most of those activities are undertaken by external personnel hired mainly through DIGIT or other DG's Framework Contracts.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate-General, in particular DIGIT

2.8.2.2. IT activities related to development of databases and systems

Description

IT development, maintenance, services and work on databases and IT systems, including ICSMS. Management of databases on notification procedures (e.g. NANDO). Rationalisation of the existing systems in order to make them more interoperable and efficient and move towards a one-stop shop, including interoperability ICSMS/NANDO and ICSMS/EU Single Window Environment for customs.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate-General, in particular DIGIT

2.8.2.3. IT activities related to maintenance and development of databases and systems

Description

IT maintenance and developments on the webcrawler and the document digitalisation project.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG DIGIT

2.8.2.4. Electronic interfaces

General description of the contracts envisaged

Electronic interfaces between the national IT systems of Member States and ICSMS, enabling the exchange of data between the information and communication system as referred to in Article 34 and the national market surveillance systems (Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on market surveillance and compliance of products and amending Directive 2004/42/EC and Regulations (EC) No 765/2008 and (EU) No 305/2011).

Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG GROW

2.8.2.5. Design of the digital CE marking

General description of the contracts envisaged

Design of the digital CE marking, following the revision of the New Legislative Framework (design and compatibility study). The CE mark will not be kept in its current format after the revision of the NLF. However, we would like to integrate it in the data carrier of the digital product passport. For this, we need to ensure that the design integrating the CE mark in the data carrier does not impeded its readability.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG GROW

2.8.2.6. Support to joint enforcement actions

General description of the contracts envisaged

The objective of the proposed activities is to enhance cooperation and coordination among Member States and/or EEA EFTA countries with regard to market surveillance activities and to contribute to the strengthening of operational market surveillance capacities of authorities of Member States and/or EEA EFTA countries. In particular, the proposed activities should be based on and take into account the expertise of the relevant Administrative cooperation groups. It includes the performance of preliminary or ancillary work in connection with market surveillance activities related to the application of Union harmonisation legislation, such as studies, programmes, evaluations, guidelines, comparative analyses, mutual joint visits and visit programmes, peer reviews, exchange of personnel, research work, training activities, laboratory work, proficiency testing, inter-laboratory tests and conformity assessment work. It could also cover activities carried out under programmes providing technical assistance, cooperation with third countries and the promotion and enhancement of Union market surveillance policies and systems amongst interested parties at Union and international level.

The activities should take place in the context of Articles 31 and 33 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 of the European Parliament and of the Council and the financing provisions referred to in Article 36 of that Regulation, and will address more specifically joint actions and capacity building actions.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by EISMEA or by DG GROW.

2.8.2.7. Union market surveillance campaigns and associated activities, including IT tools and training

General description of the contracts envisaged

The objective of the proposed activities is to strengthen the operational market surveillance capacities of authorities of Member States and/or EEA EFTA countries and to address the needs identified in the national market surveillance strategies. The proposed activities will take place in the context of Articles 31 and 33 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and in accordance with the financing provisions referred to in Article 36 of that Regulation, and will address more specifically market surveillance campaigns and associated activities, IT tools and training.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by EISMEA or by DG GROW, depending on the type of procedure to be followed as different contracts (open procedures) or specific contracts (use of IT framework contracts) could be signed.

2.8.2.8. Market Surveillance: Administrative and technical secretariats for Administrative cooperation groups (ADCOs)

General description of the contracts envisaged

An administrative secretariat has been set up necessary for the organisation and coordination of meetings of the Administrative cooperation groups (ADCOs) in the area of market surveillance has been set up. Technical secretariats of ADCOs have been set up with the objective to enable close co-operation between Market Surveillance Authorities across the Union to ensure, as a result, consistent technical application of various Directives on goods. Those secretariats must be financed each year to allow ensuring in particular that the implementation of Union directives does not create obstacles to the good functioning of the internal market. In particular, procurement involving contracting entities from different Member States³ may be impacted negatively by differing national rules transposing Union directives. Administrative and technical secretariats are necessary for the coordination groups of the ADCOs in the area of market surveillance.

Implementation

³ Article 39 of Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC, OJ L 94 of 28.3.2014, p. 65, and Article 57 of Directive 2014/25/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors and repealing Directive 2004/17/EC, OJ L 94 of 28.3.2014, p. 243.

This action will be implemented by DG GROW

2.8.2.9. Impact assessments and evaluations

General description of the contracts envisaged

E Study on a scheme for responsible refurbishment based on the New Legislative Framework using a framework contract

A separate module for refurbished product could be disproportionate and burdensome, but we still have to find a way for a responsible refurbishment, to ensure that refurbished products are safe. This study would explore the possible schemes for refurbishes ensure that they can be held responsible.

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate-General.

2.8.3. *Administrative arrangements/service level agreements and other expenditure*

2.8.3.1. Administrative arrangements/service level agreements with JRC

Amount

EUR 4 100 000

Description

DG GROW and JRC need to cooperate for several actions:

- in accordance with Articles 21, 42 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020. The administrative arrangement will fund JRC technical support to product market surveillance activities, including EU testing capacity, market surveillance indicators and peer reviews
- in accordance with Articles 9, 10 and 11 of Regulation (EU) 2018/858. The administrative arrangement will fund JRC testing activities to fulfil the Commission's legal obligation for compliance verification checks of motor vehicles and automotive parts, providing support to the approval authorities and market surveillance authorities in the Forum, including the assessment of the type-approval authorities as required in the legislation.

Indicative timetable for implementation

Q1 2026

2.8.3.2. Support to Customs Union – Cooperation on market surveillance/customs, including EU Single Window environment for customs interface

Amount

EUR 150 000

Description

Internal administrative arrangement (Memorandum of Understanding) signed by DG GROW and DG TAXUD on the cooperation framework between both DGs for the interface between the "Information and communication system for market surveillance (ICSMS)" and national customs systems via the "European Union Customs Single Window for Certificates exchanges system (EU CSW-CERTEX). The initiative requires complex changes and new functionalities to be added to ICSMS and EU CSW-CERTEX, and collaboration on the design and development of this important data exchange mechanism between the two. This is a first step in the bilateral cooperation for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020. Maintenance fees for the services provided during the previous years.

2.8.3.3. Peer reviews of Market Surveillance Authorities

Amount

EUR 50 000

Description

One round of peer reviews for Market Surveillance Authorities in 2026. Prior to the reviews a call of expression of interest will be launched for selecting the potential participants.

2.8.3.4. Stakeholder events for the revision of the New Legislative Framework

Amount

EUR 100 000

Description

Events with stakeholders using a framework contract regarding the NLF revision, to ensure that the discussion is comprehensive and to address the critical aspects of regulatory updates.

2.8.3.5. Trainings/exchanges for the revision of the New Legislative Framework

Amount

EUR 100 000

Description

Trainings/exchanges to be provided by the Commission for the revision of the New Legislative Framework using a framework contract.
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33. STANDARDISATION

3.1. Appropriations

(a) This chapter contains the appropriations for activities increasing the efficiency of the single market through standardisation. These amounts include appropriations arising from the participation of EEA EFTA States to the programme and are therefore subject to the agreement on their participation.

(b) The actions to be financed are managed by DG GROW and DG FISMA. The appropriations come under the budget lines:

03.020301	European standardisation	EUR 23 531 624
03.020302	International financial and non-financial reporting and accounting standards	EUR 9 976 608

Under these budget lines, the global budgetary envelope reserved is

- EUR 4 803 624 for procurement
- EUR 28 354 608 for grants

3.2. Budget line 03.020301 European standardisation

This chapter contains the appropriations for activities managed by DG GROW and the budget breakdown for year 2026 as follows:

3.2.1.	grants	direct management	EUR 18 378 000
3.2.2.	procurements	direct management	EUR 4 803 624
3.2.3.	administrative arrangements/service-	direct management	EUR 350 000

	level agreements		
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33.2.1. Grants

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this budget line is EUR 18 378 000.

3.2.1.1. Support to standardisation activities performed by CEN, Cenelec and ETSI, by national standardisation bodies jointly undertaken with the European standardisation organisations and by other bodies in cooperation with the European standardisation organisations

Organisations targeted by the direct award

The European standardisation organisations as mentioned in Article 10(1)(c) of Regulation (EU) 2021/690 and listed in annex I to Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012:

1. European Committee for Standardisation (CEN);
2. European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation (Cenelec);
3. European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI);

The national standardisation bodies notified to the Commission by a Member State in accordance with Article 27 of this Regulation.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 198(d) of Regulation (EU, Euratom)2024/2509

Operating grant to the CEN, if necessary, under framework partnership agreement to carry out the activities of its central secretariat, including policy development, the coordination of standardisation activities, the processing of technical work and the provision of information to interested parties referred to in Article 15(1), point (d), of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012.⁴ For proposals under this topic, started in 2026, exceptionally cost incurred as from 1 January 2026 are eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission.

Action grants to the CEN, if necessary, under framework partnership agreement, to carry out the development and revision of European standards or deliverables and the associated activities referred to in Article 15(1), points (a),(c),(e),(f) and (g) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012.⁵ For proposals under this topic, started in 2026, exceptionally cost incurred as from 1 January 2026 are eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission. This will assure business continuity and will not stop the standardisation work in support of Union policies considering that the incurred costs could be included in the future proposals for action grants.

Operating grant to the Cenelec, if necessary, under framework partnership agreement, to carry out the activities of its central secretariat, including policy development, the coordination of

⁴ as specified in Article 10(1), point (c), of Regulation (EU) 2021/690 for actions implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2), point (c)(i),

⁵ as specified in Article 10(1), point (c), of Regulation (EU) 2021/690 for actions implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2), point (c)(i),

standardisation activities, the processing of technical work and the provision of information to interested parties as referred to in Article 15(1) point (d), of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012.⁶ For proposals under this topic, started in 2026, exceptionally cost incurred as from 1 January 2026 are eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission.

Action grants to Cenelec, if necessary, under framework partnership agreement to carry out the development and revision of European standards or deliverables and the associated activities referred to in Article 15(1), points (a),(c),(e),(f) and (g) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012.⁷ For proposals under this topic, started in 2026, exceptionally cost incurred as from 1 January 2026 are eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission. This will assure business continuity and will not stop the standardisation work in support of EU policies considering that the incurred costs could be included in the future proposals for action grants.

Operating grant to ETSI, if necessary, under framework partnership agreement to carry out the activities of its central secretariat, including policy development, the coordination of standardisation activities, the processing of technical work and the provision of information to interested parties as referred to in Article 15(1), point (d), of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012.⁸ For proposals under this topic, started in 2026, exceptionally cost incurred as from 1 January 2026 are eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission.

Action grants to the ETSI if necessary under framework partnership agreement to carry out the development and revision of European standards or deliverables and the associated activities referred to in Article 15(1), points (a),(c),(e),(f) and (g) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012. For proposals under this topic, started in 2026, exceptionally cost incurred as from 1 January 2026 are eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission. This will assure business continuity and will not stop the standardisation work in support of Union policies considering that the incurred costs could be included in the future proposals for action grants.

Multi-beneficiary action grants to the European standardisation organisations, with one of the three organisations as coordinator and the other one or two organisations as beneficiaries to carry out the development and revision of European standards or deliverables and the associated activities referred to in Article 15(1), points (a),(c),(e),(f) and (g) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012. For proposals under this topic, started in 2026, exceptionally cost incurred as from 1 January 2026 are eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission. This will assure business continuity and will not stop the standardisation work in support of Union policies considering that the incurred costs could be included in the future proposals for action grants.

Action grants to the national standardisation bodies to carry out the development and revision of European standards or deliverables and the associated activities referred to in Article 15(1),

⁶ as specified in Article 10(1), point (c), of Regulation (EU) 2021/690 for actions implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2), point (c)(i),

⁷ as specified in Article 10(1), point (c), of Regulation (EU) 2021/690 for actions implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2), point (c)(i),

⁸ as specified in Article 10(1), point (c), of Regulation (EU) 2021/690 for actions implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2), point (c)(i),

points (a),(c),(e),(f) and (g) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 which they jointly undertake with the European standardisation organisations. For proposals under this topic, started in 2026, exceptionally cost incurred as from 1 January 2026 are eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission. This will assure business continuity and will not stop the standardisation work in support of Union policies considering that the incurred costs could be included in the future proposals for action grants.

Indicative timetable and maximum co-financing rate

Publication of the calls: Q1 2026, Q2 2026 and time for the direct award: Q2 2026 and Q4 2026. Maximum co-financing rate: 95%

Implementation

EISMEA with DG GROW

3.2.1.2. Support to organisations representing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and societal stakeholders in standardisation activities

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The European organisations listed in annex III to Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 and designated beneficiaries provided in Article 10 (c) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/690 which have been selected following a call for proposals to the European stakeholder organisations meeting the criteria set out in Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 to carry out the activities referred to in Article 16:

The European Association for the Co-ordination of Consumer Representation in Standardisation (ANEC) representing consumer interests in European standardisation activities;

The Environmental Coalition on Standards (ECOS) representing environmental interests in European standardisation activities;

The European Trade Union Confederation (CES ETUC) representing social interests in European standardisation activities,

The Small Business Standards (SBS) representing SMEs in European standardisation activities.

Description of the activities to be funded by the specific grant(s) directly awarded under framework partnership(s) agreements on the basis of Article 198(d) of Regulation(EU, Euratom) 2024/2509

Operating grant to the European Association for the Co-ordination of Consumer Representation in Standardisation (ANEC) representing consumer interests in European standardisation activities under framework partnership agreement to carry out the activities referred to in Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012.

Operating grant to the Environmental Coalition on Standards (ECOS) representing environmental interests in European standardisation activities under framework partnership agreements to carry out the activities referred to in Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012.

Operating grant to the European Trade Union Confederation (CES ETUC) representing social interests in European standardisation activities under framework partnership agreements to carry out the activities referred to in Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012.

Action grants to the Small Business Standards (SBS) representing SMEs in European standardisation activities after framework partnership agreement to carry out the activities referred to in Article 16.

Indicative timetable and maximum co-financing rate

Publication of the calls: Q2 2026 and time for the direct award: Q2 2026

Maximum co-financing rate: 95%

Implementation

EISMEA

3.2.1.3. Framework Partnership agreements with the European stakeholder organisations meeting the criteria set out in Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012

Type of applicants targeted and description of the activities

Framework partnership agreements for operating (FPA-OGs) and action grants (FPA-AGs) with organisations meeting the criteria set out in Annex III of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012, as required by Article 17.5 of the same Regulation. These agreements (FPA-OGs and/or FPA-AGs) will start on 1st January 2027 and concern: European organisations representing SMEs, consumers, and environmental and social interests in European standardisation activities.

European stakeholder organisations meeting the criteria set out in Annex III of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 are designated beneficiaries under Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 and under Article 10(1), point (c), of Regulation (EU) No 2021/690

Indicative timetable

Publication of the calls: Q2 2026

Implementation

EISMEA

3.2.2. *Procurement*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement in 2026 under this work programme under this budget line is EUR 4 803 624.

3.2.2.1. IT projects related to standardisation

General description of the contracts envisaged

Information Technology: management of the standardisation mandates and publication of references of harmonised standards including replacement by eNorm of applications:

SIGNIFERI, HAS and CEN/CENELEC Standards database, and extract normative elements from European standards.

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate-General, in particular DIGIT.

Additional information

By principle of good administrative practice implementation of the Article 10(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 the Commission keeps the public informed at all stages of a harmonised standard from the standardisation request up to the expiration of its legal effect on an EU legislation.

3.2.2.2. IT related activities for Standardisation projects and Information Systems

General description of the contracts envisaged

System Administration and Database management activities, Security, Operation and maintenance of Information systems, Application support, Project Management, Data Management for policy, Technical and corrective Maintenance for Administrative Information Systems, Application Support (Basic), LSA services, Supporting services for the management of Information Systems for Standardisation (DG GROW B3). This includes DG GROW B3 supporting services guaranteeing the coherence and efficient management of the activities deployed in the unit (Application Support, Enterprise Project Management Office, Architecture Office, Program & project management support, Business Process Modelling, Security management, DEVOPS, System Administration, technical evolutions, technical migrations, coordination with DIGIT, hardware & software and general support) as well as tasks for the inception phase of projects (Proof of Concept, Problem Statement, Business case). All tasks for the maintenance and development of Information Systems are also covered. Most of those activities are undertaken by external personnel hired mainly through DIGIT or other DG's Framework Contracts

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate-General, in particular DIGIT.

Additional information

By principle of good administrative practice implementation of the Article 10(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012, the Commission keeps the public informed at all stages of a harmonised standard from the standardisation request up to the expiration of its legal effect on Union legislation.

3.2.2.3. Standardisation consultant

General description of the contracts envisaged

Technical consultancy contract, in order to assist the work related to web-publishing of standards related information, the re-design of the site structure and the review of the

standardisation data-model at the basis of a re-design of the ICT tools architecture supporting standardisation activities to verify the quality, and conformity to the corresponding Union legislation and policies, of European standards or European standardisation deliverables.

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate-General, in particular DG DIGIT.

Additional information required by the basic act for the work programme

In accordance with the principle of good administrative practice in the implementation of the Article 10(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012, the Commission keeps the public informed at all stages of a harmonised standard from the standardisation request up to the expiration of its legal effect on an EU legislation.

3.2.2.4. Communication/promotion of European standardisation system

General description of the contracts envisaged

Communication services. Communication on standardisation strategy, evaluation of European Standardisation System, hosting and services for Sectorial Information Systems in DIGIT Data Center, promotion of evaluation studies throughout events, conferences, meetings.

Implementation

DG GROW will implement this action.

Additional information

In accordance with the principle of good administration in implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012, the Commission keeps the stakeholders informed about all changes and events that may affect the European standardisation system.

3.2.2.5 Management of the pool of harmonised standards consultants

General description of the contracts envisaged

Technical assistance to verify the quality, and conformity to the corresponding Union legislation and policies, of European standards or European standardisation deliverables.

Additional information

Article 10(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 stipulates that: Where a harmonised standard satisfies the requirements which it aims to cover and which are set out in the corresponding Union harmonisation legislation, the Commission shall publish a reference of such harmonised standard without delay in the Official Journal of the European Union or by other means in accordance with the conditions laid down in the corresponding act of Union harmonisation legislation.

Indicative timetable

Publication of the call: Q3 2026

Implementation

DG GROW

3.2.3. Administrative arrangements/service level agreements with JRC

The global budgetary envelope reserved for administrative arrangements/service level agreements under this work programme under this budget line is EUR 350 000.

3.2.3.1. Technical and research support for the development of Eurocodes

Amount

EUR 350 000

Description

Support and steer the development of a set of standards for structural design which will result in a common approach for safe building and civil engineering works. This will allow for the exchange of experience and the possibilities for civil engineers to offer their services easier within the Union. This action comes under the measures taken by the Commission to eliminate barriers for services provided by civil engineers (Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council) and partially to trade pursuant to Article 3 of Directive 2015/1535.

Indicative timetable for implementation

Q4 2026

3.3 Budget line 03.020302 International financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards

This chapter contains the appropriations for activities managed by DG FISMA. The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants for International financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards in 2026 under this budget line is EUR 9 976 608. These amounts include appropriations arising from the participation of EEA EFTA States and of Candidate countries and western Balkans potential candidate countries to the programme.

3.3.1. Grants to be awarded for 'International financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards'

Amount

EUR 9 976 608

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

In accordance with the provisions of Article 195(d) of the Financial Regulation and as specified in Article 10(1), point (d), of Regulation (EU) 2021/690 the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Foundation, EFRAG and the Public Interest Oversight Board

(PIOB) may be awarded grants under the Programme without a call for proposals for actions implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2), point (c)(ii).

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

A financial contribution to the work programme for 2026 of the **International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Foundation** may be made through the award of an operating grant within the meaning of Article 180(2), point (b), of the Financial Regulation.

In this regard, the IFRS Foundation pursues objectives which form part of, and support, Union policy as a well-functioning common financial reporting framework that is essential for the internal market, the effective functioning of capital markets and the realisation of the integrated market for financial services in the context of the Capital Markets Union.

The IFRS Accounting Standards developed by the Foundation's International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) are incorporated into Union law for use by companies with securities listed on a regulated market in the Union so long as they satisfy the criteria in Regulation (EC) No 1606/2002 including that accounts give a 'true and fair view' and that they are conducive to the European public good. The Union therefore has a direct interest in ensuring that the processes through which the IASB develops and adopts IFRS Accounting Standards result in high quality standards that are consistent with the requirements of the internal market and with public interests.

The IFRS Foundation would be awarded an operating grant to co-finance up to 20% of the eligible costs of the implementation of its work programme for 2026 which could include, amongst others, such activities as:

- the IFRS Foundation closely monitoring and improving the IASB standard-setting process;
- consultation to define international standard-setting priorities and develop the IASB's project work plan;
- consultation on and conduct of the IASB's research programme;
- implementation of the IASB's standard-setting programme and activities and its maintenance programme (which supports implementation and consistent application to ensure the IFRS Accounting Standards remain relevant and to promote better communication in financial reporting).

Two action grants within the meaning of Article 180(2), point (a), of the Financial Regulation may be provided to **EFRAg** (formerly known as the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group) for:

- Elaboration of draft European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), which are non-financial reporting standards as laid down in the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) adopted on 14 December 2022 and, to simplify reporting for economic entities, for the development of implementation guidance for ESRS and for digital reporting solutions.
- Research work and activities contributing to the IASB's standard setting activities or to improving the usefulness of financial information presented and disclosed by economic entities, as well as the provision of advice on the endorsement of IFRS Accounting Standards.

Types of activities undertaken under each action grant could for instance include provision of

advice to the Commission, technical analyses and assessments, outreach activities, consideration of key performance indicators (KPIs) for entities, field-testing, stakeholder meetings and other events and the identification and dissemination of good and innovative reporting practices.

- The maximum co-financing rate for the action grant to support EFRAG for work on **Sustainability Reporting Standards** would be **up to 90% of eligible costs**.
- The maximum co-financing rate for the action grant to support EFRAG for work on **Financial Reporting Standards** would be **up to 60% of eligible costs**.

A financial contribution to the work programme for 2026 of the **Public Interest Oversight Board (PIOB)** may be made through the award of an operating grant within the meaning of Article 180(2), point (b), of the Financial Regulation.

In this respect, the PIOC pursues objectives which form part of, and support, Union policy. In particular, it makes a vital contribution to ensuring that the public interest is appropriately taken into account in the setting of International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) that are used by auditors throughout the world and which are mandated for use by most Member States. The PIOC also monitors the development of a new International Standard on Sustainability Assurance Engagements (ISSA) 5000 for the benefit of auditors and non-practitioners who will be asked to assess sustainability information. Additionally the PIOC ensures that public interest are taken into account in the setting of international ethics standards for professional accountants, including auditor independence requirements, and the possible extension thereof to providers of assurance on sustainability information.

It does so by overseeing the whole process applied by the two standard-setting boards:

- the International Audit and Assurance Standards Board (IIAASB) and
- the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA).

The PIOC also oversees the work of the Standard-Setting Boards Nominations Committee which is responsible for selecting members to serve on the independent standard-setting boards.

The PIOC would be awarded an operating grant to co-finance up to 30% of the eligible costs of implementing its work programme for 2026, thereby supporting the continued independent oversight of the activities of the global audit standard-setting process.

To promote such independence, in accordance with Article 12(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/690, if funding of the PIOC by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) in 2026 reaches more than two-thirds of the total annual funding the contribution of the Union to the PIOC for 2026 shall be limited to a maximum of EUR 300 000.

Implementation

The actions will be implemented by DG FISMA

Timetable

Indicative timing of grant award decisions: Q1 2026

Indicative implementation periods: Calendar year 2026

4. CONSUMERS

This chapter contains the appropriations for activities managed by DG FISMA on “The participation of end users in financial services policy making”. These amounts include appropriations arising from the participation of EEA EFTA States to the programme.

4.1. Budget line 03.020402 The participation of end users in financial services policy making

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this budget line is EUR 1 698 560

4.1.1. Grants to be awarded for ‘The participation of end users in financial services policy making’

Amount

EUR 1 698 560

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

In accordance with the provisions of Article 195(d) of the Financial Regulation and as specified in Article 10(1), point (f), of Regulation (EU) 2021/690, Finance Watch and ‘Better Finance’ may be awarded grants under the Programme without a call for proposals for actions implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2), point (d)(ii).
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Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195(d) of the Financial Regulation

Subject to its compliance with the criteria established in Article 10(1), (f)(i) and (ii) of Regulation (EU) 2021/690 an action grant within the meaning of Article 180(2), point (a), of the Financial Regulation may be provided to Finance Watch to undertake eligible activities under Article 8(2), points (a), (b) and (d) of Regulation (EU) 2021/690 to pursue the objectives set out in Article 3(2) point(d)(ii) of Regulation (EU) 2021/690.

The grant co-financing rate would be up to a maximum of 85% of eligible costs.

So that the financial services policymaking process is adequately informed of the views, opinions and interests of consumers and other end-users of financial services, a grant would include co-financing for Finance Watch

- to respond to all relevant public consultations launched by the Commission on financial services policy and
- to provide necessary information, insight and opinions to inform studies, analyses, assessments and evaluations undertaken or outsourced by Commission services in relation to financial services, financial stability and the Capital Markets Union.

Other grant co-financed activities of Finance Watch (with the support of its members) in pursuit of the objectives identified in Article 3(2), point (d)(ii), of Regulation (EU) 2021/690 would mainly relate to the areas of retail financial services, financial inclusion, including of vulnerable consumers, sustainable finance and financial stability, although tangible actions and projects in other related areas within the financial services domain, such as digital finance could be addressed where appropriate.

An application for a grant would be evaluated on the basis of the following award criteria:

- (i) relevance of the proposed actions (types of activities, topics covered timetable) to achieve the objectives provided for in Article 3(2), point (d)(ii), of Regulation (EU)

2021/690;
(ii) quality of the proposed actions;
(iii) impact, including economic, social and environmental impact;
(iv) cost-efficiency and demonstration that the estimated budget of the action is commensurate with the results to be achieved.

Subject to its compliance with the criteria established in Article 10(1), points (f)(i) and (ii) of Regulation (EU) 2021/690 an action grant within the meaning of Article 180(2), point (a), of the Financial Regulation may be provided to Better Finance to undertake eligible activities under Article 8(2), points (a), (b) and (d), to pursue activities the objectives set out in Article (2), point (d)(ii), of Regulation (EU) 2021/690.

The grant co-financing rate would be up to a maximum of 85% of eligible costs

So that the financial services policymaking process is adequately informed of the views, opinions and interests of consumers and other end-users of financial services, a grant would include co-financing for Better Finance

- to respond to all relevant public consultations launched by the Commission on financial services policy and
- to provide necessary information, insight and opinions to inform studies, analyses, assessments and evaluations undertaken or outsourced by Commission services in relation to financial services, financial stability and the Capital Markets Union.

Other grant co-financed activities of Better Finance (with the support of its members) in pursuit of the objectives identified in Article 3(2), point (d)(ii), of Regulation (EU) 2021/690 would mainly relate to the needs of small investors, individual shareholders and other users of financial products and stakeholders who are independent of the financial industry. Such activities could include research, advocacy and awareness campaigns to promote relevant information and the better protection of end-users, such as Better Finance's flagship research projects in the area of pensions. Tangible actions and projects in other related areas within the financial services domain, such as digital finance could be addressed where appropriate.

An application for a grant would be evaluated on the basis of the following award criteria:

- i) relevance of the proposed actions (types of activities, topics covered timetable) to achieve the objectives provided for Article 3(2)(d)(ii) of Regulation (EU) 2021/690;
- ii) quality of the proposed actions;
- iii) impact, including economic, social and environmental impact;
- iv) cost-efficiency and demonstration that the estimated budget of the action is commensurate with the results to be achieved.

Implementation

The actions will be implemented by DG FISMA

Timetable

Indicative timing of grant award decision: Q1 2026. Indicative implementation period: 2026