Contribution ID: 12272dca-2af1-42e3-b77c-6940e19f2d79

Date: 07/07/2025 22:04:54

Public consultation questionnaire - Evaluation of the Innovation Fund

| * are mandatory. |
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|------------------|

Introduction

The <u>Innovation Fund</u> is one of the world's largest funding programmes supporting the deployment of innovative net-zero technologies. It aims to bring solutions to the market to:

- decarbonise the energy, industry, mobility and building sectors;
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- support Europe's transition to climate neutrality while promoting competitiveness.

The <u>EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)</u> – the world's largest carbon pricing system – provides revenue for the Fund from the sale of about 530 million ETS allowances. The Fund's total budget depends on the carbon price. It may amount to about EUR 40 billion from 2020 to 2030, based on a carbon price of EUR 75/tCO2.

The Fund supports projects in renewable energies, energy-intensive industries, energy storage, carbon use and storage, net-zero mobility and buildings. It mainly awards support for projects through competitive procedures: <u>calls for proposals</u> for regular grants, and <u>auctions</u>. The Fund has already awarded about EUR 12 billion for over 200 innovative projects (including projects under grant agreement preparation).

In 2025 and every five years after, the Commission will evaluate how the Innovation Fund is working (<u>Deleg</u> ated Act 2019/856).

This evaluation is taking place at the same time as evaluations of the Modernisation Fund and the EU ETS Directive.

Why are we consulting?

The consultation will enable stakeholders to express their views on the Innovation Fund, including its relevance, anticipated benefits, impact, added value, synergies, and alignment with other EU programmes.

Target audience

The consultation is aimed at stakeholders from European Economic Area (EEA) countries and sectors supported by the Innovation Fund (renewable energies, energy-intensive industries, energy storage, carbon use and storage, net-zero mobility, and buildings). In particular it targets industrial stakeholders, financial institutions, beneficiaries, previous applicants, representatives of EEA countries (including National Contact

Points), members of the Innovation Fund's Expert Group, and representatives of the scientific community. It also includes officials from the Commission and other institutional partners, such as the European Investment Bank.

About you

Bulgarian

Croatian

Czech

Danish

*Language of my contribution

Business association

Company/business

| | Outch |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| ● E | inglish |
| © E | stonian |
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| © F | rench |
| © G | German |
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| © H | lungarian |
| O Ir | rish |
| © It | alian |
| © L | atvian |
| © L | ithuanian |
| © N | Maltese |
| © P | Polish |
| © P | Portuguese |
| ®R | Romanian |
| © S | Slovak |
| [©] S | Slovenian |
| © S | panish |
| © S | Swedish |
| *I am gi | ving my contribution as |
| [©] A | cademic/research institution |

| Consumer organisation EU citizen Environmental organisation Non-EU citizen Non-governmental organisation (NGO) Public authority |
|--|
| Trade union |
| Other |
| *First name |
| The Bioenergy Association |
| *Surname |
| of Finland |
| *Email (this won't be published) |
| info@bioenergia.fi |
| *Organisation name 255 character(s) maximum |
| Bioenergia ry - the Bioenergy Association of Finland |
| *Organisation size |
| Micro (1 to 9 employees) |
| Small (10 to 49 employees) |
| Medium (50 to 249 employees) |
| Large (250 or more) |
| Transparency register number Check if your organisation is on the transparency register. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making. |

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*Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

| of | the | entities mentioned. It is a | ha. | rmonisation of often diver | rger | nt lists and practices. | |
|----|-----|-----------------------------|-----|----------------------------|------|-------------------------|------------------|
| | | Afghanistan | 0 | Djibouti | | Libya | Saint Martin |
| | | Åland Islands | | Dominica | | Liechtenstein | Saint Pierre and |
| | | | | | | | Miquelon |
| | | Albania | 0 | Dominican | | Lithuania | Saint Vincent |
| | | | | Republic | | | and the |
| | | | | | | | Grenadines |
| | | Algeria | | Ecuador | | Luxembourg | Samoa |
| | 0 | American Samoa | | Egypt | | Macau | San Marino |
| | | Andorra | 0 | El Salvador | | Madagascar | São Tomé and |
| | | | | | | | Príncipe |
| | | Angola | 0 | Equatorial Guinea | 0 | Malawi | Saudi Arabia |
| | | Anguilla | 0 | Eritrea | 0 | Malaysia | Senegal |
| | | Antarctica | 0 | Estonia | 0 | Maldives | Serbia |
| | | Antigua and | | Eswatini | | Mali | Seychelles |
| | | Barbuda | | | | | |
| | | Argentina | 0 | Ethiopia | | Malta | Sierra Leone |
| | | Armenia | | Falkland Islands | | Marshall Islands | Singapore |
| | | Aruba | 0 | Faroe Islands | | Martinique | Sint Maarten |
| | | Australia | 0 | Fiji | 0 | Mauritania | Slovakia |
| | | Austria | • | Finland | 0 | Mauritius | Slovenia |
| | 0 | Azerbaijan | | France | | Mayotte | Solomon Islands |
| | | Bahamas | 0 | French Guiana | 0 | Mexico | Somalia |
| | | Bahrain | 0 | French Polynesia | | Micronesia | South Africa |
| | | Bangladesh | 0 | French Southern | 0 | Moldova | South Georgia |
| | | _ | | and Antarctic | | | and the South |
| | | | | Lands | | | Sandwich |
| | | | | | | | Islands |
| | | Barbados | 0 | Gabon | 0 | Monaco | South Korea |
| | | Belarus | | Georgia | | Mongolia | South Sudan |
| | | Belgium | 0 | Germany | | Montenegro | Spain |
| | | Belize | 0 | Ghana | | Montserrat | Sri Lanka |
| | 0 | Benin | 0 | Gibraltar | 0 | Morocco | Sudan |
| | 0 | Bermuda | 0 | Greece | 0 | Mozambique | Suriname |

This list does not represent the official position of the European institutions with regard to the legal status or policy

| Bhutan | Greenland | Myanmar/Burma | | valbard and an Mayen |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------|---------------------------|
| Bolivia | Grenada | Namibia | | weden |
| Bonaire SaintEustatius andSaba | Guadeloupe | Nauru | Sı | witzerland |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Guam | Nepal | Sy | yria |
| Botswana | Guatemala | Netherlands | © Ta | aiwan |
| Bouvet Island | Guernsey | New Caledonia | © Ta | ajikistan |
| Brazil | Guinea | New Zealand | © Ta | anzania |
| British IndianOcean Territory | Guinea-Bissau | Nicaragua | O Th | hailand |
| British Virgin Islands | Guyana | Niger | O Th | he Gambia |
| Brunei | Haiti | Nigeria | ◎ Ti | imor-Leste |
| Bulgaria | Heard Island an McDonald Islan | | ◎ То | ogo |
| Burkina Faso | Honduras | Norfolk Island | © To | okelau |
| Burundi | Hong Kong | NorthernMariana Islands | © To | onga |
| Cambodia | Hungary | North Korea | | rinidad and obago |
| Cameroon | Iceland | North Macedonia | _ | unisia |
| Canada | India | Norway | © Ti | ürkiye |
| Cape Verde | Indonesia | Oman | © Tu | urkmenistan |
| Cayman Islands | Iran | Pakistan | | urks and aicos Islands |
| Central African Republic | Iraq | Palau | | uvalu |
| Chad | Ireland | Palestine | © U | ganda |
| Chile | Isle of Man | Panama | U | kraine |
| China | Israel | Papua New Guinea | | nited Arab mirates |
| Christmas Island | Italy | Paraguay | _ | nited Kingdom |

| 0 | Clipperton | Jamaica | Peru | | United States |
|---|-----------------|------------|------------------|---|-------------------|
| 0 | Cocos (Keeling) | Japan | Philippines | | United States |
| | Islands | | | | Minor Outlying |
| | | | | | Islands |
| 0 | Colombia | Jersey | Pitcairn Islands | | Uruguay |
| 0 | Comoros | Jordan | Poland | | US Virgin Islands |
| 0 | Congo | Kazakhstan | Portugal | | Uzbekistan |
| 0 | Cook Islands | Kenya | Puerto Rico | | Vanuatu |
| 0 | Costa Rica | Kiribati | Qatar | | Vatican City |
| 0 | Côte d'Ivoire | Kosovo | Réunion | | Venezuela |
| 0 | Croatia | Kuwait | Romania | | Vietnam |
| 0 | Cuba | Kyrgyzstan | Russia | | Wallis and |
| | | | | | Futuna |
| 0 | Curaçao | Laos | Rwanda | | Western Sahara |
| 0 | Cyprus | Latvia | Saint Barthélemy | | Yemen |
| 0 | Czechia | Lebanon | Saint Helena | | Zambia |
| | | | Ascension and | | |
| | | | Tristan da Cunha | l | |
| 0 | Democratic | Lesotho | Saint Kitts and | | Zimbabwe |
| | Republic of the | | Nevis | | |
| | Congo | | | | |
| | Denmark | Liberia | Saint Lucia | | |

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. Fo r the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association, 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published. Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

*Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

Anonymous

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

Public

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

I agree with the personal data protection provisions

Your experience with the Innovation Fund

- *How familiar are you with the Innovation Fund?
 - I have a detailed knowledge of its objectives and activities.
 - I know the Fund exists but have no detailed knowledge of its objectives and priorities.
 - I am unfamiliar with the Fund, its objectives and priorities.
- *Where do you get information about the Innovation Fund?
 - Innovation Fund's website
 - ☑ DG CLIMA and/or CINEA press releases or articles
 - Colleagues or partners
 - Innovation Fund's National Contact Points
 - Social media
 - I do not look for information about the Fund
 - Elsewhere
- *Has your organisation benefited from the Innovation Fund?
 - Yes, we have received financial support (e.g. grants or other funding instruments)

| Yes, we have received non-financial support (e.g. knowledge sharing, guidance tools and materials, project development assistance, technical assistance) No, but we have applied |
|---|
| ■ No, we have not applied |
| Not applicable / Unsure |
| * If your organisation has received support from the Innovation Fund, please specify all the types of support received: Grants through regular calls Grants through auctions Grants combined with loans or equity investments (e.g. blending operations between Innovation Fund and InvestEU) Support provided by DG CLIMA and/or CINEA (helpdesk, info day, tutorial, etc.) Support provided by National Contact Points (guidance, info day, etc.) Project development assistance (PDA) National funding through the 'Auctions-as-a-Service' scheme Not applicable / Unsure |
| *Did you apply to an Innovation Fund call for proposal or auction? Yes No |
| *Beyond the application process, is participating in the Innovation Fund burdensome (reporting requirements, resources needed, etc.)? Yes No Somewhat |
| *Please explain your answer: |
| Based on comments from companies |
| *Are you a National Contact Point and/or representing a national authority? Ves No |

Objectives of the Innovation Fund

The overall objectives of the Innovation Fund are:

- to support projects that demonstrate highly innovative technologies, processes or products, are sufficiently mature, have significant potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and are aimed at scaling up these technologies, processes or products to achieve broad commercial rollout across the EU;
- to offer financial support tailored to market needs and risk profiles of eligible projects while attracting additional public and private resources;
- to ensure that the revenues of the Innovation Fund are managed in accordance with the objectives of EU ETS.
- *In your view, how relevant are the objectives of the Innovation Fund compared to current societal, technological and environmental challenges?
 - Not relevant
 - Somewhat relevant
 - Relevant
 - Very relevant
- *Are there any additional objectives the Innovation Fund should pursue to maximise its impact?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I am not sure
- *In your view, which areas should the Innovation Fund focus on?

Use drag&drop or the up/down buttons to change the order or accept the initial order.

Large-scale technology demonstration
First of a kind
Small technology demonstration
Pilots
Scaling-up technology
Research and development

In your view, how relevant is the Innovation Fund in terms of supporting the following sectors?

| | Not relevant | Somewhat relevant | Relevant | Very relevant | No opinion /I am not sure |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|----------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| * Aviation | • | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Cement & lime | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | • |
| * Chemicals | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | • |
| * Geothermal | 0 | • | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Glass, ceramics & construction material | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | • |
| * Hydro/ocean energy | 0 | • | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Hydrogen | 0 | 0 | 0 | • | 0 |
| * Intra-day electricity storage | 0 | • | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Iron & steel | 0 | 0 | • | 0 | 0 |
| * Manufacturing of components for energy- intensive industries | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | • |
| * Manufacturing of components for energy storage | 0 | 0 | • | 0 | 0 |
| * Manufacturing of components for the production of renewable energy | • | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Maritime | • | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Non-ferrous metals | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | • |
| * Other energy storage | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | • |
| * Pulp & paper | • | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Refineries | 0 | • | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Road transport | • | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Solar energy | 0 | 0 | • | 0 | 0 |
| * Use of renewable energy outside Annex I of the EU ETS Directive | 0 | • | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Wind energy | 0 | 0 | • | 0 | © |
| * Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | • |

Please explain why this sector/these sectors is/are not relevant:

CCUS and BCR technologies are relevant in this context and not on the list

To what extent is the Innovation Fund helping achieve the following impacts?

| | Great extent | Some extent | Very limited extent | Not at all | No opinion /I am not sure |
|---|-----------------|----------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| * Emissions avoided | 0 | • | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * De-risked innovation (e. greater confidence that riskier endeavours will meet the conditions for success) | • | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Increased renewable energy production, energy storage and carbon capture, utilisation and storage | • | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Improved EU competitiveness and growth | 0 | • | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Job creation and skill acquisition | 0 | • | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | • |

- *To what extent does financial support from the Innovation Fund enable sectors to meet decarbonisation requirements under the EU ETS Directive?
 - Great extent
 - Some extent
 - Very limited extent
 - Not at all
 - No opinion/I am not sure

In your view, could projects in the following sectors have been carried out without the Innovation Fund's support?

| | Unlikely | Likely | No opinion/I am not sure |
|---|----------|--------|--------------------------|
| * Aviation | 0 | 0 | • |
| * Cement & lime | 0 | 0 | • |
| * Chemicals | 0 | 0 | • |
| * Geothermal | 0 | 0 | • |
| * Glass, ceramics & construction material | 0 | 0 | • |
| * Hydro/ocean energy | 0 | • | 0 |
| * Hydrogen | • | 0 | 0 |

| * Intra-day electricity storage | 0 | 0 | • |
|--|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| * Iron & steel | 0 | 0 | • |
| * Manufacturing of components for energy-intensive industries | 0 | • | 0 |
| * Manufacturing of components for energy storage | 0 | • | 0 |
| * Manufacturing of components for the production of renewable energy | 0 | • | 0 |
| * Maritime | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Non-ferrous metals | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Other energy storage | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Pulp & paper | 0 | • | 0 |
| * Refineries | 0 | • | 0 |
| * Road transport | 0 | • | 0 |
| * Solar energy | 0 | • | 0 |
| * Use of renewable energy outside Annex I of the EU ETS Directive | 0 | • | 0 |
| * Wind energy | 0 | • | 0 |
| * Other | • | 0 | 0 |
| ase explain why projects in the above sector(s) nout the Innovation Fund's support: CCUS would have been unlikely to proceed ich of the following benefits will be most signification upported by the Innovation Fund? | | | |
| Access to new markets or customer segmen | ts | | |
| Financial support | | | |
| Opportunity to collaborate with top-tier resea | | | dustry pa |
| Risk reduction through shared investment or | partners | hip | |
| Training and upskilling of staff | | | |
| | | | |
| Improved brand and reputation (e.g. 'green' o | credentia | ls, innovat | ion leade |
| | credentia | ls, innovat | ion leade |

| *In your view, are more sector-specific calls and/or auctions needed (such as for sectors included under the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism)? Pes No |
|---|
| No opinion/I am not sure |
| *In your view, what is the main added value of the Innovation Fund compared to other European or national funding programmes in the field of innovation, energy and climate? Higher funding amounts (e.g. suitable for large-scale demonstration projects) Calls are not too prescriptive Single beneficiaries can apply Focus on transformative, high-risk innovations near to deployment Integration of environmental and economic objectives Closer alignment with EU strategic goals (e.g. climate targets, industrial leadership) Enhanced networking and collaboration opportunities Increased visibility/improved reputation No opinion/I am not sure Other |
| Synergies and consistency with other funding instruments, legislation and policy strategies and initiatives |
| The Innovation Fund is designed to complement to and provide synergies with national funding opportunities/instruments in the field of innovation, energy and climate, working coherently with them while avoiding overlaps. |
| *In your view, is the Innovation Fund consistent (i.e. shares similar objectives and is compatible) with national funding opportunities/instruments? © Fully consistent © Partially consistent © Not consistent © No opinion/I am not sure |
| *Please specify which opportunity/instrument you were thinking of and how it is |

consistent with the Innovation Fund:

- *Which EU programme(s) do you think have the most complementarities (e.g. facilitating a follow-through from innovation to scale-up) with the Innovation Fund?

 Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020

 Connecting Europe Facility

 InvestEU

 European Investment Bank lending

 Modernisation Fund

 LIFE programme

 Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEIs)

 European Innovation Council (Pillar III of Horizon Europe)
- *Was your project previously supported by the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (including Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020)?
 - Yes

Other

- No
- I am not sure

In your view, how consistent is the Innovation Fund with the objectives of the following legislation?

| | Very consistent | Somewhat consistent | Only slightly consistent | Not at all consistent | No opinion/I am not sure |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| * EU ETS Directive | 0 | • | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * European Climate Law | • | 0 | 0 | 0 | • |
| * Batteries Regulation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | • |
| * REPowerEU | • | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Renewable Energy Directive | 0 | • | 0 | 0 | • |
| * ReFuelEU Aviation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | • |
| * FuelEU Maritime | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | • |
| * Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | • |

In your view, how consistent is the Innovation Fund with the following EU policies /strategies?

| | Very consistent | Somewhat consistent | Only slightly consistent | Not at all consistent | No opinion/I am not sure |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| * European hydrogen strategy | • | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Net-Zero Industry Act | • | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform | • | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Integrated SET plan | 0 | • | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * ERA industrial technology roadmaps | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | • |
| * New industrial strategy for Europe | 0 | • | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Green Deal industrial plan | • | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Circular economy action plan | • | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Industrial carbon management strategy | 0 | • | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Offshore energy strategy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | • |
| * EU solar strategy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | • |
| * Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | • |

Contact

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