

**DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING
Adopting Amendment no. 1 to the
Clean Hydrogen JU 2026 Annual Work Programme and Budget**

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING,

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, and in particular Article 17(2)(k) and (n);
- 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”)², and in particular Articles 6(5), 17(1) and 33(4);
- The Clean Hydrogen JU Governing Board Rules of Procedure³, and in particular Article 10 thereof;

WHEREAS:

- 1) The Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking Annual Work Programme and Budget for 2026 (hereafter referred to as the AWP 2026) was adopted by Governing Board through its Decision of 17/12/2025 with reference number CleanHydrogen-GB-2025-13 (Ares(2025)11312366);
- 2) The European Commission, as representative of the European Union, has requested an amendment to the adopted AWP 2026, to be implemented prior to the publication of the call for proposals;
- 3) In particular, concerning the Hydrogen Valleys topics HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-06-01 and HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-06-02, in selecting the actions to be awarded a grant from the list of proposals above the threshold, the adopted AWP 2026 states that the 25 MEUR allocated to the two Hydrogen Valleys topics in a single budget split will be awarded to proposals not only in order of ranking but at least also to those that are the highest ranked within these two set topics, and to at least to the highest ranked Hydrogen Valley grants located in EU13 provided that the proposal meets the required thresholds;

¹ OJ L 427, 30.11.2021, p. 17–119

² FCH-GB-2019-16 <https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/system/files/2020-01/GB%2520decision%2520and%2520Financial%2520Rules.pdf>

³ https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/about-us/key-documents/governing-board-decisions_en

- 4) It was requested that the attribution of the geographical scope related to EU13 is done by introducing it expressly in the “Scope” for one selected valley topic - namely for HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-06-02: Small-scale Hydrogen Valley.
- 5) It was also requested that the two Hydrogen Valleys topics are separated; as a result the topics are now in two budget splits, and consequently two ranking lists, where only the small-scale Hydrogen Valleys topic requires from proposals that the valley is located in an EU13 country.
- 6) The states’ representatives group was consulted by means of an extraordinary meeting that took place on 13/01/2026 and the vast majority of members declared to be in favour of this approach.
- 7) In the interest of legal certainty and clarity, an amended Annual Work Programme and Budget for the year 2026 should be adopted by the Governing Board;

HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Article 1

The amended Clean Hydrogen JU Annual Work Programme and Budget for 2026, including the Staff Establishment Plan, annexed to this Decision is adopted.

Article 2

The previous Clean Hydrogen JU Annual Work Programme and Budget for 2026, including the Staff Establishment Plan is repelled, and replaced by document annexed to this Decision.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its adoption by the Clean Hydrogen JU Governing Board.

Done in Brussels, on 19 January 2026

For the Governing Board of the CLEAN HYDROGEN JU,

Ms. Danica Maljković,
Chair of the Governing Board

[signature]

Annex: amended Annual Work Programme for 2026