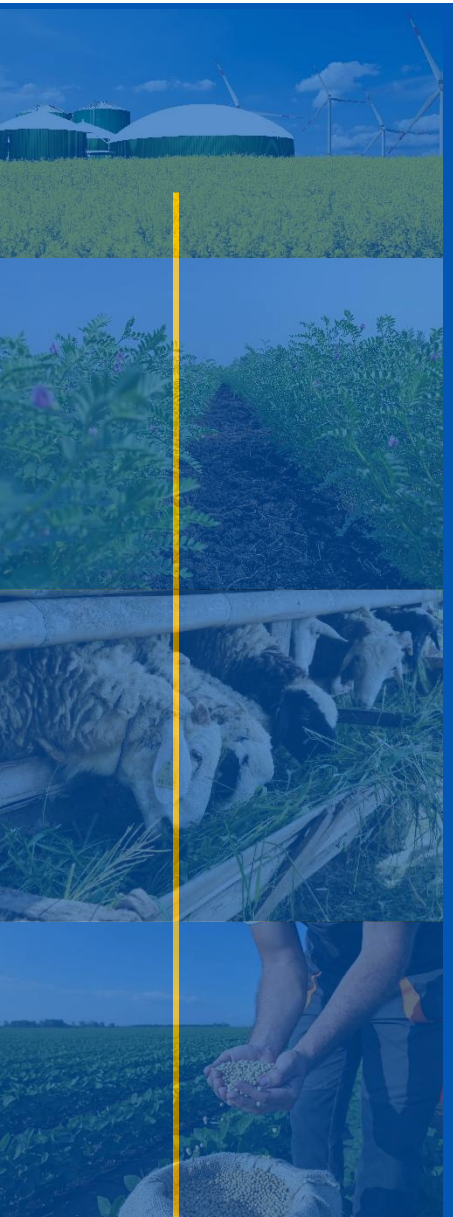


ATF seminar

Policy initiatives and developments: competitive, resilient and sustainable livestock systems

25 November 2026

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European Commission

Content of the presentation

- Introduction
- Policy context
  - Protein Action Plan
  - Livestock Strategy
  - Strategic Approach to R&I for agriculture, forestry, rural areas and food systems
- Ongoing and future R&I

Policy Context

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Vision for Agriculture and Food



February 2025

- '…develop a **comprehensive plan** integrating policy, research and on the ground efforts **to create a more self-sufficient and sustainable EU protein system**'.
- '…. **long-term vision** that respects the diversity and sustainability of livestock production across Europe'.
- 'Developing a new EU **strategic approach to R&I to improve the competitiveness of agriculture**, forestry and rural areas...'

Policy Context

January - September 2024
Strategic dialogue on the future of EU agriculture

February 2025
Vision for Agriculture and Food

+ Generational Renewal strategy
+ Women in Farming Platform
+ Fertiliser Action Plan

July 2026
Protein Action Plan

July 2026
Livestock Strategy

September 2026
Strategic Approach to R&I

Next MFF
(2028 –2034)

Protein Action Plan

Action Plan for resilience, strategic autonomy and sustainability of the EU protein system

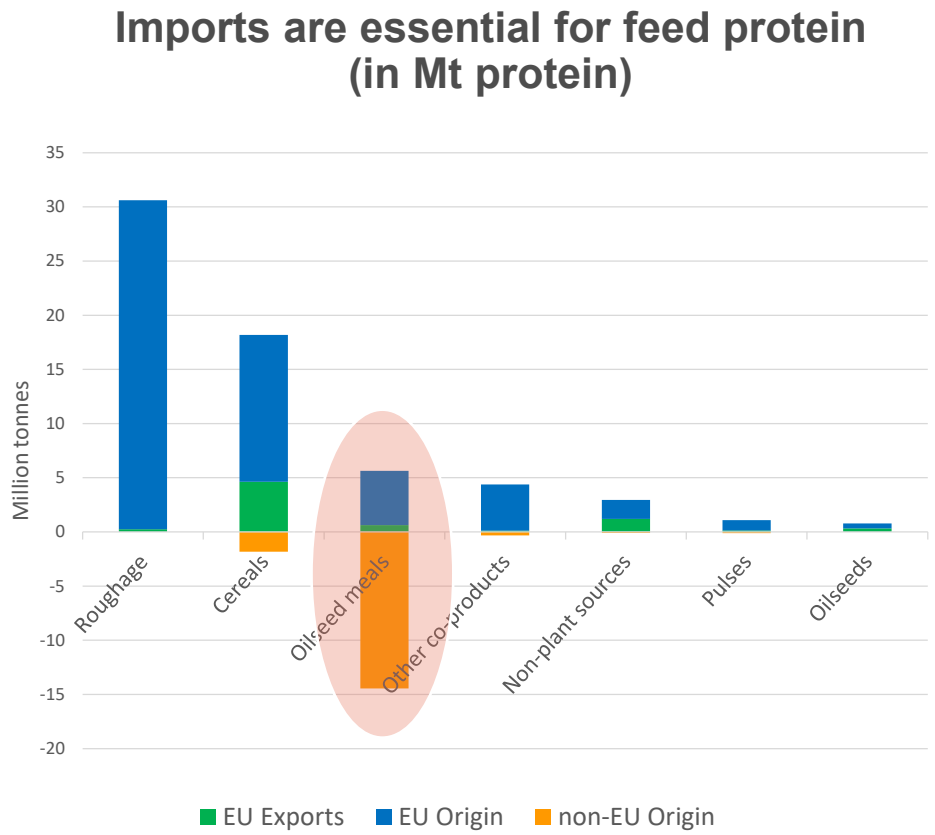
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Protein Action Plan

Only 25% of protein from oilseeds and protein crops are sourced domestically.

Objectives

- **Strategic autonomy** by expanding sustainable EU protein supply
- **Resilience** and **competitiveness**
- Stimulate demand and **local solutions**
- Align with EU climate, bioeconomy, environmental and food security goals



Source: DG AGRI - EU Feed Protein Balance Sheet – forecast 2024/25.

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Protein Action Plan
1. Expand sustainable EU protein supply

Incentives for farmers

CAP tools to promote legumes, pulses, and soya, prioritising crops suited to local conditions increasing EU supply, reduce fertiliser needs and GHG emissions

Value chain strengthening

Member States to use funding options to support storage, processing infrastructure, and contracts to de-risk farmer transitions

Grassland and livestock integration

Support extensive systems where possible valorising grasslands, contribute to lower imports, boost carbon sequestration and rural livelihood

Protein Action Plan
2. More resilient and competitive supply chains

- **Diversification of imports origins** via strengthened partnerships with key suppliers, including neighbouring partners
- Better alignment of production and sustainability standards
- Adapting livestock systems to prioritise **local resources**
- Addressing our **dependency on feed additives**
- Greater **circularity in supply chains**, notably via
  - Biofuels: encourage increased production of home-grown sustainable biofuels, protein crops and feedstocks (RED review)
  - Bioeconomy: support more efficient use of biomass



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Protein Action Plan
Demand-side measures and R&I

3. Demand-side measures

- Promoting more diversified diets and consumer choices
- Origin labelling
- Awareness campaigns and school scheme
- Sustainable public procurement

4. Research & Innovation

- Over EUR 190 million already invested
- Value chain development
- Knowledge transfer
- Animal feeding, additives/vitamins and locally produced proteins



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Protein Action Plan
5. Deliver through coordination and monitoring

- Greater **coordination** among policies and actors
- Enhanced integration and synergies through **National and Regional Partnership Plans** (NRPP)
- Developing monitoring
  - Annual protein dialogues with Member States
  - Regular market observatory for cereals, oilseeds and protein crops
- Benchmark **35% EU-sourced high-protein feed by 2035** (from 25% in 2025)



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Livestock Strategy

Strategy to foster the competitiveness, resilience and sustainability of the EU livestock sector and agri-food chain

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Why a livestock strategy?

A strategic sector facing major challenges

- Livestock is key for the Union: **40% of agricultural added value**, **EUR 400 billion turnover**, **4 million farms** and **7 million jobs**.
- It is essential for **food security, rural livelihoods, territorial cohesion and strategic autonomy**.
- The sector faces strong pressure: **profitability, market volatility, climate stress, animal diseases, labour shortages and ageing farmers**.
- The strategy sets a **long-term direction** for a sector that must remain both **competitive and sustainable**.

EU livestock strategy

One strategy, five mutually reinforcing priorities

- The strategy is built around **five priorities**: **resilience, competitiveness, sustainability, territorial diversity and excellence**.
- It reflects a distinct **European approach** based on **high standards, diversity and strong rural anchorage**.
- It combines **EU action, Member State action and stakeholder engagement**.
- The objective is a livestock sector that can **thrive** and is better prepared for future challenges.

A Resilient Livestock Sector

Better prepared for crises, disease and climate stress

- Strengthen **risk management** with better access to insurance, mutual funds and a possible **dedicated post-2027 financial scheme**.
- Reinforce **animal disease prevention and response** through biosecurity, early warning and a wider science-based use of vaccination.
- Invest in **climate adaptation, innovation and digital tools** to help farms cope with heat, water stress and volatility.
- Reduce dependency on imported inputs by supporting **domestic proteins, circular resources and stronger cooperation**.

A Competitive Livestock Sector

Closing the investment gap and ensuring fair competition

- Help livestock farmers close the **investment gap**, including for the transition to higher sustainability and animal welfare.
- Provide a **more stable and predictable framework**, with simplification and faster permitting where needed.
- Strengthen livestock farmers' place in the food chain through **better remuneration, more transparency and action on unfair trading practices**.
- Defend fair competition through **stronger import controls, reciprocity of standards and agri-food diplomacy**.

A Sustainable Livestock Sector

Supporting the transition in a fair and practicable way

- Promote a **fair and balanced transition** for sustainability efforts to be economically workable for farmers.
- Advance **animal welfare**, with targeted revisions for **laying hens and broilers by end-2026** and **pigs by Q2 2027**.
- Reduce emissions through better **farm-level measurement**, innovation, improved feeding, breeding and manure management.
- Support circular solutions such as **biogas, biomethane, nutrient recycling and better use of manure and by-products**.
- Build, by 2027, a **Livestock Platform** with a **repository of proven solutions** for climate, environment and animal welfare, **helping share practical approaches** across Member States and sectors

Fitting European Territorial Diversity

Tailored solutions for Europe's diverse rural landscapes

- Livestock is especially important in **mountain, grassland, northern, island and other vulnerable rural areas**.
- The strategy will help address **regions at risk of abandonment** and support the return of sustainable livestock where appropriate.
- It promotes **locally anchored value chains** linking farmers, processors, services and local markets (e.g. a dedicated roadmap will look at **low-capacity and mobile slaughterhouses** to support rural viability and animal welfare).

Excellence in Livestock Production

Making the European model visible and better rewarded

- Build a clear EU pathway for **excellence** based on **quality, sustainability, responsibility and high welfare standards**.
- Improve consumer information through stronger **EU origin communication** and clearer marketing tools.
- Develop a voluntary **European excellence approach** using optional reserved terms to valorise higher standards.
- Better promote **territorially embedded, high-quality livestock systems** through EU promotion policy, GIs and organics

Strategic approach to R&I

New Strategic Approach to R&I for competitive, resilient and sustainable agriculture, forestry, rural areas and food systems

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Future-proofing EU agri-food through Research & Innovation

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

New Strategic Approach to Research and Innovation for competitive, resilient and sustainable agriculture, forestry, rural areas and food systems

European Commission

Three clear ambitions at the core of the strategic approach:

Deployment of new technologies

- Making it easier for SMEs and start-ups to participate in Horizon Europe
- Supporting the testing, developing and growth of ideas
- Fostering public & private investment
- Providing funding at every stage of the innovation journey

Dissemination and uptake of R&I results

- Co-creating with farmers
- Scaling practical knowledge
- Making knowledge easy to find and use
- Building skills for the future
- Connecting Horizon Europe and the CAP

Thematic R&I needs for the future



Guiding future research and innovation for agriculture, forestry and rural areas: AgRI 2040

Deployment of new technologies

Dissemination and uptake of R&I results

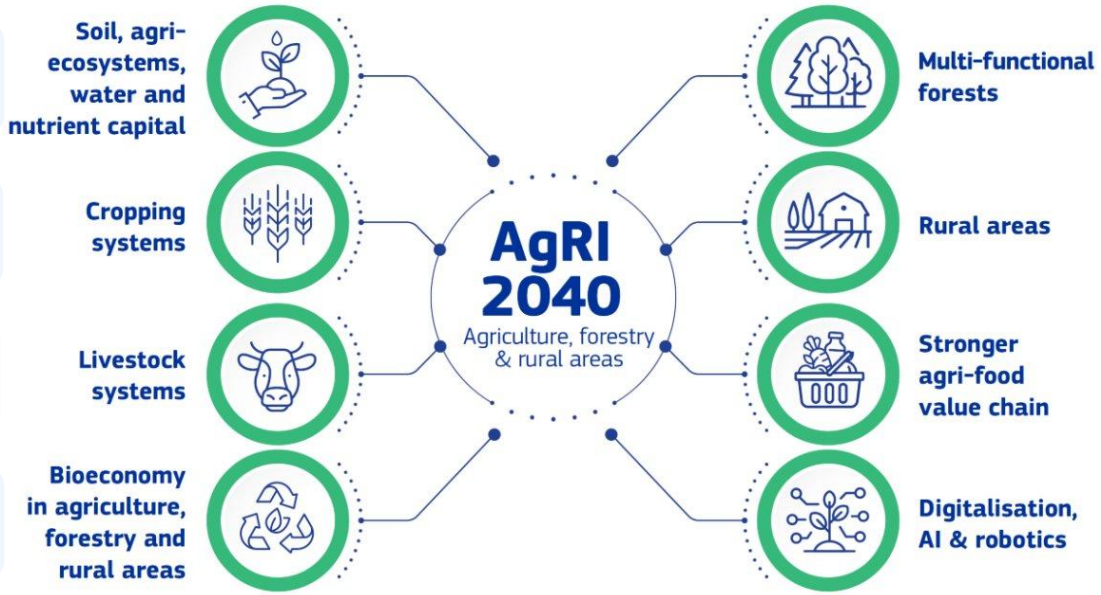
Thematic R&I needs for the future

Healthy soils, resilient water systems, soil-water-energy nexus

Sustainable, low risk crop production, plant breeding, protein crops

Safeguard animal health and welfare, innovative feed measures

Efficient and sustainable use of land and biomass, biomanufacturing, bio-based fertilisers, wood-based products



Protection, restauration, adaptive and resilient forest management, forest-based bioeconomy

Competitiveness and attractiveness of rural areas, women entrepreneurship, young people, public services

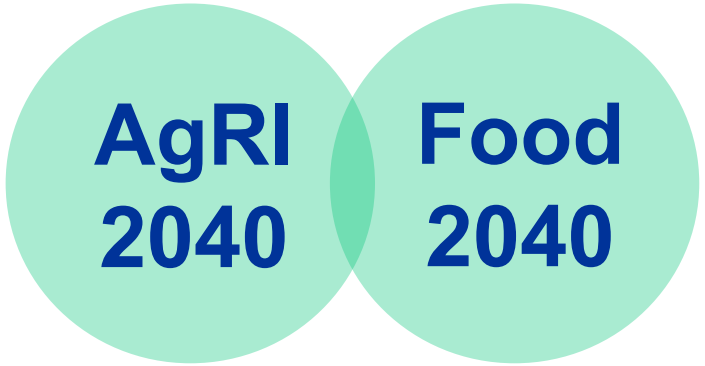
Farmers' position in agri-food value chain, on-farm and local food processing and commercialization

Data valorisation, deployment and use of key technologies

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Two interlinked frameworks

for a sustainable, resilient and competitive agri-food future



Work together to strengthen the entire agri-food innovation ecosystem

Cross-cutting priorities

- Competitiveness, Startups and scaleups
- Food security, resilience and preparedness
- Natural resources and circularity
- Food and feed safety, nutrition and health
- Fairness
- Global cooperation for sustainable agriculture, forestry, rural areas and food systems

Enablers

- Governance
- Technologies
- Territories and communities

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- High-level plenary discussions:
  - Enabling the objectives of the Vision for Agriculture and Food through R&I
  - Deployment, scaling-up and uptake of R&I results
  - Partnerships for R&I in agri-food systems
- 9 parallel sessions to co-create R&I needs in the areas of action
- 90 speakers, 33 projects and initiatives in exhibition

Cropping systems	**Digitalisation, artificial intelligence and robotics**	**Climate change and biodiversity**
Stronger agri -food value chain	**Multi-functional forests**	**Rural areas**
Livestock systems	**Soil, agri -ecosystems, water and nutrient capital**	**Bioeconomy in agriculture, forestry and rural areas**

Report in preparation!

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AgRI 2040: preliminary areas of action

Livestock systems

- To **safeguard animal health and welfare**, reduce the environmental impact of the livestock sector
- To support **impact-driven animal breeding** for multiple purposes
- To foster the development of **sustainable feed and nutrients**
- To support the development of **new interventions, treatments and vaccines**
- To further develop **integrated approaches** to animal health and welfare, including the **socio-economic dimension**
- To improve **resource efficiency through innovative feed measures**

Key actions and timeline

Q4 2026

- AgRI 2040 Conference
- Explore EIT Food/EIC collaboration
- Encourage innovation ecosystems
- Valorise HE study results

2027

- Targeted calls for valorisation
- Private-sector experts in evaluations
- Health-food links

Q4 2027

- Science for Policy Centre Startup/scaleup toolbox
- Risk assessment R&I needs
- Practice abstracts & demo sites
- Develop AgRI 2040 areas of action with stakeholders

2028

- Harmonised multi-actor approach and Living Labs
- Collaborative platforms agri-food 2040 activities
- Food 2040 Conference to develop action for the areas of action

A clear pathway from coordination in 2026 to concrete tools, centers, calls and co-creation activities by 2027–2028.

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Ongoing R&I landscape

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Ongoing R&I Projects

Nutrifeeds

Regenerative livestock feed solutions (www.nutrifeeds.eu/)

Re-Livestock
RESILIENT FARMING SYSTEMS

Innovative practices to reduce GHG emissions (www.re-livestock.eu/)

BEE-GUARDS

Better-B

Resilient beekeeping under climate change (www.bee-guards.eu/) (www.better-b.eu/)

CoCo
Co-creating Coexistence

Integrating wildlife and livestock into multi-functional landscapes (www.cocoproject.eu/)

EUP AH&W

European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare (www.eupahw.eu/)

NUTRITIVE

Manure management strategies to achieve sustainability during the whole value chain (www.nutritive.eu/)

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New and upcoming R&I Projects

Climate-resilient ruminants using genomics, environment and management strategies (https://ruminate-project.eu/)

Heat resilience in sheep using breeding strategies and innovations (https://sheepheatit.eu/)

Grassland Resilience and Adaptation and inclusive stakeholder management (https://grasswise.eu/)

Multifunctionality and ecosystem service monitoring (https://grassconnect.eu/)

Practice Hubs for regional protein crop production and use (https://proceed-project.eu/)

Solutions for European Feed Autonomy through Sustainable Value Chains

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New and upcoming R&I Projects

- Under preparation:

HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-FARM2FORK-05: **Boosting circularity and diversification strategies of terrestrial livestock production systems**

→ Wool value chain and another relevant value chain

New and upcoming R&I Projects

- New calls:
  - HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-02: **Increasing mitigation of GHG emissions and feed efficiency through feed additives**
  - HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-03: **Microbiome for terrestrial livestock sustainability and health within a One health approach**

→ **Horizon Europe info days** Cluster 6 Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment: 13 and 14 January 2027 (hybrid)



EU AGRI-FOOD DAYS



- Resilience across economic, environmental, digital and social dimensions
- EU policies and CAP to help sector strengthen resilience
- **Registration deadline 1 December**

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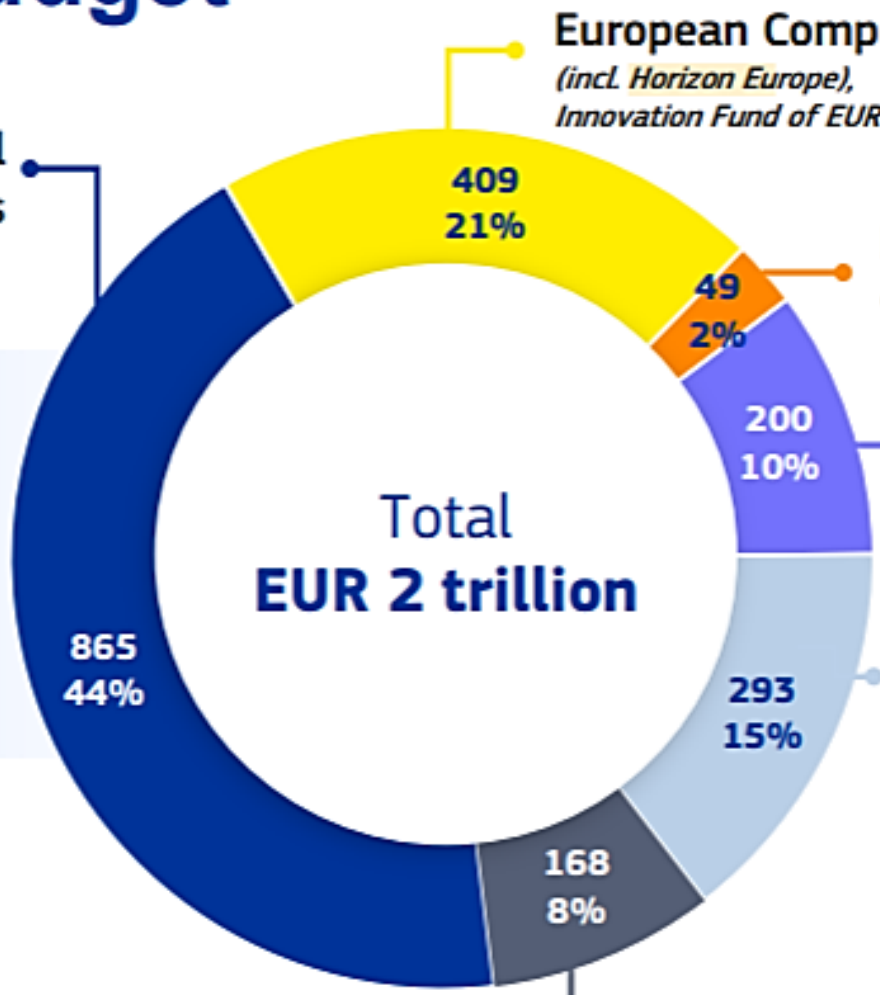
Current developments

- MMF 2028-2034:
  - European Competitiveness fund
  - Horizon Europe



An ambitious budget

- From 52 to **16 programmes**
- **Simpler** for beneficiaries
- **Results** oriented
- More **agile**



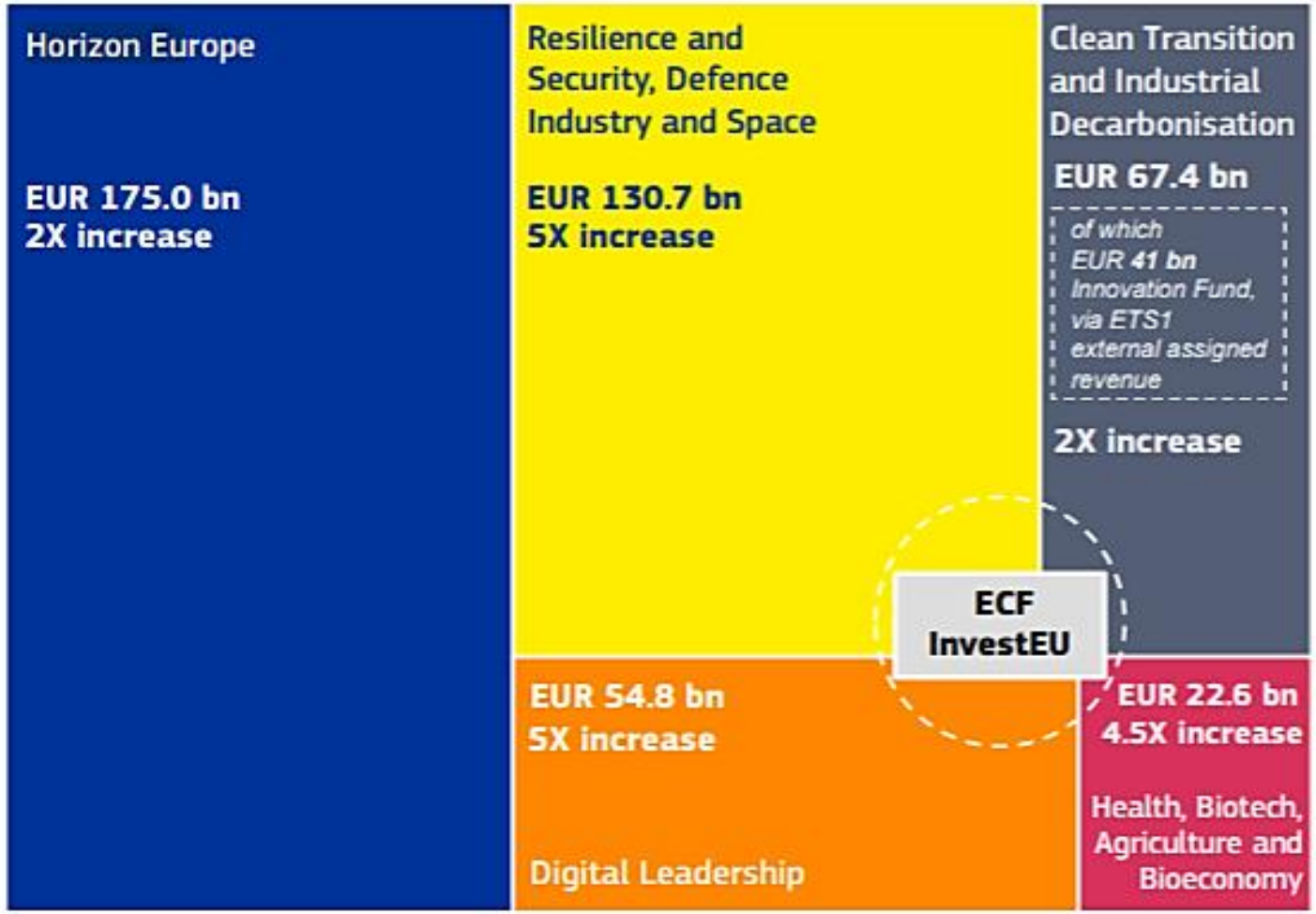
- Connecting Europe Facility
- Civil Protection And Health
- Single Market and Customs Programme
- Euratom Research & Training
- Common Foreign and Security Policy
- Justice
- Nuclear Safety Cooperation and Decommissioning
- Association of Overseas Countries and Territories (incl. Greenland)
- Pericles

*All amounts in EUR, **current prices,** adjusted with 2% deflator*

* Also includes Administration and decentralised agencies

European Competitiveness Fund

A **EUR 451 billion** to boost innovation (incl. Innovation Fund)



FOCUSED

Steered towards EU's industrial and technological priorities

SIMPLER

One rulebook – same rules would apply within ECF and Horizon Europe.
Single portal - centralizing information on and access to all Union funding
Common rules for project promoters

IMPACTFUL

Support from research to scale-up
Unlocking private funding with more leverage on EU budget (ECF InvestEU Instrument)

Current developments

- MMF 2028-2034:
  - European Competitiveness fund
  - Horizon Europe
- Partnerships



Thank you

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