



EuChemS, the European Chemical Society welcomes the proposal for the future Framework Programme 9 – Horizon Europe – put forward by the European Commission. An ambitious research Framework Programme can fundamentally alter the quality, capacity and competitiveness of research and innovation in Europe. A robust and forward-looking Horizon Europe will allow society to take a significant step forward in tackling major environmental, societal, health and economic challenges and will ensure Europe maintains a leading position as a hub of breakthrough research, science and innovation

To unlock the full potential of Horizon Europe, the budget proposals so far put forward need to be re-evaluated. If Europe is to be successful in dealing with major challenges such as climate change, diseases and an ageing population, and to support innovation and emerging technologies, a budget of at least €160 billion is needed.

Strong mechanisms for fostering collaboration across disciplines and geographical boundaries is a top priority. Access to the research programme must be made accessible to third countries, particularly those that have previously participated in Framework Programmes.

We strongly recommend that the programme provides mechanisms that fund projects through all Technology Readiness Levels – from basic research right up to commercialisation. To this day too many excellent projects are killed off due to lack of support.

If appropriately applied, the use of ‘missions’ can deeply transform a number of challenges we face today. To better exemplify such prospects, we have laid out just eight topics that could be translated into missions. An ambitious Framework Programme could help Europe take a very important step forward in achieving:



A clean sustainable world



Averting an antimicrobial resistance disaster



Forming a fit-for-purpose food landscape



Sustainable low carbon energy for all



Viable Nuclear energy and waste policy



Enabling our ageing population



Eliminating lifestyle diseases



Smart non-invasive medical diagnostics

We strongly encourage greater academia-industry collaboration tools within the programme, including for students at university level. Such mechanisms will enable students to develop innovative mindsets from an earlier stage and consequently allow Europe to fulfil its ambitions as a leader in research and innovation.

In view of the highly successful results of the European Research Council and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions in the past years, as well as the vast amount of excellent proposals unfortunately rejected due to lack of funds, we call for a convincing and ambitious increase in the funds currently being proposed.