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European Union

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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations
Subject: DRAFT Council Conclusions on the Global approach to Research and Innovation - Europe's strategy for international cooperation in a changing world
- Presidency text

Delegations will find attached the Presidency text on the "draft Council conclusions on Global approach to Research and Innovation - Europe's strategy for international cooperation in a changing world" with a view to the Research Working Party meeting on 1st July 2021.

**DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON THE GLOBAL APPROACH TO RESEARCH
AND INNOVATION - EUROPE'S STRATEGY FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
IN A CHANGING WORLD**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING

- The Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on strengthening the Union's contribution to rules-based multilateralism¹, where the Union's strategic priorities, values and the Team Europe approach have been set in order to advance the Union's role in promoting a global multilateral system that is 'fit for purpose';
- The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, which presents a blueprint for addressing the key social, educational and healthcare challenges in a global partnership, while tackling climate change, preserving our oceans and forests strongly reflect within the political priorities of the Union, including the European Green Deal, Digital Transition and the European way of life.
- The Paris Agreement, adopted on 12 December 2015, as the leading legally binding international treaty on climate change, which provides the impetus for the ambitious plans of the Union as set within the Green Deal, which in turn represents a significant part of the Union's efforts in international research and innovation (R&I) cooperation.
- [SFIC opinion on the EC communication].

¹ JOIN (2021)3 final of 17 February 2021.

PART 1: GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

1. WELCOMES the Commission's Communication on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation "Europe's strategy for international cooperation in a changing world" as timely and appropriate, as a policy framework to help shape the Union's engagement with international partners in research and innovation and REAFFIRMS the Union's commitment to take the lead in maintaining openness in international R&I cooperation, while promoting a level playing field and reciprocity in cooperation with partner countries based on shared fundamental values and principles;
2. STRESSES the indispensable role of the stakeholders of the ERA, i.e. researchers, research organizations, research infrastructures and their European and international alliances in practicing and fostering international R&I cooperation at Union and Member State level; ACKNOWLEDGES the need for the Union and the Member States to provide a safe international environment (i.e. policy and legal framework), where such cooperation will flourish freely and in line with the core values and interests of the Union; and RECALLS the Bonn Declaration on Freedom of Scientific Research, adopted on 20 October 2020, where the freedom of scientific research was recognized as a visible common norm guiding the Union and the Member States in their research and innovation policy dialogue with international partner countries;
3. EMPHASISES the need for the Union to maintain and develop multilateral cooperation and dialogue in addressing the key global social, environmental, health, digital and economic challenges, where R&I should provide a pivotal role; RECALLS the Azores Declaration on All Atlantic research & innovation for a sustainable ocean, adopted in the Azores on June 4th 2021, as an important message about the scientific cooperation between partners on both sides of the Atlantic and common achievements for the benefit of the All-Atlantic community and people, so that they can trust science and its use for them and for building a sustainable future; and RECOGNIZES the respective bilateral, multilateral and international efforts and activities of the Member States in this respect;

4. UNDERLINES the importance of maintaining the position of the Union as an attractive environment for researchers, entrepreneurs and students around the world; RECALLS the importance of actions in the framework of the European Research Council and the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions for the excellence of frontier research and of attracting research talent globally; ACKNOWLEDGES knowledge creation, sharing and its fair distribution for the benefit of society, and autonomous research institutions, as indispensable elements contributing to a trustworthy environment of the global R&I arena.
5. SUPPORTS that the global approach is to be implemented through:
 - mobilising science, technology and innovation to accelerate sustainable and inclusive development, and the transition to resilient, knowledge-based societies and economies in low and middle-income countries;
 - modulating Union bilateral cooperation in R&I to make it compatible with Union interests and values and to strengthen the Union's open strategic autonomy; and
 - initiatives modelled on a Team Europe approach, which combine actions by the Union, financial institutions and Member States to maximise the effectiveness and impact of the actions;
6. NOTES that this policy approach should also inform the international dimension of the Union's framework programme for R&I - Horizon Europe - as the central framework of the Union for nurturing and facilitating international R&I cooperation;

PART 2: KEY PRINCIPLES and VALUES

7. UNDERLINES that the EU's global approach to R&I must be built on the principles of openness, facilitation of knowledge transfer, exchange of ideas, and leading by example; HIGHLIGHTS that it must also be in line with the principle of reciprocity, respect of Union values, upholding the Union's interests and the global standards in the field of intellectual property; to this end, CALLS on the Commission and the Member States to follow the guiding principle "as open as possible, as closed as necessary" in future relations and negotiations with global partners;

8. RECOGNISES freedom of scientific research; pursuit of scientific excellence; research ethics and integrity; societal responsibility; gender equality, diversity and inclusiveness; open data and open science; sustainable research careers; standards and evidence-based policy making as key principles and values of the EU and its R&I ecosystem;
9. EMPHASISES the Union’s commitment to lead by example in facilitating the key principle of openness in international R&I cooperation, while promoting Union’s values, securing Union’s interests and enhancing Union’s open strategic autonomy by creating a level playing field with international partner countries;

PART 3: KEY ACTIONS

10. ACKNOWLEDGES the need to further develop the EU’s principles and values for R&I, based on the work of the Expert Group on the ERA Forum for Transition; and CALLS on the Commission and the Member States to engage in this context in a co-design process involving future ERA governance bodies with an aim to reach consensus and to present its results to the Council by 2022 in line with the proposed Team Europe approach; CALLS on the Commission and the Member States to take stock on first progress and promote these principles and values in a multilateral dialogue involving key international partners to take place in 2022, in order to promote and establish the EU as a key player in developing a global research and innovation policy dialogue;
11. INVITES the Commission to revise with Member States the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity and the Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource Poor Settings;
12. NOTES that limitations may be imposed to participation of non-EU countries in specific Horizon Europe calls in applicable circumstances to protect the Union’s strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security; STRESSES the need to fully involve the Member States in defining such circumstances and applying such limitations in line with the comitology procedures; and ENCOURAGES the Commission in this respect to seek from countries associated to Horizon Europe assurances of meeting the necessary requirements enabling their participation in these calls;

13. ENCOURAGES the Commission to further exploit cooperation with non-EU countries, either through association to Horizon Europe or through other forms of cooperation; CALLS on the Commission to ensure the greatest involvement of the Council in accordance with Article 218 of TFEU in the process of negotiating agreements associating third countries to Horizon Europe;
14. RECALLS that interpersonal relations and networks, as well as investment in researchers' skills and careers and supporting brain circulation, are fundamental to enhancing the Union's role in international R&I cooperation; and CALLS on the Commission to further exploit the potential of different mobility schemes and programmes² to this end;
15. UNDERLINES the importance of openness and international cooperation in Research Infrastructures for the advancement of science, science diplomacy, tackling the global challenges and increasing access to excellence; RECOGNISES the need for further development and implementation of the Global Research Infrastructure framework; and ENCOURAGES the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) and the Commission to support activities of Research Infrastructures to this end;
16. CONSIDERS that international R&I cooperation is an integral part of the renewed ERA, but also a significant part of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and the European Education Area (EEA) and that reasonable synergies in their external dimensions need to be achieved in order to fully harness the potential of knowledge within the Union; STRESSES in this regard the international potential of European Universities; and INVITES the current and future Presidencies of the Council to advance together with the Commission such synergies;
17. CALLS on the Commission to continue developing guidelines on dealing with foreign interference in consultation with Member States and the research and higher education stakeholders; following their completion, INVITES the Commission to support their implementation by research organisations and higher education institutions;

² Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions, European Research Council, Erasmus+

18. TAKES NOTE of the Commission's intention to prepare the targeted roadmaps for international R&I cooperation with non-EU countries with a strong research and innovation base; CALLS for early and continuous involvement of the Council in preparation and follow-up of these roadmaps with a view of approving them as non-binding instruments;
19. SUPPORTS the intent of the Commission to develop a code of practice on smart use of intellectual property by 2022, which should help universities, research organisations and businesses recognise the risks and ethical dilemmas in international R&I cooperation and manage knowledge assets in open and global R&I systems;
20. RECOGNISES the need to further strengthen the Union's role in existing multilateral R&I partnerships and alliances³ as key instrument for building on the cooperation with likeminded international partners; and INVITES the Commission to consult with the Member States and seize the Council in accordance with the relevant procedures in establishing such partnerships including beyond the areas of twin transition and health, in particular to pursue the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
21. INVITES the European Commission to continue to pursue cooperation with the Americas, notably by implementing the commitments undertaken at the EU-Canada and EU-US summits of 14th and 15th June 2021 respectively, and by stepping up cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean, taking full advantage of the new EU-CELAC strategic roadmap 2021-2023 for the implementation of the Action Plan on Science, Technology and Innovation;
22. INVITES the Commission to implement relevant R&I actions from the Joint Communications regarding the Eastern Partnership, the renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood and the strategy with Africa⁴;

³ The Commission's Communication examines the following: the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance, Mission Innovation, Group on Earth Observations (GEO), International Bioeconomy Forum, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), International Resource Panel (IRP) as an appropriate, non-exhaustive list of alliances in the field of Green transition.

⁴ JOIN(2020) 7 final, JOIN(2021) 2 final and JOIN (2020) 4 final

23. INVITES the European Commission, together with the African Union Commission and Member States on both sides, to develop a joint EU-AU Innovation Agenda to support the translation of research output, including from the Horizon Europe ‘Africa Initiative’ into socio-economic benefits in line with agreement reached at the 2020 EU-AU Ministerial meeting. CALLS for synergies between EU-AU and EU-Southern Neighbourhood cooperation to produce a stronger impact on economic development and job creation; and WELCOMES the development of joint Research and Innovation roadmaps in view of a Ministerial meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean in 2022;
24. INVITES the Commission in close cooperation with the Member States to also continue pursuing multilateral cooperation within initiatives such as PRIMA, Blue Med and Black Sea Cooperation; and RECOGNISES their significance in the context of science diplomacy;
25. CALLS for a common regional approach to relations with the Western Balkans and VIEWS further developments in international R&I cooperation as an important step towards their integration in the Union; in this light, CALLS on the Commission to swiftly finalise the negotiations of the Joint declaration on a Western Balkans agenda on innovation, research, education, culture, youth and sport;
26. ENCOURAGES the Commission to leverage the Team Europe approach in continuing the negotiations on a joint roadmap with China to establish agreed framework conditions and guiding principles for cooperation to reach a level playing field and reciprocity, while respecting fundamental values, high ethical and science integrity standards; and, in this respect, RECOGNISES the indispensable efforts and the activities of the R&I Knowledge Network on China (EU-KNoC);

27. CALLS on the Commission and the European External Action Service to develop a European Science Diplomacy Agenda, in close consultation with the Council, to explore designating science focal points and to ensure adequate capacities for science in Union delegations, foster cooperation with Member States' science counsellors in third countries, to consider involving representatives of the rotating Presidency in joint steering committee meetings, based on bilateral agreements between the Union and third countries, and to report to the Council on their progress by 2023, INVITES the Commission and the Member States to explore setting-up of an appropriate mechanism for cooperation in the field of Science Diplomacy in line with the recommendation of SFIC⁵ and other relevant expert organisations⁶.
28. TAKES NOTE that the governance and monitoring modalities should be articulated in the Council conclusions on ERA governance by the end of 2021; and LOOKS FORWARD to the international conference in early 2022, where a first review of progress and strengthened coordination between the Commission and the Member States in implementing the global approach will take place as well as the launch of a multilateral dialogue involving key international partners on shared fundamental principles and values in international R&I cooperation.

⁵ See ERAC-SFIC 1357/20

⁶ e.g. Tools for an EU Science Diplomacy (2017) or "Using science for/in diplomacy for addressing global challenges" (S4D4C)