

# Result-based biennium workplan 2025–2026 for the European subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation support Centre (TSCC)

Prepared by the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) through the EC Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (EC KCBD), in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN Med) and the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences (RBINS).

## Introductory note

The European subregional TSCC (European TSCC) is coordinated by the European Commission Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (EC KCBD) in partnership with IUCN Med and RBINS, and supports 45 Parties in Europe in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in line with TSCC core functions detailed in Decision 15/8 paragraph 26<sup>1</sup>.

**European TSCC coordination** mobilises three complementary partners:

- the **European Commission** Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (EC KCBD). The organisational structure of the TSCC is delegated to the EC KCBD Secretariat hosted by the Joint Research Centre (JRC)<sup>2</sup>. The EC KCBD brings together several services of the European Commission, including DG ENV, and the European Environment Agency (EEA).
- **The Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN Med)** brings expertise around protected areas. IUCN Med acts as a node facilitating the involvement of Parties of the Southern European region, while also leveraging participation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (IUCN ECARO) to support representation and engagement of those Balkan states that are included in the selection of Parties assigned to the European TSCC.
- **The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS)**, building on its long-standing role in biodiversity monitoring, science-policy interface, research, and policy support at national and international levels, contributes as a key partner to the European SCC through its scientific expertise and institutional networks. RBINS supports collaboration among Western European Parties assigned to the European TSCC, while promoting synergies with relevant EU-level processes and platforms. RBINS also works with TSCCs in Africa, in particular with COMIFAC in Central Africa (Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale) and Ecological Monitoring Centre in West Africa (Centre de Suivi Écologique, CSE).

The European TSCC fulfils the following functions:

- Assisting the Parties to be supported by the TSCC for implementation of the KM-GBF,
- Coordinating and facilitating scientific, technical, and capacity-building support,
- Facilitating access and utilisation of knowledge products, tools, and best practices,
- Maintaining a distributed and inclusive network of expert Knowledge hubs,
- Liaising with institutions or mechanisms recognised by the CBD Secretariat – or otherwise agreed – acting as facilitators for submission of structured support requests (Request Support Channels) and ensuring transparent processing and allocation of these requests,
- Ensuring collaboration with relevant international organisations and stakeholders.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/tsc/tscm/subregionalcentres/functions>

<sup>2</sup> The EC KCBD Steering Group is chaired by DG ENV and the JRC, and includes eight other services of the European Commission: DG RTD, DG AGRI, DG MARE, DG FISMA, DG INTPA, DG SANTE, DG CLIMA and ESTAT. It also includes the European Environment Agency (EEA).

The European TSCC operational model relies on a decentralised coordinated **network of Knowledge Hubs**, each aligned with one of the 23 targets of the KM-GBF. Each hub will provide four key services in line with their specific mandate and capacity:

1. Access to best available knowledge and science, methods, tools, and, when possible, technologies and data,
2. Capacity building and development,
3. Technical and scientific cooperation for policy implementation (matchmaking),
4. Demand-driven technical and scientific assistance to Parties and major Stakeholder groups as well as guidance for methodology alignment.

Most of the work will be based on the requests sent in by Parties, addressing their identified needs as part of a demand-driven process. The CO-OP4CBD project<sup>3</sup> published two reports end of 2024, providing a preliminary overview of capacity needed to deliver scientific and technical cooperation as well as in relation to the monitoring framework. Capacity needs have been assessed based on 2023 National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), two questionnaires shared with Parties, CO-OP4CBD project feedback and national targets entered in the CBD Online Reporting Tool. Reported capacity development needs broadly fall into four categories: knowledge, management, policy and cooperation. However, most Parties did not explicitly include capacity development needs in the NBSAPs. The seventh national reports to the CBD to be submitted by Parties by 26 February 2026 constitute an additional resource to identify gaps and related needs for capacity building and development reported by Parties.

## Overall objective

The overall goal of the European TSCC is to assist Parties in Europe in implementing the KM-GBF and reaching its targets, through a demand-driven approach. More specifically this requires operationalising a visible, responsive, sustainable and demand-driven support mechanism that strengthens technical and scientific cooperation, capacity development, and knowledge sharing. The 45 Parties tentatively assigned to the European subregional TSCC<sup>4</sup> are:

- 27 European Union (EU) Member States, and the EU,
- the 9 EU candidate countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine),
- the 4 member countries of the European Free Trade Association, also members of the European Environment Agency (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland),
- Andorra, Monaco, San Marino and the United Kingdom.

This concise result-based workplan for the European TSCC for the period 2025–2026 has been prepared in line with COP decisions 15/8 and 16/3, and the *Draft First Biennium Workplan Guidance 20251205*. It follows the structure and terminology of Annex 1 of the guidance and applies a milestone-based approach, reflecting the initial operationalisation phase of the TSCC.

The European TSCC will also promote collaboration with other TSCCs, in particular North-South, and, as appropriate, with relevant initiatives, in order to facilitate and strengthen technical and scientific cooperation at all levels in accordance with decision 15/8, paragraph 26.

## Illustrative outcomes for the biennium

Below is a summary of major expected outcomes, outputs and activities to be achieved over the 2025-2026 biennium. Please refer to the associated result-based workplan table for more detail (Annex I).

The first expected outcome is the **successful setting up and operationalisation of an effective TSCC for the European sub-region**. This requires designing and putting in practice effective systems for management (1.1), planning (1.2), coordination (1.3) and inclusive governance (1.4), which constitute the four expected outputs. This will be progressively built up until Autumn 2026. Selected key critical activities in this biennium involve the signature of a host agreement between the CBD and

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<sup>3</sup> <https://coop4cbd.eu>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/tsc/tscm/subregionalcentres>

European Commission (1.3.1), and of a tripartite collaboration arrangement between all three partners part of the European TSCC Coordination Group (1.1.2).

The second expected outcome is linked to **visibility and responsiveness of the newly set up European TSCC**. Four outputs are expected to achieve this outcome: having an operational single-entry-point (2.1), an established responsive demand-driven support system (2.2), established communication and engagement with Parties and Stakeholder groups (2.3), and promotion and positioning beyond TSCC Parties and Stakeholder groups (2.4). Selected key activities in this biennium include designing an interaction framework between TSCC and Parties (2.2.1), in line with a demand-driven process, allowing for identification of a range of options tailored to the needs of the Parties.

The third expected outcome is linked to **partnership development and Knowledge hub coordination**. The European TSCC relies on a decentralised coordinated network of Knowledge hubs, as a means to leverage existing platforms and networks, as well as scientific and technical expertise anchored in existing resources and ongoing processes and initiatives. Expected outputs are a mapping of available expertise for each KM-GBF target (3.1), established operational Knowledge hubs, acting as support suppliers and/or brokers (3.2), stronger partnerships within the remit of the European TSCC (3.3), strengthened coordination within the global TSCC network (3.4), and sustainability and engagement (3.5). Selected key activities in this biennium are the setting up of pilot Knowledge hubs under the remit of the European TSCC Coordination Group in a first phase (3.2.1), before scaling them up and out in a second phase (3.2.2), and identification of possible resources to be mobilised within the subregion (3.5.1).

The fourth expected outcome focuses on the **delivery of technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer to the Parties**. Expected outputs are a strengthened and expanded capacity for Parties and major Stakeholder groups (4.1), demand-driven support provided to Parties and Stakeholder groups for KM-GBF implementation across the subregion (4.2), improved use by Parties of the CBD clearing-house mechanism in relation to KM-GBF targets (4.3). Selected key activities in this biennium include mobilisation of capacity development tools such as webinars, guidance notes, case examples, or facilitation of development of joint activities between Parties/Stakeholder groups (4.1.1), and provision, via the Knowledge hubs, of request-based technical and science cooperation support to Parties and major Stakeholder groups across the subregion (4.2.1).

## **Operational considerations**

Decisions of the European TSCC Coordination Group are taken by consensus between all three coordination partner organisations. Specific roles, responsibilities and timelines are still under discussion within the European TSCC Coordination Group at this stage.

## **Resource requirements and budget**

By default, the work, including that of the Knowledge Hubs, is conducted mostly through in-kind contributions, leveraging and capitalising on existing structures and networks, supplemented, when possible, by potential resources to be mobilised within the subregion. Online meeting tools will be mobilised as appropriate, and options for in-persons discussions will be explored when opportunities arise.

## **Assumptions and risk management**

It is assumed that Parties and interested major Stakeholder groups will be contributing the design of the demand-driven interaction framework, to best guide them to answer their capacity needs.

It is assumed that in-kind expertise will be available when required, to provide a timely answer tailored to needs of the Parties.

It is assumed that Parties in a position to do so, will contribute and/or cover the costs associated with answering a request.

It is assumed that the current conflict in Ukraine will affect the Party's capacity needs and requests differently than other Parties.

Major risks to the TSCC success are linked to fast-changing political priorities, limited short-term capacity of Parties due to reporting workload or lack of capacity need assessments; uneven demand across KM-GBF targets, and limited availability of in-kind and financial resources.

Risk mitigation strategies have been embedded into the design of the workplan. These are the adoption of a demand-driven process, phased deployment and a focus on learning-by-doing, building from past experience and existing institutions and networks, and identification of possible resources to be mobilised in the subregion. This approach should allow for mitigation of risks associated with current geopolitical instabilities in the subregion.

## Annex I: Result-based workplan matrix for the European TSCC

| The overall goal of the European subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centre is to help Parties in Europe implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and reach its targets |   |  |                                 |                     |   |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Outcomes   | Outputs   | Activities   | Indicators                      | Baseline            | Timebound targets (2025–2026)   |
| <p>Outcome 1<br/><b>Successful operationalisation of an effective TSC support centre</b></p> <p>The European TSCC achieves core operational milestones and is established as a functional support centre.</p>    | <p>Output 1.1<br/><b>Systems of effective MANAGEMENT in place</b></p> | <p>Activity 1.1.1<br/><b>Appoint coordinator</b></p>                                     | Coordinator in place            | 0                   | <p>* Appointment of European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) through the EC Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (EC KCBD), in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN Med) and the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences (RBINS) in <b>Spring 2025</b></p> |
|  |   | <p>Activity 1.1.2<br/><b>Establish a functional European TSCC Coordination Group</b></p> | Full coordination unit in place | Ad hoc arrangements | <p>* Tripartite Collaboration Arrangement by <b>February 19th, 2026 (SBI6)</b></p> <p>* European TSCC concept note and corresponding annexes defining internal roles, responsibilities, and workflows finalised by <b>March 15th, 2026</b></p>  |
|  |   | <p>Activity 1.1.3<br/><b>Ensure effective coordination</b></p>                           | At least 4 meetings per year    | 0                   | <p>* Meetings starting in <b>May 2025</b></p>   |

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| <b>Outcomes</b> | <b>Outputs</b>  | <b>Activities</b>   | <b>Indicators</b>  | <b>Baseline</b> | <b>Timebound targets (2025–2026)</b>  |
|-----------------|---|---|--|-----------------|---|
|                 | Output 1.2<br><b>Systems of effective PLANNING in place</b>     | Activity 1.2.1<br><b>Conduct an operational assessment, identifying operational realities and capacities of the European TSCC</b> | Operational realities and capacities of the European TSCC as well as gaps identified | 0               | * Preliminary operational participatory assessment of the European TSCC for establishment of a monitoring framework conducted before the launch of the European TSCC in <b>September 2025</b><br>* Preliminary operational participatory assessment of the European TSCC setting out the capacity needs to deliver scientific and technical cooperation conducted before the launch of the European TSCC in <b>September 2025</b> |
|                 |   | Activity 1.2.2<br><b>Develop and finalise the biennial workplan using a result-based approach and operational milestones</b>      | Biennial workplan submitted to GCE for approval                                      | 0               | * Draft 2025-2026 biennium workplan submitted by <b>January 23rd 2026</b><br>* Final 2025-2026 workplan submitted by <b>February 15th, 2026</b>   |
|                 | Output 1.3<br><b>Systems of effective COORDINATION in place</b> | Activity 1.3.1<br><b>Operationalise host agreement between the European Commission and SCBD</b>                                   | Host agreement   | 0               | * Exchange of letters of agreement by <b>Spring 2026</b><br>* Agreement operational/signed by <b>Summer 2026</b>  |
|                 | Output 1.4<br><b>Systems of INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE in place</b>   | Activity 1.4.1<br><b>Establish inclusive European TSCC advisory board</b>   | Identified advisory board members  | 0               | * Call for interest sent out by <b>March 28th, 2026</b><br>* Memberships finalised by <b>August 2026</b>  |

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|--|--|---|---|----------|---|
| Outcomes   | Outputs  | Activities  | Indicators  | Baseline | Timebound targets (2025–2026)   |
|  |  | Activity 1.4.2<br><b>Convene inclusive European TSCC advisory board</b>                   | 1 meeting per year  | 0        | * First meeting in <b>September 2026</b>  |
| <b>Outcome 2<br/>Visibility and responsiveness</b><br><br>The European TSCC is recognised as a visible and responsive one-stop service centre for Technical and Scientific Cooperation in the subregion.         | <b>Output 2.1<br/>Operational single-entry-point</b> | Activity 2.1.1<br><b>Create and maintain a dedicated European TSCC webpage</b>            | Dedicated up-to-date European TSCC/EC KCBD webpage<br><a href="https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/biodiversity/support-global-biodiversity-framework_en">https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/biodiversity/support-global-biodiversity-framework_en</a> | 0        | * Webpage online before the launch of the European TSCC in <b>September 2025</b><br>* Updated every six months minimum  |
|  |  | Activity 2.1.2<br><b>Create and monitor a dedicated European TSCC functional mailbox</b>  | Dedicated functional mailbox address<br><b>EU-SUBREGIONAL-TSC@ec.europa.eu</b>  | 0        | * Functional mailbox active before the launch of the European TSCC in <b>September 2025</b><br>* Monitoring so as to provide an answer <b>within 3 workdays</b> |
|  |  | Activity 2.1.3<br><b>Create a harmonised format for Knowledge hub webpage development</b> | Common web template to be applied to all knowledge hubs   | 0        | * First draft web template by <b>end of June 2026</b><br>* Finalisation of web template by <b>end of 2026</b>   |

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| <b>Outcomes</b> | <b>Outputs</b>  | <b>Activities</b>  | <b>Indicators</b>  | <b>Baseline</b>   | <b>Timebound targets (2025–2026)</b>   |
|-----------------|---|--|--|---|--|
|                 | Output 2.2<br><b>Established responsive demand-driven support system</b>                          | Activity 2.2.1<br><b>Define and establish an interaction framework with the Parties and Stakeholder groups (request intake, screening, and referral process)</b> | Established interaction framework                                | Concept behind the EC KCBD ticketing service currently restricted to European Commission services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Proposal of interaction framework structure to the European TSCC Parties and Stakeholder groups by <b>July 2026</b>, to be finalised by <b>end 2026</b></li> <li>* Standard template to help Parties and Stakeholders assess their capacity development needs and priorities by <b>September 2026</b></li> <li>* Specific form to submit structured requests and facilitate screening and referrals by <b>end 2026</b></li> </ul> |
|                 |   | Activity 2.2.2<br><b>Provide a timely response to Party or Stakeholder group requests through coordination and matchmaking</b>                                   | Initial response time  | 0   | * Acknowledgement of initial requests from Parties and Stakeholder groups <b>within 5 working days</b> from reception  |
|                 | Output 2.3<br><b>Established communication and engagement with Parties and Stakeholder groups</b> | Activity 2.3.1<br><b>Design of a European TSCC communication strategy</b>  | Established communication strategy, including the Knowledge hubs | 0   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Proposal for European TSCC communication strategy by <b>May 2026</b></li> <li>* Finalised European TSCC communication strategy by <b>September 2026</b></li> </ul>  |

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|--|--|---|--|-------------------|---|
| Outcomes   | Outputs  | Activities  | Indicators   | Baseline          | Timebound targets (2025–2026)   |
|  |  | Activity 2.3.2<br><b>Lead participatory actions with Parties and Stakeholder groups to raise awareness on the European TSCC, ensure design of a demand-driven process based on their needs, and identify remaining gaps</b> | Number of actions (meetings, requests for their feedback, ...)   | 0                 | * 2 actions per year  |
|  | Output 2.4<br><b>Promotion and positioning beyond European TSCC Parties and Stakeholder groups</b>                         | Activity 2.4.1<br><b>Take actions for promotion and positioning of the European TSCC beyond Parties</b>   | Number of actions  | 0                 | * 1 action per year   |
| Outcome 3<br><b>Partnership development and Knowledge hub coordination</b><br><br>A decentralised network of Knowledge hubs is initiated and coordinated.  | Output 3.1<br><b>Mapping of existing expertise for each Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) target</b> | Activity 3.1.1<br><b>Identify existing technical and scientific expertise relevant to KM-GBF targets across all Parties of the European TSCC</b>  | For each Knowledge hub, list of institutions and networks that could potentially provide leadership and/or expertise   | Partial knowledge | * Preliminary screening of capacities within EC KCBD, JRC, IUCN Med and RBINS, identification of Knowledge hubs gaps, as well as possible institutions or networks to be contacted to fill in coverage gaps by <b>15th March 2026</b><br>* Complementary screening to be finalised by <b>September 2026</b> |
|  |  | Activity 3.1.2<br><b>Set up external call for contributions to fill in gaps in Knowledge hubs coverage</b>  | Call for expression of interest to lead specific Knowledge hubs, including specific criteria for selection of institutions, groups of institutions or networks | 0                 | * Call for possible Knowledge hub leaders (institutions, groups of institutions or networks) by <b>May 2026</b><br>* Formalisation of Knowledge hub leaders by <b>September 2026</b>  |

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| <b>Outcomes</b> | <b>Outputs</b>   | <b>Activities</b>  | <b>Indicators</b>   | <b>Baseline</b> | <b>Timebound targets (2025–2026)</b>   |
|-----------------|--|--|---|-----------------|--|
|                 | <b>Output 3.2<br/>Established operational Knowledge hubs, acting as support suppliers and/or brokers</b> | <b>Activity 3.2.1<br/>Initiate pilot Knowledge hubs based on existing capacities</b>   | Pilot hubs set up and running                                     | 0               | * At least 3 additional pilot hubs set up by <b>end of May 2026</b><br><br>* Compile lessons learnt from pilot Knowledge hubs by <b>end of August 2026</b> |
|                 |  | <b>Activity 3.2.2<br/>Scale up pilot Knowledge hubs and establish new ones to expand coverage of KM-GBF targets</b>              | Number of operational Knowledge hubs                              | 0               | * Knowledge hubs covering at least 15 out of the 23 KM-GBF targets established by <b>end of 2026</b>   |
|                 |  | <b>Activity 3.2.3<br/>Coordinate between Knowledge hubs to ensure information sharing and cross-fertilisation across sectors</b> | Number of joint meetings between Knowledge hubs                   | 0               | * At least 1 joint meeting in 2026   |
|                 | <b>Output 3.3<br/>Stronger partnerships within the remit of the European TSCC</b>                        | <b>Activity 3.3.1<br/>Establish new partnerships and/or expansion of existing ones to foster intersectoral cooperation</b>       | Number of new joint initiatives stemming out of the European TSCC | 0               | * At least 3 new joint initiatives stemming out of the European TSCC and its Knowledge hubs  |

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| Outcomes | Outputs   | Activities  | Indicators   | Baseline   | Timebound targets (2025–2026)  |
|----------|---|---|--|--|--|
|          | <p>Output 3.4<br/><b>Strengthened coordination within the global TSCC network</b></p> | <p>Activity 3.4.1<br/><b>Coordinate and exchange with other TSCCs, the Global Coordination Entity (GCE), and specific Target Roadmaps</b></p> | <p>* Number of coordination meetings and exchanges (including regional dialogues and Subsidiary Body on Implementation meetings)<br/>* Number of TSCCs requesting access to knowledge services and products managed by the European subregional TSCC</p> | <p>* Ad hoc meetings, including through regional frameworks and commitments<br/><br/>* Ad hoc requests</p> | <p>* Exchanges every three months<br/><br/>* One request from at least 1 TSCC hosted in a developing country</p> |
|          | <p>Output 3.5<br/><b>Sustainability and engagement</b></p>                            | <p>Activity 3.5.1<br/><b>Identify possible resources mobilised within the subregion to address gaps in target coverage and monitoring</b></p> | <p>List of possible in-kind contributions and funding sources in the sub-region that Knowledge hubs, Parties, and associated initiatives could explore</p>   | <p>0</p>   | <p>* Available resources identified by <b>September 2026</b></p>   |
|          |   | <p>Activity 3.5.2<br/><b>Formulate a resource mobilisation plan to support and expand coverage of TSCC and related activities</b></p>         | <p>Resource mobilisation plan based on a TSCC business model</p>   | <p>0</p>   | <p>* Resource mobilisation plan to be finalised by end 2026</p>  |

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|--|--|---|--|----------|--|
| Outcomes   | Outputs  | Activities  | Indicators   | Baseline | Timebound targets (2025–2026)  |
| <p>Outcome 4<br/><b>Technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer delivered to the Parties</b></p> <p>Targeted technical and scientific cooperation is delivered to support achievement of the KM-GBF targets</p> | <p>Output 4.1<br/><b>Parties and Stakeholder group capacity strengthened and expanded</b></p>  | <p>Activity 4.1.1<br/><b>Mobilise capacity development tools (eg. webinars, guidance notes, case examples, or facilitation of development of joint activities between Parties/Stakeholder groups)</b></p> | <p>Number of products delivered</p>  | 0        | * At least 5 products by <b>end 2026</b>   |
|  | <p>Output 4.2<br/><b>Demand-driven support provided to Parties and Stakeholder groups for KM-GBF implementation across the subregion</b></p> | <p>Activity 4.2.1<br/><b>Provide, via the Knowledge hubs, request-based technical and science cooperation support to Parties and Stakeholder groups across the subregion</b></p>                          | <p>Number of Parties and Stakeholder groups requesting support from the TSCC and associated Knowledge hubs</p> | Ad hoc   | * At least 2 Parties and/or Stakeholder groups requesting support <b>by end 2026</b> |
|  | <p>Output 4.3<br/><b>Improved use by Parties of the CBD clearing-house mechanism in relation to KM-GBF targets</b></p>                       | <p>Activity 4.3.1<br/><b>Promote the use of the CBD clearing-house mechanism by European Parties, with specific targets tagged</b></p>  | <p>Number of Parties using the CBD clearing-house mechanism and tagging KM-GBF targets</p>                     | 0        | * At least 5 European Parties using the CHM <b>by end 2026</b>                       |