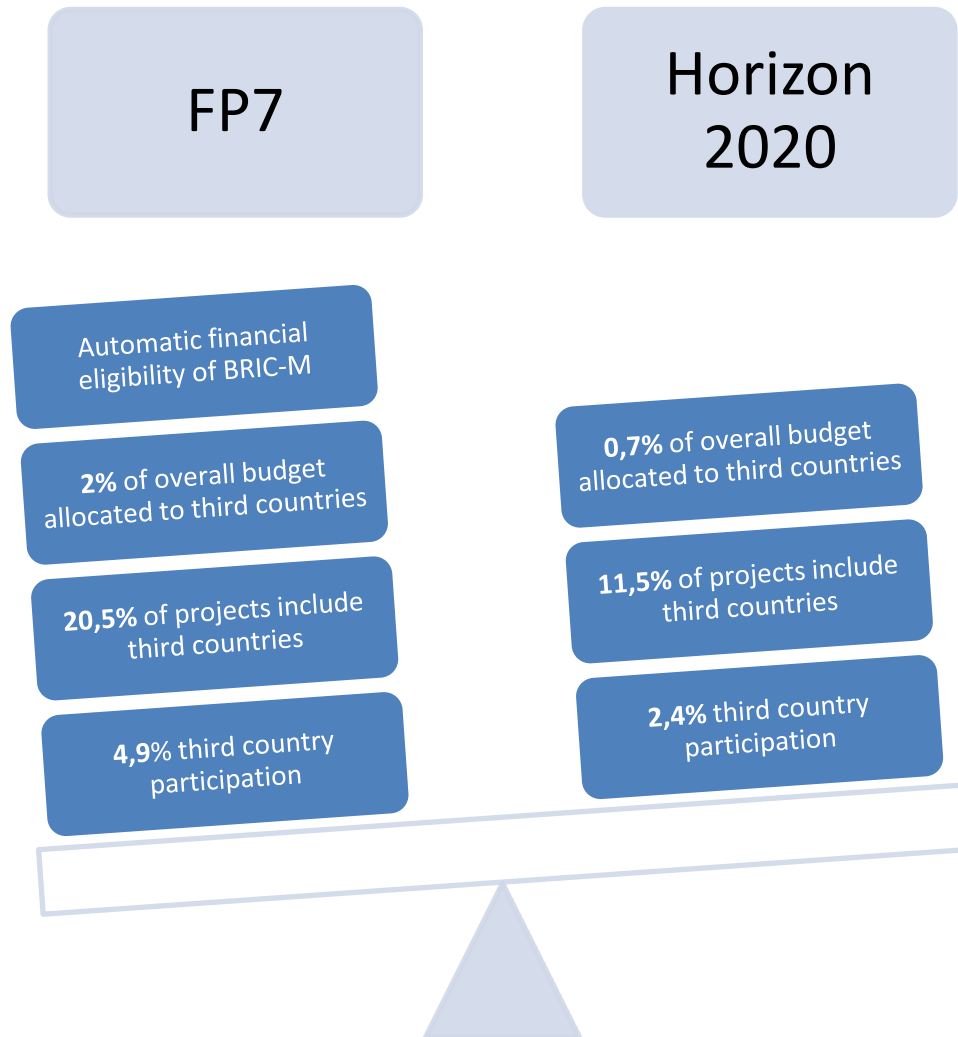


**SFIC opinion  
on international cooperation  
in the context of  
the mid-term review of Horizon 2020, and  
the preparation of the FP9**

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For SFIC Chair Rozenn Saunier (FR)

# International cooperation: from FP7 to Horizon 2020



**Horizon 2020 :**  
**Strong contrast between the concept of general openness and the actual level of involvement of third countries.**

A new approach is necessary if the FP is to rise up to the challenges which are the rationale for international cooperation (INCO) :

- Developing scientific excellence and competitiveness
- Efficiently tackling global challenges
- Fostering Science Diplomacy

## **Part 1 Understanding the causes of third countries' lack of involvement**

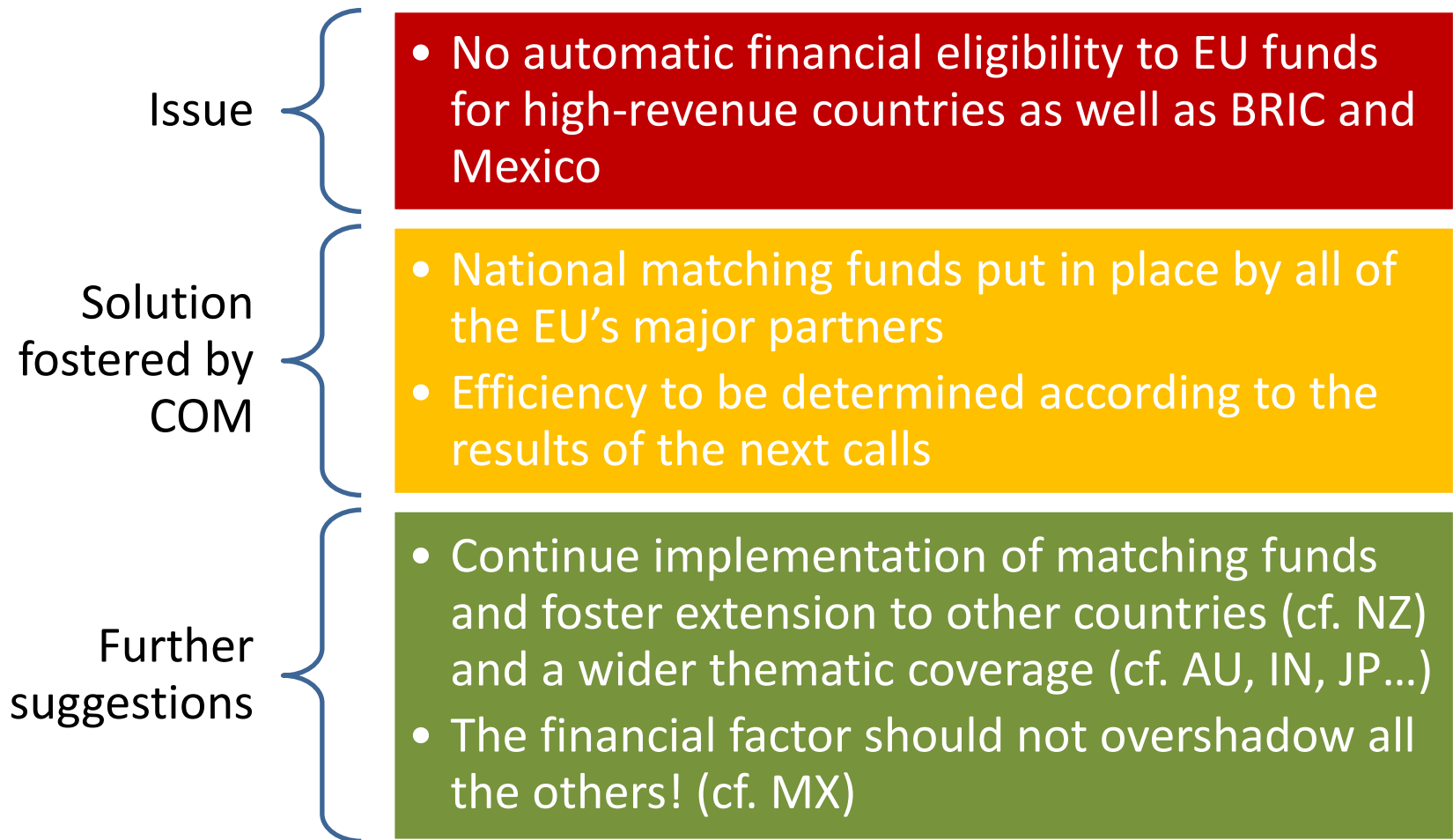
- **Issues**
- **Corrective measures already implemented**
- **Further suggestions**

## **Part 2**

**Further fostering international cooperation within the FP**

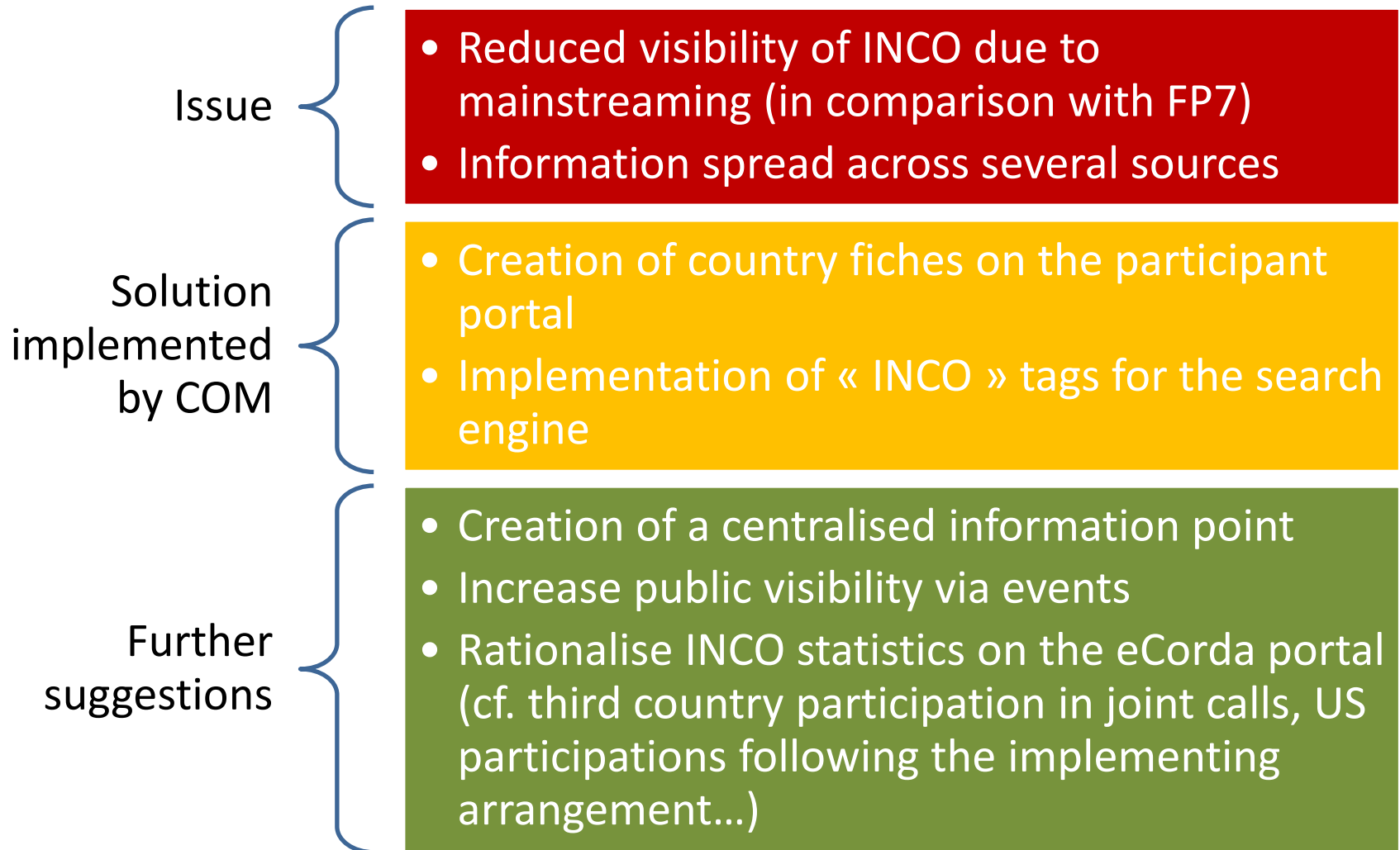
# Understanding the causes :

## Financial eligibility of emerging and high-revenue countries



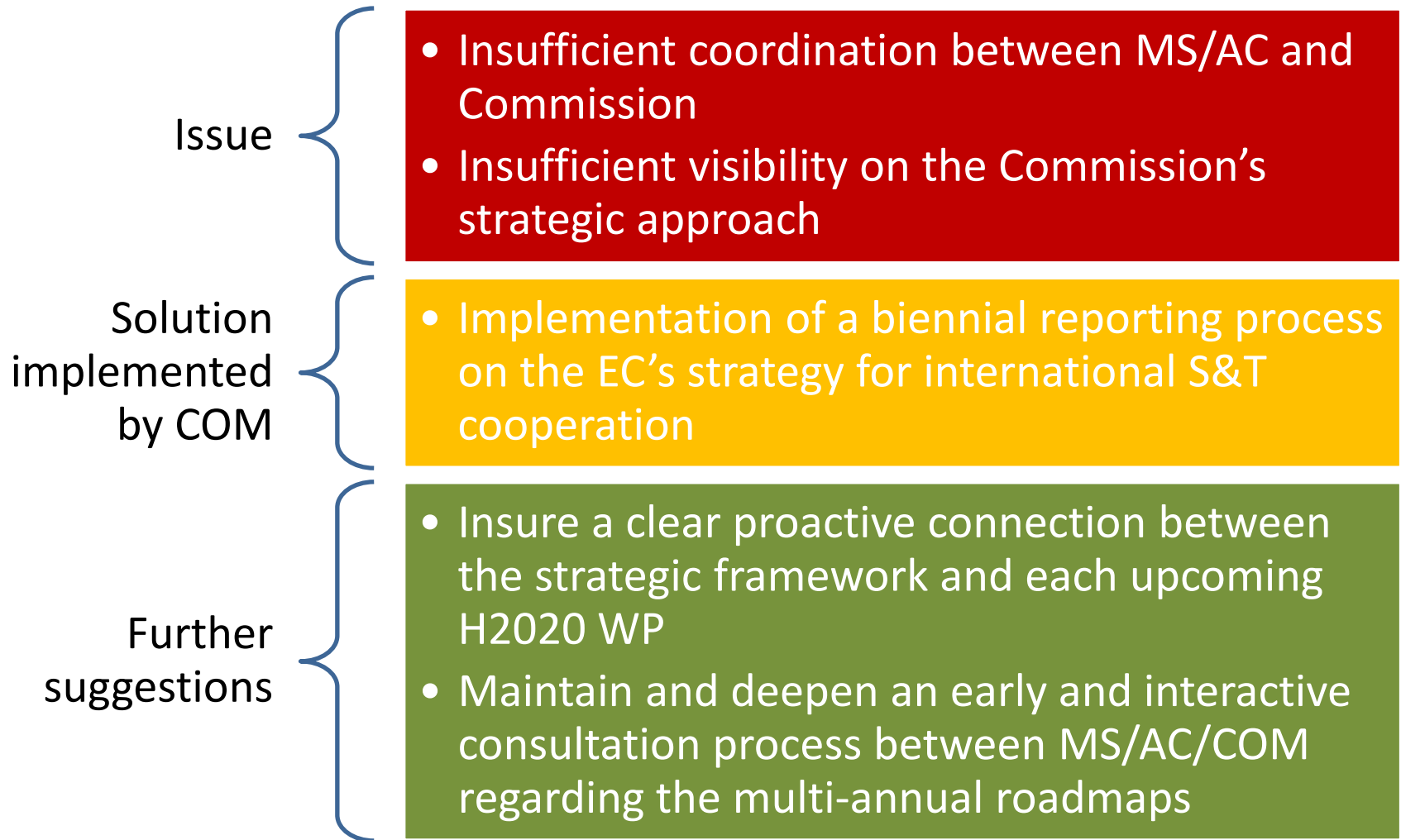
# Understanding the causes :

## Visibility of international cooperation within Horizon 2020



# Understanding the causes :

## Strategic approach



## Suggested corrective measures:

### Increased cooperation between MS/AC and EC in the EU's bilateral and biregional dialogues

#### Extending MS/COM interaction within SOMs/GSOs

- Intensify SFIC's role as platform of coordination and preparation to foster a coordinated position of Europe vis-à-vis third countries
- Focus on the regional level (HLPD for Africa, EU-CELAC JIRI for CELAC)

#### Strengthening SFIC's role in relation to the EC's JSTCC

- Make full use of SFIC to provide MS/AC input to the Commission's Joint Committees for Science and Technology
- Consider a SFIC representation in the frame of the Joint Committee meetings with the EU's main partner countries

# Suggested corrective measures:

## Structure of the Framework programme

### Within Horizon 2020

- Increase visibility across thematic configurations
  - Systematic information points during programme committees);
  - Standing information points in the meeting of the strategic configuration
  - Use SFIC as a preparatory body whenever relevant

### Tentative perspectives for FP9

- Structural changes need to be considered (while maintaining the principle of mainstreaming), e.g. :
  - Dedicated INCO configuration on the strategic configuration
  - Dedicated common budget on which various DGs could draw



# Suggested corrective measures:

## Co-ownership between EU and third countries

### Rationale

- Lack of influence in the programming phase identified as a deterrent for third country involvement.
- Common definition of priorities should be favored (if/when it is also fully in the interest of EU stakeholders)

### More joint approaches

- International earmarking in clear coordination with third countries (as part of EU JSTCC meetings)
- Teaming (between Horizon 2020 projects and pre-existing projects funded by third countries)
- Coordinated calls (synchronisation of new calls)
- Joint calls (common organisation : rules, funding, etc.)

## Suggested corrective measures:

### Strengthening MS/AC-led S&T initiatives and exploiting synergies with third countries

#### SFIC Toolbox WG

- Mapping out MS/AC/COM initiatives in third countries : joint labs, representation bureaus, mobility schemes, networks, scholarships, etc.
- Providing information on mutual strategies in the form of an easy-to-use online solution

#### Information and good practice exchange

- Where relevant, moving from bilateral to multilateral approaches (greater coherence, better visibility, increased EU clout)

# Suggested corrective measures:

## Dedicated support for international cooperation

### Exploiting potential of specific measures for INCO

- BILAT/INCONET in FP7, INT-1/2 in Horizon 2020
- Even if gradually phased out, should be fully used in support of international cooperation, also in the frame of SFIC's activities

### Using the Service Facility for INCO

- Based on a framework contract and subsequent service requests
- Designed to become a main supporting tool for international cooperation
- Supposes strong MS/AC/COM interaction within SFIC to be efficient

# Suggested corrective measures:

## Science Diplomacy

### Open to the world

- Relevance of clear definitions and a debate between MS/AC/COM on the meaning of the concept for R&I cooperation
- Mandatory participation of third countries and punctual adaptations in the funding eligibility should be considered in some cases in order for Horizon 2020 to be an instrument for science diplomacy
- Synergies between Horizon 2020 and other EU Programmes (EuropeAid) should be more fully exploited

# To conclude

International cooperation with third countries

- much lower in Horizon 2020 than it was in average during FP7
- necessary for achieving some of the main goals defined for Horizon 2020

To reverse trend, corrective measures successfully implemented

- Need to be deepened and diversified
- Need for greater level of interaction between MS/AC and COM represents required to exploit complementarities

Key for

- SFIC's Work Programme 2017-18
- consideration in FP9 preparation.

# More information

Link to the SFIC Opinion :

<http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-1352-2017-INIT/en/pdf>

Link to the issue paper drafted by the Commission for the High Level Group:

[https://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/pdf/hlg\\_issue\\_papers.pdf#view=fit&page\\_mode=none](https://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/pdf/hlg_issue_papers.pdf#view=fit&page_mode=none)

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