

HIGH COUNCIL DECISION No. 2/2026

of 7 May 2026

amending High Council Decision No. 6/2015 of 4 December 2015 laying down the European University Institute's Financial Rules as amended and supplemented

THE HIGH COUNCIL

Having regard to the Convention setting up a European University Institute (hereinafter "the Institute"), and in particular Article 6(5)(a), and Article 26(1) thereof;

Having regard to the discussions held at the High Council meeting of 5 December 2025 concerning the establishment of an Audit Committee.

WHEREAS:

- (1) The concept of external audit committees emerged as a response to increasing demand for accountability and transparency and they have become a fundamental element of good governance in organisations across various sectors and jurisdictions;
- (2) The establishment of an audit committee aligns with international corporate governance guidelines, including those of the OECD, the Institute of Internal Auditors and the Institute of Corporate Governance, and may be adapted to meet other requirements;
- (3) The Institute has assessed the need to establish a dedicated audit committee as an independent advisory and oversight body of the High Council that provides a structured, systematic oversight of the Institute's governance, risk management, and internal control practices to enhance confidence in the integrity of these practices and trust in financial and performance information.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Financial Rules laid down in High Council Decision No. 6/2015 of 4 December 2015 as amended and supplemented (hereinafter "the Financial Rules"), are amended as follows:

- (1) Article 60 is amended:

- a) The wording of paragraph 3 is replaced by the following:

The internal auditor shall report to the Audit Committee, as established by Article 94, Title X of this Financial Rules, and to the Institute on their findings and recommendations. The Institute shall ensure that action is taken on recommendations resulting from audits and shall inform the Audit Committee accordingly. The internal auditor shall also submit to the Audit Committee and to the Institute the annual audit programme and the annual internal audit report indicating the number and type of internal audits carried out, the recommendations made and the action taken on those recommendations.

- b) The wording of paragraph 4 is replaced by the following:

Each year the Institute shall forward the annual internal audit report to the Audit Committee and to the discharge authority.

- (2) Article 66 is hereby deleted.

- (3) Article 87 is amended:

- a) The wording of paragraph 1 is replaced as follows:

The High Council shall appoint under the conditions provided for in Article 23 (1) of the Convention either two natural persons of different nationalities or an audit firm for the annual audit. The appointment shall be on the basis of the Audit Committee proposal.

- b) The wording of paragraph 4 is replaced as follows:

The auditors shall take part in the meetings of the Audit Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee dealing with the examination of their report.

- (4) Article 93 is replaced as follows:

On the basis of the recommendation by the Audit Committee and the opinion delivered by the Budget and Finance Committee, the High Council shall take a decision discharging the President for the implementation of the budget in the terms foreseen in Article 23 of the Convention, that is, that all revenue has been received and all expenditure incurred in a lawful and regular manner and that the financial management has been sound.

The President shall take all appropriate steps to act on the observations in the discharge decision.

- (5) A new "Title X – Audit Committee" is inserted into the Financial Rules, replacing the existing Title X ("Final Provisions").

- (6) The new "Title X – Audit Committee" includes a new Article 94 which reads as follows:

1. An Audit Committee is hereby established as an independent advisory and oversight body of the High Council. It shall not exercise executive, managerial, or operational responsibilities within the Institute.
 2. The Audit Committee shall be composed of five independent non-executive members.
 3. The members of the Audit Committee, including the Chair, shall be appointed by the High Council for a term of three years, renewable.
 4. The Audit Committee shall have full and unrestricted access to all information necessary to fulfil its responsibilities and shall report to the High Council on its activities, findings and observations.
 5. The Chart of the Audit Committee is approved by the High Council.
- (7) The previous “Title X – Final provisions” is hereby renumbered accordingly as “Title XI – Final provisions”; consequently, Articles 94 and 95 are renumbered as Articles 95 and 96, respectively.
- (8) The new “Title XI – Final provisions” includes Article 95 which reads as follows:
1. Each Contracting State shall bear the travel and subsistence expenses incurred by its representatives when taking part in the work of the Institute’s bodies and committees.
 2. Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by Contracting States’ representatives for special duties assigned to them by the Institute shall be refunded to them on the basis of the regulations governing the reimbursement of travel and per diem costs for visiting professors; travel expenses shall not be refunded by the Institute if the mission immediately precedes or follows a meeting held by one of the bodies of committees of the Institute at the same location, which the persons concerned are attending as representatives of their Contracting States.

- (9) The new “Title XI – Final provisions” includes Article 96 which reads as follows:

The President shall be responsible for implementing these Financial Rules; he shall adopt their implementing rules and communicate them to the High Council for information.

Article 2

This decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

Done in Florence, 7 May 2026

For the High Council

The President

[original signed]

Remus Pricopie