



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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COMPET 191
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NOTE

From: Presidency

To: Delegations

No. Cion prop.: 14000/12 RECH 344 COMPET 563 RELEX 838 DEVGEN 245

Subject: Draft Council conclusions on "Enhancing and focusing EU international cooperation in research and innovation: a strategic approach"

Delegations will find attached draft Council conclusions for examination by the Joint Research and Research/Atomic Questions Working Party at its meeting on 15 April 2013.

**DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON 'ENHANCING AND FOCUSING EU
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION: A
STRATEGIC APPROACH'**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

RECALLING

- Its Conclusions of 29 May 2008 on the "Ljubljana Process - Towards realisation of ERA"¹, in which a "wide opening of the ERA to the world" constitutes one of the five initiatives identified in this context;
- Its Conclusions of 2 December 2008 on a "European partnership for international scientific and technological cooperation"²;
- Its Conclusions of 26 November 2010 on the "Europe 2020 flagship initiative Innovation Union: Accelerating the transformation of Europe through innovation in a fast changing world"³, confirming that scientific and technological cooperation with third countries is an issue of common concern and coordinated approaches should be considered, wherever appropriate;
- Its Conclusions of 11 December 2012 on a "Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth"⁴
- The ERAC opinion on the "development of an ERA Framework"⁵ of 9 December 2011, incorporating elements of the SFIC opinion on the ERA Framework⁶ of 18 November 2011;

¹ Doc. 10231/08

² Doc. 16763/08

³ Doc. 17165/10

⁴ Doc. 17649/12

⁵ Doc. ERAC 1215/11

⁶ Doc. ERAC-SFIC 1356/11

General

1. REAFFIRMS the need for developing a European Research Area which is open to the world and therefore the vital importance of developing its external dimension;
2. REAFFIRMS the added value international cooperation in research and innovation can bring in strengthening the Union's excellence and attractiveness in research and innovation as well as its competitiveness; in tackling global societal challenges and in contributing to the Union's external policies, including through science diplomacy;
3. ACKNOWLEDGES the important progress made in FP7, for instance as regards the development of flagship international cooperation projects such as EDCTP and ITER;
4. CONSIDERS that the global landscape has changed considerably over the past decade and that in particular the emergence of new and important players on the global scene calls for a new strategic approach to international cooperation;
5. WELCOMES in this respect the Commission's Communication “Enhancing and focusing EU international cooperation in research and innovation: A strategic approach”⁷, and the dual approach of openness complemented with targeted international cooperation activities it advocates for Horizon 2020;
6. STRESSES the importance of promoting actively the general openness of Horizon 2020 as it allows researchers from across the globe to cooperate with each other on subjects of their own choice.

⁷ Doc. 14000/12 (COM(2012) 497 final)

Roadmaps for international cooperation

7. INVITES the Commission to systematically consider where international cooperation can add value in implementing Horizon 2020 and CALLS on the Commission therefore to consider international cooperation an essential cross-cutting element of the Horizon 2020 work programmes;
8. STRESSES the importance of ensuring common interest and mutual benefit in prioritising international cooperation activities and INVITES the Commission, in association with the Member States, to identify priorities for international cooperation on the basis of the Horizon 2020 proposals and, by using objective information, allowing to seek added value in terms of the criteria mentioned in the Communication;
9. INVITES the Commission, in association with the Member States, to further explore how the innovation dimension of international cooperation can be strengthened, including in the context of cooperating with the developing countries;
10. STRESSES the importance of coordinating this process closely with the on-going international policy dialogues and RECOGNISES that added value for the Union can be found not only in cooperating with the industrialised countries and emerging economies, but equally so in deepening the cooperation with the enlargement and neighbourhood countries and the developing countries;
11. INVITES the Commission to prepare multi-annual roadmaps for cooperation with the key partners of the Union, which will identify priorities, instruments and indicative budgets for international cooperation; ACKNOWLEDGES that the Member States will be involved in the identification of areas for international cooperation and the development of the multi-annual roadmaps;
12. INVITES the Commission to present the first roadmaps in early 2014 and to indicate in the Horizon 2020 work programmes in a visible manner how the roadmaps are being implemented.

Stronger coordination

13. STRESSES the need to develop synergies with the other policies of the Union, and in particular by complementing the external and development policies;
14. INVITES the Commission to step up its engagement with those international organisations responsible for research agenda setting on global challenges and to take measures deemed necessary to ensure that the Union speaks with one voice on the global scene.

Common principles

15. RECOGNISES the importance of developing common principles for the conduct of international cooperation in research and innovation in order to create a global level playing field in which researchers and innovators feel confident in engaging with each other and considers that the Union is well placed to play a leading role in promoting such common principles;
16. INVITES the Commission, in close cooperation with the Member States, to develop such common principles on the issues of responsible research and innovation, research integrity; peer review of proposals; promotion of the role of women in science and the gender dimension in research and innovation; research careers (building on the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers); fair and equitable treatment of IPR; and open access to publicly funded research publications;
17. INVITES the Commission to take the lead in promoting the development of such common principles with the Union's international partners, including through an active participation in the work of the Global Research Council and other appropriate fora such as UNESCO and OECD.

Strengthening the partnership with the MS

18. STRESSES the importance of deepening and strengthening the partnership between the Commission and the Member States to ensure that national and Union activities are complementary and mutually reinforcing;
19. ACKNOWLEDGES the work of SFIC as substantial in mutual learning and in promoting coordination of international cooperation priorities of Member States with the different SFIC initiatives and priorities of national and regional funding organisations. Building on this, the promotion of a more systemic interaction with the main public and private research and innovation stakeholders is needed;
20. ACKNOWLEDGES progress made through SFIC in aligning the international cooperation priorities of the Member States, for instance as regards the India pilot initiative and the building up of the Indo-European Research and Innovation Partnership, and ENCOURAGES SFIC to continue its work with the initiatives vis-à-vis with China, the USA and Brazil;
21. In this respect WELCOMES the establishment of processes such as Groups of Senior Officials to fully involve Member States in joint priority- setting.
22. INVITES SFIC, in light of the new strategic approach proposed by the Commission, to contribute to the implementation of the multi-annual roadmaps where joint action between the Union and the Member States is appropriate while also developing additional joint actions between Member States, including the development of joint research and innovation agendas with key partners;
23. INVITES SFIC to contribute to the development of the common principles for the conduct of international cooperation in research and innovation, notably through the sharing of information and best practice developed at national level;
24. INVITES SFIC to strengthen its efforts towards sharing of information on national international cooperation policies and activities.

Implementation, governance and evaluation

25. INVITES the Commission to implement the new strategy by making full use of the programming process and governance structures of Horizon 2020, including by presenting the international dimension of the Horizon 2020 work programmes in a coherent manner;
26. INVITES the Commission to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the strategy and to report on progress every two years, including through using indicators such as those presented in the accompanying Staff Working Document⁸ to the Communication;
27. URGES the Commission to this extent to include the international dimension of research and innovation as a key aspect of the Research and Innovation Observatory;
28. INVITES the Commission to further explore the possibilities of organising a Year of Science every two years. In this respect, WELCOMES the agreement by the leaders of the EU and Russia at their Summit on 21 December 2012 to make 2014 the "EU-Russia Year of Science" and calls upon the Member States and the European Commission to work together to make the Year a success.

⁸ Doc. 14000/12 ADD1.