

To:

Executive Vice-President Teresa Ribera

Executive Vice-President for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition

Executive Vice-President Stéphane Séjourné

Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy

Executive Vice-President Raffaele Fitto

Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms

Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra

Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth

Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva

Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation

Dear Executive Vice-Presidents, Dear Commissioners,

As negotiations on the future Framework Programme (FP10) and the European Competitiveness Fund enter a decisive phase, the decisions taken over the coming months will shape Europe's research and innovation landscape for years to come. At this pivotal moment, we would like to underline the strategic importance of preserving and strengthening the EU Missions and the mission-oriented approach as central pillars of Europe's future competitiveness, resilience and innovation agenda.

The five EU Missions are now entering a decisive phase of their implementation. While only halfway through their planned lifetime, they have already demonstrated their ability to accelerate innovation, strengthen European competitiveness, mobilise public and private investment, and translate European priorities into concrete action across Europe's territories. By bringing together research and innovation, governance, regulation, finance and citizen engagement around shared objectives, the Missions have established a new way of designing and delivering European policy that should now be consolidated rather than interrupted.

This is particularly evident in the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change. Over the past five years, regional and local authorities across Europe have embraced the Mission as a common framework for strengthening climate resilience, working together with research organisations, businesses and civil society to accelerate the development, deployment and scaling of adaptation solutions. In doing so, the Mission has evolved into an unprecedented European framework for climate resilience. Rather than simply funding individual projects, the Mission has enabled regional and local authorities to strengthen institutional capacity, reinforce multi-level governance and develop climate risk assessments, adaptation pathways, governance structures and long-term investment strategies that will continue to generate value well beyond individual project lifecycles.

The Mission has also created a genuine European community of practice on climate adaptation, enabling territories to exchange knowledge, transfer solutions and build lasting partnerships. Through technical assistance, peer learning and collaborative implementation, it has helped regions move beyond planning towards the deployment and scaling of concrete resilience solutions. Regional and local authorities have already invested significant political, administrative and financial resources in building governance structures, partnerships and regional innovation ecosystems around the Mission. Discontinuing or fundamentally reshaping it before 2030 would risk dissipating this accumulated capital precisely when it is beginning to deliver measurable results.

Beyond climate policy, these achievements represent a strategic investment in Europe's competitiveness and preparedness. Climate adaptation reduces long-term economic risks, protects critical infrastructure and supply chains, strengthens regional innovation ecosystems and creates demand for innovative resilience solutions. As climate impacts become increasingly severe across Europe, resilience should no longer be regarded solely as an environmental objective, but as a prerequisite for sustainable economic growth, industrial competitiveness and long-term security.

More broadly, the experience of Europe's regions demonstrates the added value of the mission-oriented approach. Through the five EU Missions, regional and local authorities have been able to connect research and innovation with implementation, investment and multi-level governance, moving beyond fragmented projects towards systemic transformation. As experimental policy instruments, the Missions were deliberately designed to test new ways of combining research and innovation with regulation, governance, finance and societal engagement. Assessing or redesigning this approach before the completion of its planned implementation would risk drawing premature conclusions from an unfinished experiment. This approach has strengthened regional innovation ecosystems, mobilised actors well beyond the traditional R&I community and helped bridge the innovation divide by enabling collaboration between territories with different capacities and levels of development. Most importantly, they have demonstrated how European policies can deliver tangible impact when designed and implemented together with regional and local authorities.

At the same time, **the full potential of the Missions has not yet been realised**. As recognised in the Commission's own assessments, the Missions are still in the process of generating evidence, testing governance models and scaling innovative solutions. Ending or fundamentally reshaping them before the end of their planned lifetime would risk losing the momentum, partnerships, governance structures and investment pipelines that have been built over the past years, preventing Europe from fully capturing the lessons and long-term impacts of this unique policy instrument.

We also welcome the direction emerging from the Council of the European Union's recent Partial General Approaches on the post-2027 funding architecture, agreed on 16 June 2026 for the National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPPs) and the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF), and on 26 June 2026 for FP10. In particular, the stronger emphasis placed on mission-oriented logic within future European Partnerships, including clear objectives, portfolio approaches and stronger links across the full research and innovation value chain, reflects the growing recognition that Europe's future competitiveness requires integrated approaches connecting research, innovation, deployment and

territorial implementation. This evolution further reinforces the importance of preserving and building upon the experience generated through the EU Missions, which represent Europe's most mature and comprehensive application of the mission-oriented approach, integrating research and innovation with governance, investment, deployment and territorial implementation.

Across Europe, regional and local authorities have aligned strategies, mobilised stakeholders and invested significant political and administrative resources to implement the EU Missions. They now need long-term policy certainty to fully realise the benefits of these investments.

As the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council shape the future legislative and financial framework, we therefore encourage you to:

- ensure that the five EU Missions continue until at least 2030, as originally foreseen, allowing sufficient time to deliver their objectives and assess their full impact and propose pathways for their continuation
- maintain and strengthen the mission-oriented approach as a strategic component of the future European research and innovation framework
- ensure strong synergies between FP10, the European Competitiveness Fund and the National and Regional Partnership Plans, providing coherent pathways for innovation deployment and territorial implementation
- continue recognising regional and local authorities as strategic partners in the governance, implementation and scaling of the EU Missions

Europe's competitiveness will depend not only on developing breakthrough technologies but also on its capacity to deploy innovation, strengthen resilience and deliver systemic transformation across all territories. The EU Missions have already demonstrated their value as one of the Union's most ambitious instruments to achieve these objectives. We therefore believe that now is the moment to consolidate their achievements, provide long-term certainty to the regions and cities that have invested in their implementation, and allow the Missions to fulfil the ambition with which they were originally launched.

As representatives of Europe's regions and regional innovation ecosystems, we remain fully committed to supporting the European institutions in strengthening the EU Missions and ensuring that their full potential contributes to a more competitive, resilient and innovative Europe. We look forward to continuing this dialogue with you in the months ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Pirita Lindholm, ERRIN Director





Helsinki-Uusimaa Region (FI)
Regional Mayor: Tuija Telén



Occitanie Region (FR)
Regional Vice-Presidents:
Nadia Pellefigue, Jalil Benabdillah



Podlaskie Region (PL)
Marshal: Łukasz Prokorym



REGIONE BASILICATA

Basilicata Region (IT)
President of the Region:
Vito Bardi



**REGIONAL COUNCIL
OF LAPLAND**

Regional Council of Lapland (FI)
Regional Governor:
Hannu Takkula



**REGIONAL COUNCIL
OF OSTROBOTHNIA**

Regional Council of Ostrobothnia (FI)
Regional Mayor:
Mats Brandt



Haut-de-France Region (FR)
Regional Vice-Presidents:
Daniel Leca, Manoëlle Martin



Lombardy Region (IT)
Regional Minister:
Alessandro Ferri



**RÉGION
NORMANDIE**

Normandy Region (FR)
President of the Region:
Hervé Morin



Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region (FR)
President of the Region:
Alain Rousset

south moravian region

South Moravian Region (CZ)
Deputy Governor:
Jan Zámečník



**Varsinais-Suomen liitto
Egentliga Finlands förbund**

Regional Council of Southwest Finland (FI)
Regional Mayor:
Jyri Arponen

