

**DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING
Adopting the 3rd amendment to the Clean Hydrogen JU
Annual Work Programme and Budget for 2026
and approving additional lists of actions selected for funding resulting from the
evaluation of the call for proposals HORIZON-JTI-CLEANH2-2026 for optimal
implementation of call budgets**

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING (CLEAN HYDROGEN JU),

HAVING REGARD TO

- COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe and repealing Regulations (EC) No 219/2007, (EU) No 557/2014, (EU) No 558/2014, (EU) No 559/2014, (EU) No 560/2014, (EU) No 561/2014 and (EU) No 642/2014¹ (“the Regulation”), and in particular Article 17(2)(u) thereof;
- REGULATION (EU) No 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination² (hereinafter “the Horizon Europe regulation”), and in particular Articles 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29 and 30 thereof;
- The Financial Rules of the Clean Hydrogen JU, adopted on 17 December 2021 through Governing Board decision reference CleanHydrogen-GB-2021-03 (hereafter referred to as “the Financial Rules”) ³, and in particular Articles 6(5), 17(1) and 33(4);
- The Clean Hydrogen JU Governing Board Rules of Procedure⁴, and in particular Article 10 thereof.

Whereas:

- (1) The Annual Work Programme and Budget for 2026 was adopted by the Governing Board through its Decision of 17/12/2025 with reference number CleanHydrogen-GB-2025-13, amended through its decision of 19/01/2026 with reference number CleanHydrogen-GB-2026-01, and amended again through its decision of 05/05/2026 with reference number CleanHydrogen-GB-2026-05;
- (2) The main lists of actions selected for funding, the reserve lists and the lists of rejected proposals for call for proposals HORIZON-JTI-CLEANH2-2026 were approved by the CLEAN HYDROGEN JU’s Governing Board through its decision of 12/08/2026 with reference number CleanHydrogen-GB-2026-09;

¹ OJ L 427, 30.11.2021, p. 17–119

² OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 81–104

³ FCH-GB-2019-16 <https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/system/files/2020-01/GB%2520decision%2520and%2520Financial%2520Rules.pdf>

⁴ https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/about-us/key-documents/governing-board-decisions_en

- (3) An ad-hoc Contribution Agreement was signed by the Commission and the Clean Hydrogen JU on the 28/07/2026 under the Financial Framework Partnership Agreement No 7 with the objective to define the additional tasks to be carried out under this Contribution Agreement by the Clean Hydrogen JU and the additional EU financial contribution complementing the EU contribution for one additional project for the topic HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-03-04, for a maximum value of EUR 8,000,000;
- (4) The Budget should be amended to introduce additional commitment appropriations amounting to EUR 8,000,000 and additional payment appropriations amounting to EUR 6,400,000, in accordance with the ad-hoc Contribution Agreement;
- (5) Proposals from the reserve lists may also enter the grant preparation phase in view of concluding grant agreements, in ranking order, subject to the availability of funding in the relevant call budget split, while respecting the maximum number of actions to be funded per topic, where applicable;
- (6) In order to select to which reserve list(s) the remaining and additional budgets may be allocated, consideration must be given to the JU strategic orientation documents, such as COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2021/2085 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe, the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda of the JU including the European Hydrogen Strategy, but also to the experts' Panel Report of call HORIZON-JTI-CLEANH2-2026 and the 'Commission Guidance Note on Optimal implementation of call budgets' ;
- (7) There is a remaining budget of EUR 3,712,082.40 after allocating the funding for actions in the main lists of calls HORIZON-JTI-CLEANH2-2026.
- (8) The budget of EUR 8 million allocated to the Clean Hydrogen JU through the ad-hoc Contribution Agreement shall be allocated to the reserve list of topic HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-03-04; in this case, the order of ranking within the reserve list(s) must be followed strictly;
- (9) In accordance with the Clean Hydrogen JU Annual Work Plan 2026 (AWP 2026) and Horizon Europe Main Work Programme 2025 General Annexes (European Commission Decision C(2025)2779 of 14 May 2025), the budgets set out in the AWP 2026 are indicative and final figures may change by up to 20 % with regard to, inter alia, the total expenditure of the call and the repartition of call budgets within a call;
- (10) The 20% budget flexibility may be applied to optimise the use of leftover budgets from the different ranked lists evaluated in the same evaluation session and may thus be used to fund reserve lists proposals;
- (11) In this regard, the JU sent on 16/07/2026 to the Governing Board an explanatory *Note on the optimal implementation of the call 2026 leftover budget*, presenting an optimal scenario for implementation of the call budgets. All members agreed to this scenario.

HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Article 1

The Annual Work Programme and Budget of the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking for 2026 are amended in accordance with the provisions of this Decision and as set out in the revised Annex thereto, including the introduction of additional commitment appropriations of EUR 8,000,000 and additional payment appropriations of EUR 6,400,000.



Article 2

From the remaining operational budget of EUR 3,712,082.40 under Call HORIZON-JTI-CLEANH2-2026, a budget of EUR 2,998,701.03 shall be transferred to ranking list HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-01-01.

Article 3

An additional budget of EUR 8,000,000 shall be transferred to ranking list HORIZON-JTI-CLEANH2-2026-03-04.

Article 4

The first ranked proposal in the reserve list for topic HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-01-01 (proposal 101343331-W2H2 with a total score of 14.25) is selected for funding for a total amount of EUR 2,998,701.03.

Article 5

The first ranked proposal in the reserve list for topic HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-03-04 (proposal 101342872-SEMIS, with a total score of 13.25, complementary also to the one in main list), is selected for funding for a total amount of EUR 8,000,000.

Article 6

Any remaining budget from the call shall be transferred to the operational expenditure of the Clean Hydrogen JU budget for 2026 or 2027.

Article 7

This decision shall enter into force on the date following that of its adoption.

Done in Brussels, on 29 September 2026

For the Governing Board of the CLEAN HYDROGEN JU,

Ms. Danica Maljković,

Chair of the Governing Board



Annexes:

- Section 3 "*BUDGET 2026*"
- Note on the optimal implementation of the call 2026 leftover budget
- Ad-hoc contribution agreement on the Financial Framework Partnership Agreement N° 7