

Input note

Topic:	EU Inc
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From:	CESAER

Key publications and references

As a network uniting over 50 leading universities of science and technology across Europe, CESAER contributes uniquely to Europe's innovation ecosystem through cutting-edge research, entrepreneurial education, and science-based deep tech ventures. Our input builds on:

- [Input to the public consultation on the European Research Area Act](#) (2026) – Calls for the ERA Act to strengthen the European R&I ecosystem by addressing fragmented regulatory frameworks, barriers to knowledge sharing and cooperation, and the conditions needed to realise the fifth freedom: the free circulation of researchers, scientific knowledge and technology.
- [Seizing Europe's innovation moment: Empowering science and technology through the Innovation Act](#) (2025) – Advocates for an ambitious European Innovation Act to remove structural barriers and enable science- and technology-based innovation to scale in Europe.
- [An integrated European ecosystem for research and technology infrastructures](#) (2025) – Calls for strategic investments and coordination to maximise the innovation and valorisation potential of research and technology infrastructures.
- [Competitiveness, reindustrialisation and strategic autonomy through leadership in science & technology](#) (2024) – Highlights the need for a balanced research and innovation ecosystem, ensuring that university-driven innovation contributes to Europe's economic competitiveness and resilience, and technological leadership.
- [Deep tech unlocked by universities of science & technology](#) (2023) – Identifies barriers to scaling deep tech innovations, including the need for better access to venture capital, improved regulatory frameworks, and stronger support for technology transfer.
- [Boosting disruptive innovation by fostering new mindsets and co-creating innovation](#) (2022) – Calls for an innovation-friendly regulatory environment that allows for high-risk, high-reward ventures, crucial for startup growth and scale-up success.
- [The role of universities of Science and Technology in innovation ecosystems: towards Mission 3.1](#) (2018) – Underlines the critical role of universities as key actors in fostering innovation ecosystems and supporting startups through access to infrastructure, knowledge, and research-driven entrepreneurship.

Overall assessment

CESAER welcomes the European Commission's proposal for an optional 28th regime corporate legal framework, known as EU Inc., as a timely contribution to a simpler, more integrated and more innovation-friendly Single Market. The proposal rightly responds to the fragmentation of national company law regimes, which continues to make it harder for companies to start, operate, attract investment and scale across borders.

We particularly welcome the Commission's intention to provide a common European company form with faster and cheaper digital registration, once-only submission of information, no minimum share capital, simplified governance and capital procedures, easier share transfers, employee stock options, modern financing instruments and simplified winding-up procedures. These elements can contribute to reducing administrative burdens and making Europe a more attractive place to start and scale companies.

From the perspective of universities of science and technology, EU Inc. should be understood not only as a company-law initiative, but as part of Europe's wider effort to close the innovation gap towards global competitors, realise the fifth freedom, strengthen knowledge valorisation and connect scientific excellence with industrial capability. Europe does not lack scientific excellence, talent or ideas. The challenge is that too many science-based ventures struggle to survive and grow in Europe because of fragmented regulatory frameworks, insufficient patient capital, complex IP and licensing arrangements, barriers to talent mobility, limited incentives for academic entrepreneurship, and difficulties accessing first customers, infrastructures and industrial partners.

This is particularly relevant for science-based startups, university spinouts and deep tech ventures. These companies often differ from generic startups: they may require longer development cycles, proof-of-concept and piloting support, access to research and technology infrastructures, strong links with universities and industry, complex IP arrangements, and patient capital before reaching market maturity. EU Inc. can help address some of these barriers, provided it is designed and implemented in a way that reflects how research-based innovation actually emerges.

CESAER's distinctive contribution to this debate is rooted in the role of universities of science and technology as engines of innovation, anchors of regional ecosystems, providers of research-based entrepreneurial talent, and generators of deep tech and disruptive technologies. Universities of science and technology do not operate in isolation: they work with startups, scaleups, mature industry, investors, public authorities, research and technology infrastructures, technology transfer offices, incubators and innovation districts. EU Inc. should therefore support the interaction between these actors rather than treating company creation as a standalone process.

The European Parliament has an opportunity to strengthen the Commission proposal so that EU Inc. becomes a practical tool for keeping Europe's science-based companies in Europe. The objective should not only be to make company formation faster, but to help promising ventures emerge, survive, de-risk, attract investment, collaborate with universities and industry, and scale within Europe. This will require careful attention to the risks that could weaken the added value of the regime, including fragmented implementation across Member States, limited uptake if EU Inc. does not offer clear advantages over national company forms, and insufficient legal certainty or investor confidence. A particular concern is dispute resolution: if EU Inc. disputes are handled through divergent national court systems without sufficient coordination, transparency or accumulation of case law, the regime may struggle to provide the predictability investors need, especially for higher-risk deep tech investments. Addressing these risks will

be essential for EU Inc. to become a practical, trusted and widely used instrument for Europe's innovation ecosystem.

In this spirit, CESAER encourages the European Parliament to ensure that EU Inc. remains simple, optional, trusted by investors, compatible with university spinout realities, respectful of university autonomy and national IP ownership models, and coherent with the wider European research and innovation agenda, including the ERA Act, the European Innovation Act, the Startup and Scale-up Strategy, FP10 and the future European Competitiveness Fund. Its success will also depend on whether it provides clear added value compared to existing national company forms. Founders, investors and institutions will need strong reasons to choose EU Inc. over well-established national regimes, requiring not only simplification, but also legal clarity, investor confidence and tangible advantages for cross-border operation, financing and scaling.

Core message

While EU Inc. is relevant for startups and SMEs more broadly, it should not be treated only as a simplification tool for company creation. It should be designed as part of Europe's wider competitiveness, innovation and industrial strategy, helping disruptive technologies developed in Europe to be financed, scaled, industrialised and retained in Europe.

A well-designed EU Inc. framework can contribute to closing the innovation gap by enabling science-based startups, university spinouts and deep tech ventures to translate excellent research into competitive companies, resilient value chains, technological leadership and long-term prosperity for Europe. In doing so, it would also create clearer and more predictable conditions for the wider startup and SME landscape across Europe.

Recommendations to the European Parliament

CESAER invites the European Parliament to strengthen the Commission proposal so that EU Inc. effectively supports Europe's research-based innovation capacity, while avoiding unnecessary scope creep. EU Inc. should remain what it is intended to be: a simple, optional and trusted European company form. Its added value will depend on whether this company form is compatible with the realities of science-based entrepreneurship, university spinouts and deep tech ventures, and whether it is coherently linked to core EU initiatives such as the ERA Act, the European Innovation Act, the Startup and Scale-up Strategy, FP10, EIC instruments and the future European Competitiveness Fund.

CESAER recommends that the European Parliament:

- **Explicitly recognise science-based startups, university spinouts and deep tech ventures in the EU Inc. framework.**

The proposal should make clear that EU Inc. is intended to support not only startups and scaleups in general, but also companies emerging from publicly funded research, universities, research-performing organisations and innovation ecosystems.

- **Preserve the core simplification elements of the Commission proposal while ensuring legal certainty and preventing national gold-plating.**

The added value of EU Inc. depends on fast, cheap, fully digital and predictable procedures across the Single Market. The Parliament should safeguard the 48-hour registration, maximum EUR 100 cost, once-only principle, digital-by-default approach, no minimum capital requirement and simplified procedures, while ensuring that Member States do not add unnecessary national requirements. Simplification should also be matched by legal certainty, including clarity on how

EU Inc. interacts with national company law in non-harmonised areas and how disputes are resolved across jurisdictions. Predictable dispute resolution will be essential to build trust among companies, investors, universities and founders, and to ensure that EU Inc. does not reproduce fragmentation through divergent national interpretations.

- **Make IP easier to use, license, value and commercialise across borders, without creating a parallel IP ownership regime.**

EU Inc. should support the commercialisation of research-based IP by improving legal certainty, investment readiness and cross-border usability. However, it should not create a separate IP ownership regime through company law. IP ownership rules determine who can claim, own, license and transfer intellectual assets, including those arising from publicly funded research. These rules are closely linked to national legal frameworks, employee invention rules, public funding obligations, university policies and institutional autonomy.

- **Connect EU Inc. with the wider European research and innovation agenda.**

EU Inc. should be coherent with the ERA Act, Startup and Scale-up Strategy, FP10 and the future European Competitiveness Fund. The Parliament should avoid the emergence of disconnected instruments and instead ensure that EU Inc. contributes to the full knowledge value chain.

- **Make talent provisions work for research-based innovation.**

Employee stock options, skills portability and mobility measures should be designed in a way that works for science-based ventures and deep tech teams, including researchers, founders, engineers, technical staff and innovation professionals moving between universities, startups and industry.

- **Strengthen access to patient capital, investor confidence and cross-border market access for deep tech.**

EU Inc. should be compatible with the financing needs of deep tech companies, including long development cycles, IP-rich assets, public-private co-investment, university seed funds, EIC/EIB/EIF instruments and future ECF support. However, for science-based and deep tech ventures, the core opportunity is also market access. Their first market, customer, industrial partner or procurement opportunity may be located in another Member State than the country where the company was created or where the technology was developed. EU Inc. should therefore help companies operate, attract investment and access first markets across the Single Market.

- **Ensure EU Inc. is interoperable with existing innovation and market-access instruments.**

EU Inc. should not duplicate the role of the EIC or other support schemes. However, as a European company form, it should be easily recognised and usable within existing EU and national instruments for funding, infrastructures, regulatory sandboxes, innovation procurement, certification support and first-customer opportunities.

- **Include a review clause that measures impact on science-based innovation, not only company creation.**

The success of EU Inc. should not be assessed only by the number of companies registered. The Parliament should ask the Commission to monitor whether EU Inc. helps university spinouts and deep tech ventures attract investment, retain talent, operate across borders, access support schemes and scale in Europe.

Suggested framing for the European Parliament

In concrete terms, CESAER encourages the European Parliament to amend or scrutinise the proposal with three questions in mind:

First, will EU Inc. work for companies emerging from Europe's scientific and technological excellence, including university spinouts and deep tech ventures?

Second, will EU Inc. genuinely reduce fragmentation and administrative burden across the Single Market, or will Member States be able to reintroduce complexity through additional national requirements?

Third, will EU Inc. strengthen the Single Market by making it easier for innovative companies to operate, attract investment and access relevant EU and national instruments across borders — including the EIC, future ECF instruments, public procurement and innovation support schemes — or will it remain only a simplified legal shell?

The following sections provide more detailed recommendations.

1. Ensure that EU Inc. works for science-based startups, university spinouts and deep tech ventures, and not only startups and scaleups in general.

This distinction matters. Companies emerging from scientific research and technology development often follow different pathways from generic startups. They may require longer development cycles, proof-of-concept and piloting phases, access to specialised research and technology infrastructures, complex IP and licensing arrangements, and strong links with universities, industry and investors before reaching market maturity. In many cases, they also need to de-risk disruptive technologies before they can be adopted by established companies, industrial partners or public buyers.

This reflects the role of universities of science and technology as engines of innovation and anchors of regional ecosystems. CESAER has long underlined that universities of science and technology generate scientific knowledge, educate entrepreneurial talent, create startups, collaborate with industry, provide access to infrastructures and help coordinate innovation ecosystems. Innovation is not a linear process, but depends on continuous interaction between researchers, developers, users, companies, investors and public authorities.

The Commission proposal would be strengthened by making this reality more visible. EU Inc. should be designed and monitored not only as a tool for company formation, but as a tool that helps research-based ventures emerge, survive, attract investment, collaborate and scale in Europe.

The European Parliament could therefore:

- add explicit references in the recitals to science-based startups, university spinouts and deep tech ventures as important potential users of EU Inc.;
- clarify that EU Inc. should be usable by companies emerging from universities, research-performing organisations, technology transfer offices, university incubators, accelerators and innovation ecosystems;
- ensure that the EU Inc. form remains compatible with the participation of universities, researchers, founders, investors, public actors and industrial partners in governance and shareholding arrangements, where appropriate and in line with national law;
- ask the Commission to monitor the uptake of EU Inc. by science-based startups, university spinouts and deep tech ventures as part of the implementation review;
- ensure that EU Inc. is clearly recognised and usable within existing EU innovation support schemes, including the EIC, future ECF instruments and relevant lab-to-market initiatives, without duplicating their role or expanding EU Inc. beyond its purpose as an optional European company form.

Suggested wording for the Parliament to consider:

The EU Inc. regime should support not only startups and scaleups in general, but also science-based startups, university spinouts and deep tech ventures emerging from publicly funded research, universities, research-performing organisations and innovation ecosystems.

Possible recital idea:

Recognising the contribution of universities, research-performing organisations and innovation ecosystems to Europe's competitiveness, the EU Inc. framework should facilitate the creation and scaling of companies based on scientific knowledge and technology, including university spinouts and deep tech ventures, while respecting national legal frameworks and institutional autonomy.

2. Preserve the core simplification elements and prevent national gold-plating

CESAER supports the Commission's ambition to make EU Inc. fast, simple, digital and predictable. The added value of the proposal depends on whether founders and companies can genuinely use one recognisable European company form across the Single Market without facing additional layers of national complexity.

The Parliament should therefore safeguard the core simplification elements of the Commission proposal, including digital registration, the once-only principle, low registration costs, no minimum capital requirement, simplified governance procedures, easier share transfers and reduced administrative formalities.

This is particularly important for science-based startups, university spinouts and deep tech ventures. These companies already face high levels of uncertainty linked to technology development, IP, regulation, investment and market access. They should not also have to navigate unnecessary duplication of administrative procedures across Member States. For research-based ventures, simplification is not only about convenience: it can directly affect whether companies have the time, capacity and resources to survive the early stages of development.

At the same time, simplification should not undermine the diversity of Europe's innovation actors, university autonomy or legitimate safeguards. The objective should be to reduce unnecessary administrative burden while ensuring legal certainty, trust and compatibility with existing national and institutional frameworks.

The European Parliament could therefore:

- preserve the Commission's proposed commitments on fast, low-cost and fully digital registration;
- ensure that the once-only principle is applied as broadly and effectively as possible across relevant company information procedures;
- prevent Member States from adding unnecessary additional formalities, in-person requirements, duplicative documentation, excessive fees or disproportionate local procedures;
- ensure that EU Inc. companies can rely on digital tools, including the EU central register, electronic identification and future business wallet solutions, in a user-friendly way;
- request clear guidance from the Commission and Member States to ensure consistent implementation across the Single Market;

- ask the Commission to monitor whether Member States introduce additional requirements that undermine the simplification objective;
- ensure that implementation avoids shifting new administrative burdens onto universities, technology transfer offices or founders involved in university spinout creation.

Suggested wording for the Parliament to consider:

The EU Inc. framework should remain fast, simple, digital and predictable across the Union. Member States should not introduce additional formalities, costs or procedural requirements that undermine the EU-wide character and simplification objective of the regime.

Possible recital idea:

In order to deliver on its objective of reducing fragmentation in the Single Market, the EU Inc. regime should be implemented consistently across Member States and should avoid unnecessary administrative burdens, while preserving legal certainty, transparency and relevant safeguards.

Possible review-clause idea:

The Commission should assess whether the EU Inc. framework has effectively reduced administrative burdens for startups, scaleups, university spinouts and deep tech ventures, including by monitoring registration times, costs, digital accessibility, cross-border usability and any additional national requirements introduced in practice.

3. Make IP easier to use, license, value and commercialise across borders, without creating a parallel IP ownership regime.

For science-based startups, university spinouts and deep tech ventures, intellectual property is often one of the company's most important assets. EU Inc. should therefore not leave IP aside. On the contrary, it should help make IP easier to use, license, value and commercialise across borders.

At the same time, EU Inc. should not create a parallel IP ownership regime through the back door of company law. The Commission proposal introduces EU Inc. as an optional European company form alongside national company forms. IP ownership rules are different in nature: they define who can claim, own, license and transfer intellectual assets in the first place. This is particularly complex for research-based IP, which may involve publicly funded research, employee invention rules, university policies, publication rights, institutional autonomy, public-interest obligations and national legal frameworks.

If EU Inc. were to introduce separate rules on IP ownership, the ownership of research-based IP could vary depending on whether a company is incorporated as an EU Inc. or under a national form. This could create legal uncertainty rather than reduce it, especially for university spinouts, investors, founders and technology transfer offices.

The objective should therefore be clear: EU Inc. should facilitate the cross-border use and commercialisation of IP, while remaining without prejudice to national and institutional IP ownership frameworks. This should build on ongoing EU lab-to-market and knowledge valorisation work, rather than duplicate it or create a separate IP framework under EU Inc.

The European Parliament could therefore:

- clarify that the EU Inc. framework is without prejudice to national and institutional rules on IP ownership, licensing and the management of publicly funded research;

- ensure that EU Inc. does not create a parallel IP ownership regime through company law, as this could create legal uncertainty if ownership of research-based IP were to vary depending on whether a company is incorporated as an EU Inc. or under a national company form;
- ensure that EU Inc. remains compatible with different university spinout models, including licensing-based models, equity-based models, co-ownership arrangements, university holding structures and other national or institutional approaches;
- make clear that EU Inc. should facilitate the use, licensing, valuation and commercialisation of IP across borders, rather than harmonising substantive IP ownership rules;
- ensure that EU Inc. is coherent with, and can make practical use of, ongoing EU lab-to-market work, including tools, templates or blueprints developed to support startup-friendly licensing, transfer, revenue-sharing, equity participation and IP negotiation practices;
- avoid duplication between EU Inc., the European Innovation Act, the ERA Act and existing Horizon Europe initiatives on knowledge valorisation, technology transfer and lab-to-market pathways;
- encourage the Commission to involve universities, technology transfer offices, founders, investors, Member States and public research organisations when assessing whether EU Inc. creates any practical barriers or opportunities for research-based IP commercialisation;
- support flexible and effective use of IP, including licensing, co-ownership and valuation, without imposing a uniform ownership model across Europe;
- ensure that any future Commission guidance linked to EU Inc. builds on existing work and focuses on practical interoperability, legal certainty and investment readiness for science-based startups, university spinouts and deep tech ventures

Suggested wording for the Parliament to consider:

The EU Inc. framework should facilitate the creation and scaling of companies based on publicly funded research by making intellectual assets easier to use, license, value and commercialise across borders, while remaining without prejudice to national and institutional rules on IP ownership, university autonomy and public funding obligations.

Possible recital idea:

The use of the EU Inc. form should be compatible with different models for the ownership, licensing and valorisation of intellectual assets, including those arising from publicly funded research. The EU Inc. framework should support legal certainty and investment readiness for research-based companies without creating a parallel intellectual property ownership regime.

4. Connect EU Inc. with the wider European research and innovation agenda

CESAER encourages the European Parliament to ensure that EU Inc. is not developed in isolation from the wider European research, innovation and competitiveness agenda.

The Commission proposal is formally a company-law initiative, but its political significance is much broader. EU Inc. is part of the same strategic context as the European Innovation Act, the ERA Act, the Startup and Scale-up Strategy, FP10, the EIC, the Savings and Investments Union and the future European Competitiveness Fund. These initiatives all respond to the same underlying challenge: Europe generates

excellent scientific knowledge and technology, but too often struggles to translate this into scaling companies, industrial capability and societal impact.

EU Inc. can contribute to realising the **fifth freedom** by helping companies based on scientific knowledge and technology move, operate and scale more easily across the Single Market. However, this will only happen if the framework is coherent with policies on knowledge valorisation, research careers, mobility, research and technology infrastructures, innovation funding and industrial collaboration.

The European Parliament should therefore help ensure that EU Inc. becomes part of the full knowledge value chain, rather than a disconnected legal form.

The European Parliament could therefore:

- add a recital clarifying that EU Inc. contributes to Europe’s wider innovation, competitiveness and fifth-freedom agenda;
- ensure coherence with the ERA Act, European Innovation Act, Startup and Scale-up Strategy, FP10, EIC instruments and the future European Competitiveness Fund;
- ask the Commission to assess how EU Inc. interacts with EU instruments supporting startups, scaleups, research commercialisation and deep tech;
- request that EU Inc. implementation be coordinated with future Innovation Act measures on regulatory sandboxes, technology transfer, IP, procurement and access to infrastructures;
- ensure that EU Inc. does not duplicate or contradict existing and upcoming EU measures on knowledge valorisation, research careers, state aid, public procurement or innovation funding;
- encourage structured dialogue with universities, technology transfer offices, investors, startups, scaleups and industry when developing implementing guidance.

Suggested wording for the Parliament to consider:

EU Inc. should be implemented coherently with the ERA Act, the European Innovation Act, the Startup and Scale-up Strategy, FP10, EIC instruments and the future European Competitiveness Fund, with a view to reducing fragmentation across the full research and innovation continuum.

Possible recital idea:

The EU Inc. framework should contribute to the Union’s wider objective of strengthening the European Research Area, realising the fifth freedom and improving the conditions for knowledge valorisation, science-based entrepreneurship and the scaling of innovative companies in Europe.

5. Make talent provisions work for research-based innovation

CESAER welcomes the Commission’s attention to employee stock options and talent attraction. For science-based startups, university spinouts and deep tech ventures, talent is one of the most decisive success factors. These companies need to attract and retain researchers, engineers, technical specialists, founders, entrepreneurial managers and innovation professionals, often while competing with larger companies and global innovation hubs.

This is particularly important because research-based innovation often depends on mobility between universities, startups, scaleups and industry. Researchers may contribute to a spinout while remaining connected to a university. PhD candidates, postdoctoral researchers, engineers or technical staff may move between academic and entrepreneurial environments. Founders may need to combine scientific expertise,

entrepreneurial skills and industry knowledge. EU Inc. should therefore support, rather than complicate, these mobility pathways.

Employee stock options can be an important tool for attracting talent where early-stage companies cannot compete on salary. However, the scheme must be predictable, usable across borders and suitable for the realities of science-based ventures. It should also connect with wider EU efforts on research careers, skills portability, industrial doctorates, intersectoral mobility and entrepreneurial training.

While taxation largely falls outside the scope of the EU Inc. Regulation, divergent national tax treatment of employee stock options may affect the practical attractiveness of the scheme for founders, employees and mobile talent. This should be addressed through coherent complementary work at EU and Member State level, without expanding EU Inc. beyond its core purpose as an optional European company form.

The European Parliament could therefore:

- preserve the principle that employee stock options should not create tax or administrative burdens before employees have realised actual value;
- ensure that the EU employee stock option scheme is simple, predictable and usable across borders;
- ask the Commission to assess whether the scheme works in practice for university spinouts and deep tech ventures;
- encourage broad consideration of the talent profiles needed for science-based innovation, including researchers, engineers, technical staff, founders and innovation professionals;
- ensure coherence with EU initiatives on research careers, skills portability, industrial doctorates and intersectoral mobility;
- encourage guidance for universities and spinouts on how employee stock options can be used responsibly and compatibly with institutional rules.

Suggested wording for the Parliament to consider:

The EU employee stock option scheme should be designed to support the attraction and retention of the talent needed for science-based innovation, including researchers, engineers, founders, technical specialists and innovation professionals working across universities, startups and industry.

Possible recital idea:

Attracting and retaining highly skilled talent is essential for the success of science-based startups, university spinouts and deep tech ventures. The EU Inc. framework should therefore facilitate simple and predictable employee participation schemes while supporting mobility across the research and innovation ecosystem.

6. Strengthen access to patient capital, investor confidence and cross-border market access for deep tech.

CESAER encourages the European Parliament to ensure that EU Inc. supports the financing needs of science-based and deep tech companies.

Deep tech ventures often require longer development timelines, higher upfront investment, specialised facilities, regulatory approval, certification, piloting and sustained de-risking before they generate revenue. This makes them particularly vulnerable to Europe's fragmented and risk-averse capital environment. A

simplified European company form can help build investor confidence, but it will not be sufficient unless it is compatible with the financing realities of deep tech.

CESAER welcomes elements of the Commission proposal that can make EU Inc. more attractive to investors, including simplified share transfers, digital procedures, flexible governance, modern financing instruments and standardised contracts. The European Parliament should preserve these elements while ensuring that the framework works for IP-rich companies, university spinouts, public-private co-investment and companies receiving EU innovation funding.

Investor confidence depends not only on the formal features of a company form, but also on the predictability of outcomes when disputes arise. One of the strengths of well-established investment jurisdictions is the accumulation of specialised case law, which allows investors to better assess risks. If EU Inc. disputes are handled separately across national systems without sufficient coordination or visibility of case law, this could limit the trust needed for cross-border investment. This is particularly important for deep tech ventures, where the technological, regulatory and financial risks are already high.

The European Parliament could therefore:

- strengthen legal certainty and investor confidence by ensuring that disputes involving EU Inc. companies are handled in a predictable, transparent and coherent way across the Single Market, including through specialised expertise, accessible case law and mechanisms to avoid divergent national interpretations;
- assess whether the proposed dispute-resolution model is sufficient to create the level of predictability expected by investors, especially in deep tech, where higher technological, regulatory and financial risks make legal certainty particularly important;
- preserve flexibility for different share classes, digital share issuance, digital share transfers and modern early-stage financing instruments;
- ensure that EU Inc. is compatible with EIC funding, EIB and EIF instruments, university seed funds, public-private co-investment, blended finance and future ECF support;
- ensure that EU Inc. is coherent with existing and forthcoming lab-to-market tools and guidance, including on investment readiness, licensing, equity participation and IP negotiation, rather than duplicating them under the EU Inc. framework;
- support clearer guidance on the valuation and financing of IP-rich companies, without imposing uniform IP valuation models;
- ask the Commission to monitor whether EU Inc. improves cross-border investment in startups, scaleups, university spinouts and deep tech companies, including by assessing whether investors consider the framework predictable, trusted and usable in practice.

Suggested wording for the Parliament to consider:

The EU Inc. framework should provide not only simplified company formation, but also predictable legal outcomes. The Parliament should ensure that dispute resolution for EU Inc. companies supports coherent interpretation, specialised expertise and accessible case law across the Single Market, so that founders and investors can trust the regime in practice.

Possible recital idea:

The EU Inc. framework should contribute to improving investor confidence in European innovative companies, including those emerging from publicly funded research, by providing predictable, flexible and digitally enabled procedures for investment, governance and share transfers.

7. Ensure EU Inc. is interoperable with existing innovation and market-access instruments.

CESAER encourages the European Parliament to recognise that a company form alone will not solve Europe's scale-up challenge. Science-based startups, university spinouts and deep tech ventures need more than a legal shell: they need ecosystems that help them develop, test, validate, finance and deploy their technologies. Many deep tech companies also face fragmented sector-specific rules across the Single Market, for example in areas such as fusion, advanced materials, AI, quantum, biotechnology and clean technologies. EU Inc. can help reduce company-law friction, but it should be complemented by wider efforts to address regulatory fragmentation, improve market access and connect companies to infrastructures, procurement and first customers.

Universities of science and technology play a central role in these ecosystems. They provide scientific knowledge, entrepreneurial talent, infrastructures, technology transfer expertise, industry collaboration, piloting environments and links to regional and European innovation networks. However, the distance between research, entrepreneurship, industry, investors and public buyers remains too large. EU Inc. should help reduce that distance.

This is where the Parliament can make the proposal more useful in practice. EU Inc. companies should be able to connect more easily with research and technology infrastructures, regulatory sandboxes, procurement opportunities, certification support, innovation funding and first customers. This would make EU Inc. not only a company-law tool, but a practical entry point into the European innovation ecosystem.

This does not mean that EU Inc. should become a new funding or ecosystem-support instrument. Those functions sit primarily with the EIC, future ECF instruments, the Innovation Act, national schemes and procurement frameworks. The role of EU Inc. should be to make it easier for companies to use these instruments across borders through a trusted and recognisable European company form.

The European Parliament could therefore:

- call on the Commission to connect EU Inc. with a digital innovation navigator or one-stop shop for EU and national support schemes;
- ensure that EU Inc. companies can more easily identify and access relevant EU funding, EIC instruments, EIB and EIF support, procurement opportunities, regulatory sandboxes and research and technology infrastructures;
- encourage member states to recognise EU Inc. companies in startup and scaleup support schemes;
- ensure that EU Inc. companies are not disadvantaged in cross-border public procurement or innovation procurement because they use a European company form;
- ask the Commission to issue guidance on how universities and research and technology infrastructures can support EU Inc. companies in a state aid-compliant way;
- link EU Inc. implementation with future Innovation Act measures on regulatory testbeds, public procurement, certification, first-customer mechanisms and market access;
- encourage public authorities to use innovation procurement to support the deployment of technologies emerging from universities and deep tech ventures.

Suggested wording for the Parliament to consider:

EU Inc. should be accompanied by practical mechanisms connecting companies to funding, infrastructures, procurement, regulatory sandboxes, certification support and first-customer opportunities across the Single Market.

Possible recital idea:

In order to support the scaling of innovative companies, the EU Inc. framework should be connected with the wider innovation ecosystem, including universities, research and technology infrastructures, regulatory sandboxes, public procurement, investors, industrial partners and EU funding instruments.

8. Include a review clause focused on science-based innovation

CESAER encourages the European Parliament to ensure that the success of EU Inc. is assessed not only by the number of companies registered, but by whether it helps Europe retain and scale science-based companies.

A high number of registrations would only be one dimension to show that EU Inc. is contributing to Europe's competitiveness or innovation capacity. An additional key question is whether EU Inc. helps companies emerge from Europe's research base, attract investment, retain talent, collaborate with universities and industry, operate across borders and scale in Europe.

The Parliament should therefore strengthen the review and monitoring framework. This would also help identify whether member states are implementing the regime consistently or whether new forms of fragmentation are appearing in practice.

The European Parliament could therefore ask the Commission to monitor:

- uptake of EU Inc. by startups, scaleups, university spinouts, science-based startups and deep tech ventures;
- use of EU Inc. by companies emerging from publicly funded research;
- impact on cross-border company formation, operation and scaling;
- impact on cross-border investment and investor confidence;
- use and effectiveness of employee stock options;
- compatibility with university IP and licensing practices;
- access to public procurement, innovation procurement and first-customer opportunities;
- access to EU innovation funding, EIC, EIB, EIF and future ECF instruments;
- any additional national requirements that undermine simplification;
- barriers encountered by founders, universities, technology transfer offices, investors and companies;
- whether EU Inc. contributes to keeping science-based ventures and high-potential companies in Europe.

Suggested wording for the Parliament to consider:

The Commission should assess not only the number of EU Inc. companies created, but also the extent to which the regime supports science-based startups, university spinouts and deep tech ventures in attracting

investment, retaining talent, operating across borders, accessing innovation ecosystems and scaling in Europe.

Possible review-clause idea:

The Commission's review should include an assessment of the uptake and impact of EU Inc. among science-based startups, university spinouts and deep tech ventures, including its contribution to reducing fragmentation, attracting investment, enabling talent participation, supporting knowledge valorisation and facilitating scale-up within the Union.

Concluding message

EU Inc. can be an important step towards a simpler and more integrated Single Market, but its value will ultimately depend on whether it helps Europe address a broader strategic challenge: turning world-class science, technology and talent into competitive companies, resilient value chains and long-term prosperity.

For Europe, this is not only a startup policy question. It is about whether disruptive technologies developed in Europe can also be scaled, financed, industrialised and retained in Europe. A well-designed EU Inc. framework can contribute to this by reducing fragmentation, strengthening investor confidence, supporting talent attraction and helping promising ventures grow across borders.

The European Parliament has an opportunity to ensure that EU Inc. supports this wider objective as an important enabling framework within Europe's broader competitiveness agenda. EU Inc. cannot, and should not be expected to, resolve all structural barriers affecting Europe's innovation ecosystem. However, when combined with complementary measures on funding, talent, infrastructure, procurement and innovation policy, it can help create clearer and more predictable conditions for science-based startups, university spinouts and deep tech ventures to grow in Europe. In this way, EU Inc. can contribute to the technological leadership, competitiveness and strategic autonomy Europe needs for the future.

Contact

For more information, please [contact](#) the CESAER Secretariat

