



Basic information	
<p>2020/0142(APP)</p> <p>APP - Consent procedure Decision</p>	Awaiting final decision
<p>Measures necessary for the implementation of the Protocol, annexed to the Treaty establishing the European Community, on the financial consequences of the expiry of the ECSC Treaty and on the Research Fund for Coal and Steel</p> <p>Amending Decision 2003/76 2001/0061(CNS)</p> <p>Subject</p> <p>3.50.02.03 Framework programme and research programme for Coal and Steel 8.70.03 Budgetary control and discharge, implementation of the budget</p>	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		VAN OVERTVELDT Johan (ECR)	03/09/2020
			Shadow rapporteur UŠAKOVS Nils (S&D) GHEORGHE Vlad (Renew)	
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control		The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy		The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union				
European Commission	Commission DG		Commissioner	
	Research and Innovation		GABRIEL Mariya	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/07/2020	Preparatory document	COM(2020)0319 	

22/06/2021	Legislative proposal published	09399/2021	
01/07/2021	Vote in committee		
02/07/2021	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A9-0229/2021	
05/07/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
07/07/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0340/2021	Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2020/0142(APP)
Procedure type	APP - Consent procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
	Amending Decision 2003/76 2001/0061(CNS)
Legal basis	Treaty on European Union TEU 37
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Awaiting final decision
Committee dossier	BUDG/9/03543

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE693.589	25/05/2021	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0229/2021	02/07/2021	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0340/2021	07/07/2021	Summary
Council of the EU				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Legislative proposal	09399/2021	22/06/2021		
European Commission				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Preparatory document	COM(2020)0319 	16/07/2020	Summary	

Measures necessary for the implementation of the Protocol, annexed to the Treaty establishing the European Community, on the financial consequences of the expiry of the ECSC Treaty and on the Research Fund for Coal and Steel

The European Parliament adopted by 627 votes to 40, with 29 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision amending Decision 2003/76/EC establishing the measures necessary for the implementation of the Protocol, annexed to the Treaty establishing the European Community, on the financial consequences of the expiry of the ECSC Treaty and on the Research Fund for Coal and Steel.

Parliament gave its consent to the draft Council decision.

The Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS) is an EU funding programme that finances research projects in the coal and steel sectors. The RFCS has its own legal bases standing outside the Multiannual Financial Framework.

The Commission proposal foresees amendments to the current Decision 2003/76/EC. It aims to allow for the sale of part of the assets of the ECSC in liquidation for the period 2021-2027 in order to provide an annual allocation to the RFCS of **EUR 111 million** to finance research in the coal and steel sectors, namely:

- EUR 40 billion to fund collaborative research in these sectors and;

- EUR 71 billion to fund research into breakthrough technologies leading to near zero-carbon steel making and research projects for managing the just transition of formerly operating coal mines or coal mines in the process of closure, and related infrastructure in line with the Just Transition Mechanism.

The proposal does not create any new liabilities to be charged to the General Budget under the current multiannual financial framework (MFF). With the exception of some carry-over due to payment requests still to be satisfied within the annual allocation, the assets will stabilise after 2027 and will not be further reduced. In other words, based on the proposal the assets left intact after 2027 should still be intact in 2050, bar the (positive or negative) effect of the ECSC portfolio performance.

Measures necessary for the implementation of the Protocol, annexed to the Treaty establishing the European Community, on the financial consequences of the expiry of the ECSC Treaty and on the Research Fund for Coal and Steel

2020/0142(APP) - 16/07/2020

PURPOSE: to allow the assets of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS), where appropriate, to be used to provide an annual allocation of EUR 40 million to the RFCS until 2027 and to finance major research and innovation projects.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: after the expiry of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) Treaty in 2002 and under Protocol 37 annexed to the EU Treaties, the Member States established the new "Research Fund for Coal and Steel" (RFCS) as a continuation of the European Coal and Steel Community Coal and Steel Research and Technical Development Programmes.

The Research Programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS) is an EU funding programme that finances research projects in coal and steel sectors. The RFCS has its own legal bases standing outside the Multiannual Financial Framework.

As has been recognised, annual funding of at least EUR 40 million is needed to successfully implement the research programme of the RFCS. Given the context of low interest rates, revenue earmarked for funding is decreasing rapidly. This is leading to a situation where the critical minimum budget available for organising an annual call for proposal for the research programme of the RFCS might not be met.

In its [legislative resolution](#) of March 2018 accompanying its consent to the Council Decision 2018/599, which aimed to authorise the use of all de-commitments and recovery orders made under the RFCS programme since 2003, Parliament called for making the management of the assets of the ECSC in liquidation more active, or even for using some of those funds to launch major projects to make European steel clean and competitive.

To meet EU targets, the Green Deal Investment Plan and Just Transition Mechanism Communication considered necessary a revision of the RFCS legal bases to enable using the assets of the ECSC in liquidation and, on completion of the liquidation, the assets of the RFCS.

CONTENT: the purpose of the proposal to amend [Decision 2003/76/EC](#) is to allow the sale of a share of the assets of the ECSC in liquidation for the period 2021-2027 in order to provide an annual RFCS allocation of EUR 111 million per year, which shall be allocated as follows:

- EUR 40 million per year shall finance collaborative research in the coal sector and steel sector;

- the remaining EUR 71 million shall finance breakthrough technologies leading to near zero-carbon steel making and research projects for managing the just transition of formerly operating coal mines or coal mines in the process of closure, and related infrastructure in line with the Just Transition Mechanism.

The annual allocation shall consist of the net income from investments and, where insufficient, from the sale of a share of the assets of the ECSC in liquidation and, after the closure of the liquidation, of the assets of the FRCA. The Decision should provide a predictable flow of funds of sufficient magnitude to facilitate the continuity of the desired support for collaborative research in the steel and coal sectors.

In line with the European Green Deal, the RFCS shall, in particular, develop a Clean Steel production as a potential game-changer dragging other intensive energy sectors, such as chemicals and cement, towards Climate neutrality by 2050.