



EUCAR CALLS FOR AMBITIOUS EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME (FP9)

The European Commission's framework programmes have been important to Europe at large and industry in particular. They enable a stable research and innovation ecosystem, allowing for different actors to meet, analyse the state of affairs, identify research needs and co-finance joint research and innovation (R&I) projects. EUCAR calls for an ambitious framework programme, prioritizing research and innovation missions for the benefit of society while incorporating and improving on existing successful mechanisms.

Prioritise research and innovation by allocating a significant budget to the upcoming framework programme

The role of public R&I funding is crucial given the significant success of the seventh framework programme and Horizon 2020. Two-thirds of economic growth in Europe derives from R&I¹. That's why R&I needs to be prioritized in the EU budget. Such an investment will also be in line with Europe's strategy to increase R&I spending in order to reach 3% of GDP. As technology and business leaders, the European automotive industry plays a key role in meeting this target. Involving industry in the research and innovation ecosystems unquestionably has a positive impact on both productivity and society. From an automotive point of view, the framework programmes have helped us to bring new solutions to the market more rapidly. Moreover, these research projects trigger major innovation within the automotive industry, which is illustrated by the 5,000 patents filed by the sector in the EU in 2016, as well as an annual private R&I investment of €50 billion (in 2015), thereby securing millions of jobs throughout Europe.

Invest in clean, safe, efficient and sustainable transport to guarantee quality of life, growth and jobs

Europe needs to address important challenges in the near future: solutions for a clean, safe, efficient and sustainable transport system will need to be provided by an industry that also has to remain competitive, provide jobs and generate tax revenues. The road transport sector is in an ideal position to achieve both objectives, while also ensuring inclusive transport solutions for the future.

Allocate substantial budget to addressing challenges in society

European citizens expect publicly funded R&I to also improve living standards. Therefore, a substantial share of the budget should be allocated to addressing such challenges. Public bodies and industry must collaborate. Auto manufacturers are ready – we are at the forefront of innovation, developing new services and products to address the challenges faced by society – both today and in the future – while also generating new jobs throughout Europe.

Involve industry to get relevant results and accelerate innovation

Research results generated through collaborative projects involving industry have a high probability of implementation. SMEs learn from the larger companies and academia incorporate results from common projects in their own research and education. Attracting industry to projects and partnerships also depends on including specific and relevant calls in the framework programme. Interaction with the European Commission is important for the industry in order to pursue results of projects. Auto manufacturers, as well as other major industrial actors, are important in the process of bringing innovations to the market and collaborative research projects are the means to deliver, while gaining knowledge and sharing risks. They should be involved in developing and evaluating project proposals to ensure meaningful results and optimised implementation.

¹ «The Economic rationale for public R&I funding and its impact» March 2017 DG Research and Innovation

Enhance and preserve innovation-friendly ecosystem

Europe needs an innovation-friendly ecosystem that includes all relevant stakeholders. Concretely, successful collaboration across Europe requires the involvement of industries, businesses, cities, regions and national authorities. In this context, we would like to emphasise the effectiveness and relevance of contractual public private partnerships (cPPPs). These partnerships allow for the setting of common long-term objectives and have the unique ability to cover the entire value chain and produce binding commitments from both private and public parties. This well-known funding scheme has proven its value over the years and ought to remain part of the next framework programme.

Ensure participation of large industries

Europe's automobile industry faces challenging times. Innovations such as decarbonisation, digitalisation and new players are accelerating automotive innovation and pushing the boundaries of automotive research and development. Understanding the needs and requirements of industry, will lead to relevant research results and accelerate innovation. To that end, we will need to ensure the participation of large industries that drive Europe's productivity and economic growth. Auto makers are prepared to continue playing their role as 'locomotives of growth', provided that financial incentives remain available.

Enable quick and timely research actions

Europe cannot afford to lose the global innovation race. That's why it will have to accelerate R&I programmes, especially when it comes to the digitalisation and further decarbonisation of road transport. With shorter innovation cycles and increasingly fast-acting competition from countries like the United States and China, Europe needs to accelerate both research and the time-to-market. The upcoming framework programme should provide the tools to achieve the above, building on existing Horizon 2020 mechanisms.

Increase agility and flexibility of projects

Due to the increased demands on the industry's constantly evolving business environment, it is crucial to improve the agility and flexibility of project execution in order to deliver results in time and with the available resources and funding.



ABOUT EUCAR

EUCAR (European Council for Automotive R&D, www.eucar.be) is the association for collaborative research and innovation of the major automobile manufacturers in Europe. These manufacturers contribute to sustainable mobility and a competitive European industry, investing more than €50bn per year in research and development. The industry's investments are leveraged by the collaborative work performed with support of the European Framework Programmes, currently Horizon 2020. The EUCAR Council comprises the heads of research and advanced development of the member companies.