



# EIC Board Statement on the launch of the 2023 Work Programme

8 December 2022

The EIC Board welcomes the publication of the EIC's Work Programme for 2023 with over €1.6 billion to support deep tech innovations in scaling companies, startups and research teams from across Europe. The Board particularly welcomes the new elements which follow our advice, including a more targeted approach to challenge funding, a new scheme to enable startups to test their solutions with public and private procurers, and the new innovation internship scheme which we have developed with our counterparts in the Scientific Council of the European Research Council and the Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation Technology.

We also welcome the improvements in the implementation of the EIC, including a rapid reduction in the time to grant and the early success of the restructured EIC Fund in making rapid investment decisions - so critical in the current investment climate. Moreover, the 2022 EIC Impact Report shows we are on track with many of the other KPIs with a growing set of scale-ups from the EIC Accelerator, crowding in €10 billion of additional investment into European deep tech, an impressive number of innovations from the EIC Pathfinder, and first successes of the EIC Transition in pulling through results from the Pathfinder and ERC Proof of Concept into spinout companies and commercial partnerships.

The EIC has made great strides towards its goals since its launch in 2021, and it is critical that further improvements are set in motion to meet the objectives set by the legislators. First, we see that some of the interpretations of the legal text do not fit well with the objectives of the EIC, for example on equity support for scaling up, and should be rectified or clarified in the legislation. Second, the proposed move to "indirect management" of the EIC Fund raises critical questions (as set out in our input to the European Parliament) which need to be resolved. Third, further efforts are needed to reach more female innovators and innovators from widening countries. We have also taken note of the useful feedback from a number of organisations and established a Board working group to review the IP conditions of EIC funding. We believe all these issues should be comprehensively addressed for the mid-term review of Horizon Europe, with necessary changes made, so that the EIC can turbocharge Europe's deep tech innovators in line with the New European Innovation Agenda.