



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 25 April 2013

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**RECH 97
COMPET 193**

NOTE

From: the Presidency
To: the Working Party on Research
Subject: Draft Council resolution on the advisory work for the European Research Area

Delegations will find in Annex I to this Note a draft Council resolution on the advisory work for the European Research Area.

In addition, Annex II includes a list of ERA-related groups with relevant details.

This draft resolution figures on the provisional agenda of the meeting of the Working Party on Research on 29 April 2013.

**DRAFT COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON THE ADVISORY WORK FOR
THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING the Council resolution of 28 May 2010 on developments in the governance of ERA¹, which entrusted the European Research Area Committee (hereafter referred to as the Committee) with keeping an overview of other ERA-related groups and to cooperate and consult with them, as necessary to attain the Committee's objectives, and stated that the Committee could also base its deliberations on input from these groups, and agreed to review the mandate of the Committee by the end of 2012;

RECALLING the Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative — Innovation Union of 6 October 2010², which placed the European Research Area firmly in the wider context of achieving the Innovation Union by 2020, and the responding Council conclusions of 29 November 2010 on the Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative: "Innovation Union"³, which emphasised the importance of quickly taking all measures necessary, in line with the "ERA vision 2020"⁴, for a well functioning and coherent European Research Area;

¹ Doc. 10255/10.

² Doc. 14035/10.

³ Doc. 17165/10.

⁴ Conclusions of the Council on the definition of a '2020 vision of the European research area' (OJ C 25 of 31.1.2009, p. 1).

RECALLING the conclusions of the European Council of 4 February 2011⁵, which confirmed that Europe needs a unified research area to attract talent and investment and called for the completion of the ERA by 2014, including by addressing any remaining gaps in order to create a genuine single market for knowledge, research and innovation, as confirmed by the European Council of 2 March 2012⁶ and recalled in its conclusions of 29 June 2012⁷ and of 18-19 October 2012⁸;

RECALLING the Council conclusions on the development of the European Research Area (ERA) through ERA-related groups of 1 June 2011⁹, which reconfirmed the need for strengthened coordination between the Committee and the ERA-related groups, and stressed the need to pursue all relevant improvements in this cooperation in line with the outcome of the Committee's advice on the review of ERA-related groups¹⁰;

RECALLING the Commission's Communication on a reinforced European Research Area partnership for excellence and growth of 23 July 2012¹¹, and the responding Council conclusions of 12 December 2012¹², in which the Council confirmed its intention to take a position on the review of the Committee's mandate as soon as possible in 2013;

1. TAKES NOTE OF the Report from ERAC on the Review of the ERAC Mandate of 18 April 2013¹³ and the eleven recommendations to improve the functioning of the Committee that are included in this Report, and AGREES that ERAC is renamed the European Research Area and Innovation Committee in order to better reflect its existing role in research-led innovation;

⁵ Doc. EUCO 2/1/11 REV 1.

⁶ Doc. EUCO 4/2/12 REV 2.

⁷ Doc. EUCO 76/12.

⁸ Doc. EUCO 156/12.

⁹ Doc. 11032/11 of 1 June 2011. — The conclusions also agreed (1) that ERAC is prepared to return, in dialogue with the groups concerned, to the question if revision of their mandates will be necessary and if so, what changes are necessary, and (2) that reporting from the groups should preferably be coordinated in advance.

¹⁰ Doc. ERAC 1206/11.

¹¹ Doc. 12848/12.

¹² Doc. 17649/12.

¹³ Doc. ERAC 1201/13.

2. NOTES that the existing ERA-related groups¹⁴ have all been set up before the five priorities for completing the ERA by the end of 2014 were set by the Commission in its ERA Communication of July 2012 and endorsed by the Council in December 2012;
3. NOTES that, while the statuses and the mandates of the existing ERA-related groups have repeatedly been addressed by the Council in various conclusions, these should be reconsidered in the light of the ERA priority deliverables as defined by the Commission and endorsed by the Council in 2012;
4. NOTES that there is room for improvement in the Committee's overview of the other ERA-related groups, as called for by the Council in its May 2010 resolution, in particular concerning their cooperation and consultation to attain the Committee's objectives, NOTES furthermore that the following issues still remain valid: (1) the matter of advance coordination of the reporting of the ERA-related groups, as called for by the Council in the June 2011 conclusions; and (2) the Council's agreement, expressed in the same conclusions, that ERAC is prepared to return, in dialogue with the ERA-related groups, to the question if revision of mandates will be necessary and if so, what changes are necessary;
5. CONCLUDES that the advisory work for the European Research Area is currently fragmented over seven different ERA-related groups, which have at least four different reporting lines, and which, while producing valuable advice in themselves within their own remit, have all been created well before the new guiding priorities for achieving ERA by the end of 2014 were laid down in 2012;

¹⁴ In the context of the present resolution, the ERA-related groups are understood to include (the groups are mentioned here in the order of their set-up): the European Research Area Committee (ERAC), the Helsinki Group on Gender in Research and Innovation, the ERA Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility (SGHRM), the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI), the Strategic Forum for International Science and Technology Cooperation (SFIC), the High Level Group on Joint Programming (GPC) and the ERAC Working Group on Knowledge Transfer (KT). See Annex II for more details.

6. THEREFORE INVITES the ERA-related groups to set up, in the interest of the timeliness, effectiveness and efficiency of advice to Council, Commission and Member States and the contribution of these groups to the progress and implementation of the ERA (the reporting line depending on their current mandate), the afore-mentioned cooperation, consultation and coordination, and in particular to do so in accordance with Paragraph 28 of the Council conclusions of December 2012¹⁵; EXPRESSES its support for the action plan that is mentioned in recommendation No 5a of the ERAC Report¹⁶ to be developed;
7. DECIDES to review the statuses and the mandates of the ERA-related groups established by the Council, and invites the Commission and the Committee to do the same with regard to the ERA-related groups established by them, at the time of the envisaged completion of the European Research Area by the end of 2014 and in the light of (1) an assessment of the degree to which cooperation, consultation and coordination between the Groups, as called for by the Council, have effectively been achieved, (2) the timeliness and effectiveness of their advice, and (3) the efficiency of the functioning of these groups;
8. ESTABLISHES the new mandate of the European Research Area Committee as set out in the Annex to the present Annex of this resolution and INVITES the Committee to implement the recommendations included in its report of 18 April 2013 in its work programme and its rules of procedure without delay.

¹⁵ Paragraph 28: INVITES Member States via ERAC, while consolidating input by other ERA related groups, to contribute to the monitoring of ERA progress based on exchange of best practices and mutual learning from national actions and reforms made to achieve the ERA (doc. 17649/12).

¹⁶ Recommendation 5a calls for an action plan, based on the ERA Communication of July 2012, including subjects that the Committee expects the ERA-related groups to contribute to on the basis of their specific expertise. The Report argues that such an action plan should support the development of strategic interaction between ERAC and the other ERAC advisory groups and will be attached to the provisional work programmes of the Committee.

**MANDATE OF THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE
(ERAIC)**

1. ERAC changes its name to European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAIC) (hereafter referred to as the Committee) in order to reflect the growing importance of research-related innovation in its role as a strategic policy advisory committee in the framework of the governance of the European Research Area (hereafter referred to as ERA).
2. The Committee's mission is to provide timely strategic input to the Council, the Commission and Member States on research and innovation issues that are relevant to the development of the ERA. The Committee shall do this on its own initiative or at the request of the Council or the Commission.
3. With respect to its mission, the Committee shall, in particular:
 - a. provide, at an early stage, advice on the identification and design of strategic priorities for policy initiatives on research and innovation relating to the development of the ERA, including the EU Framework Programmes and other relevant EU, national and intergovernmental initiatives;
 - b. provide advice on broad orientations for possible future policies and for interaction between existing policies at international, EU and national level contributing to the development of the ERA;
 - c. monitor the progress of the ERA, while having regard to the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity, with special attention to the efficiency, accessibility, transparency and coherence of its instruments and initiatives, including those defined in the EU Framework Programmes, notably taking into account the criterion of European added value;

- d. identify the need for independent, quantitative and qualitative assessments of ERA-related policies and use the results of such assessments to make recommendations for greater and better progress of the ERA;
 - e. contribute, where relevant, to promoting the coordination of national research and innovation policies and to ensuring that national policies and EU policy are mutually consistent;
 - f. contribute to preparing any ERA ministerial conferences convened and organised under the auspices of the Member State holding the presidency of the Council of the European Union.
4. In addition to its principal mission, the Committee shall also promote the voluntary evaluation of national policy mixes and mutual learning exercises relevant to the ERA. For these activities it may set up voluntary ad-hoc working groups that shall carry out their work under the guidance of the Committee.
5. The Committee shall develop strategic interactions and coherence with other policy areas, in particular those related to the Knowledge Triangle. The Committee shall also aim at developing interactions and synergies with other relevant policy areas when appropriate.
6. The Committee shall keep an overview of other ERA-related groups, with whom it shall cooperate and whom it shall consult as necessary in order to fulfil its mission. The Committee may also base its deliberations on input from these groups.

Members and observers

7. The Committee shall consist of two high-level representatives from each Member State who are responsible for research and innovation policies, and the Commission (hereafter referred to as Members).

8. The Committee may invite representatives of the countries associated to the EU Framework Programme to participate in its meetings as observers for particular agenda items. It may also invite other observers, including Members of the European Parliament, if particular items so require (hereafter referred to as Observers).

Organisation

9. The Committee shall meet regularly, at least four times a year.
10. The Committee shall be chaired by the Commission.
11. A Vice-Chair shall be elected from among the representatives of Member States on the Committee by a majority of its component Members for a period of two years, which is renewable once.
12. The Secretariat of the Committee shall be provided by the General Secretariat of the Council.
13. The Committee shall have a Steering Board. The Vice-Chair of the Committee shall act as the Chair of the Steering Board. The Steering Board shall consist of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee, a representative of the Member State holding the previous, the current and the next Presidency of the Council of the European Union, as well as up to two Members elected from among the representatives of Member States on the Committee by a majority of its component Members for a period of 18 months. — The Secretariat of the Steering Board shall be provided by the General Secretariat of the Council. The Steering Board shall be assisted by the Commission services.
14. The Steering Board shall prepare the draft provisional work programmes and draft provisional agendas of meetings of the Committee in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Committee. The draft provisional work programmes and the draft provisional agendas shall require agreement between the Chair and Vice-Chair before they are put to the Committee for approval and adoption respectively.

15. The Committee may set up ad-hoc working groups with specific mandates to deal with questions relevant to its mandate.
 16. Summary conclusions, opinions and reports of the Committee shall, as appropriate, record the consensual opinion of or the votes cast by its Members and shall make mention of minority views.
 17. The Committee shall draw up its rules of procedure.
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**OVERVIEW OF EXISTING ERA-RELATED GROUPS
(in chronological order of set-up)**

European Research Area Committee (ERAC)

Set up: 1974 (as the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST)). Mandate renewed in May 2010.

Status: Advisory committee to Council, Commission and Member States.

Mandates: 1974 (included in the Council resolution of 14 January 1974 on the coordination of national policies and the definition of projects of interest to the Community in the field of science and technology (OJ C 7, 29.1.1974, p. 2)), renewed in 1995 (Council resolution of 28 September 1995 on Crest (OJ C 264, 11.10.1995, p. 4)) and 2010 (Council resolution on developments in the governance of the European Research area (ERA) (doc. 10255/10 of 28 May 2010)).

Membership: EU Member States, Commission, countries associated to the 7th EU Framework Programme as observers.

Chairmanship: Commission.

Details: Advices and reports to Member States, the Council and the Commission on request and ON its own initiative. Secretariat provided by the General Secretariat of the Council.

Helsinki Group on Gender in Research and Innovation

Set up: November 1999.

Status: Advisory group to the Commission.

Mandate: New mandate will be completed soon.

Membership: EU Member States, countries associated to the 7th EU Framework Programme.

Chairmanship: Co-chaired by the Commission and a representative of the Member State holding the rotating Presidency (according to the new mandate, which is still to be approved).

Details: Secretariat provided by the Commission. Reports to the Commission.

Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility (SGHRM)

Set up: 2002.

Status: Advisory group to the Commission.

Mandates: Council resolution concerning the reinforcement of the mobility strategy within the European Research Area (ERA) (OJ C 367, 21.12.2001, p. 1) (this does not contain the actual mandate, but was the basis for setting up the SGHRM in 2002). An "Updated Mandate and Working Methods of the ERA Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility (SGHRM)" (internal Commission document (SGHRM/120509/02)), which was drafted following a call to update the mandate in the Council conclusions on better careers and more mobility: a European partnership for researchers (doc. 13671/09 of 30 September 2008), includes the current mandate.

Membership: EU Member States, the Commission, countries associated to the EU Framework Programmes (the latter since 2003).

Chairmanship: EU MS representative.

Details: the "Updated Mandate and Working Methods of SGHRM" states that SGHRM will report regularly to CREST/ERAC or to the Competitiveness Council. Secretariat provided by the Commission. Secretariat provided by the Commission. Reports to the Commission.

European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)

Set up / first meeting: April 2002.

Status: In June 2001, the Research Council invited "the Commission, in close collaboration with the Member States, and involving, as appropriate, candidate countries and countries associated with the Community research programmes [. . .] to explore the establishment of new arrangements to support policies related to research infrastructures . . ." (doc. 9932/01, 2363rd Council meeting, held on 26 June 2001).

Mandate: The original mandate is currently under review, following a request by the December 2012 Competitiveness Council to this effect, and is expected to be adopted by ESFRI in June 2013.

Membership: EU Member States, Commission.

Chairmanship: EU Member State representative.

Details: Reports to national authorities. Secretariat provided by the Commission.

Strategic Forum for International Science and Technology Cooperation (SFIC)

Set up: December 2008.

Status: SFIC is a "dedicated configuration" of ERAC, which means that the operational and procedural rules, as well as the relevant Council conclusions that are applicable to ERAC, are also applicable to SFIC.

Mandate: Included in an Annex to the Council conclusions concerning a European partnership for international scientific and technological cooperation (OJ C 18, 24.01.2009, p. 11).

Membership: EU Member States, the Commission, countries associated to the 7th EU Framework Programme as observers.

Chairmanship: EU Member State representative.

Details: Reports to the Council, to the Commission and to Member States (cf. ERAC). Secretariat provided by the General Secretariat of the Council.

High Level Group on Joint Programming (GPC)

Set up: December 2008.

Status: GPC is a so-called "dedicated configuration" of ERAC, which means that the operational and procedural rules, as well as the relevant Council conclusions that are applicable to ERAC are also applicable to GPC.

Mandate: Included in an Annex to the Council conclusions concerning joint programming of research in Europe in response to major societal challenges (OJ C 24, 30.1.2009, p. 3).

Membership: EU Member States, Commission, countries associated to the 7th EU Framework Programme as observers.

Chairmanship: EU Member State representative.

Details: Contributes to the preparation of the debates and decisions of the Competitiveness Council on joint programming. Reports to the Council and to the Commission. and Member States (cf. ERAC). Secretariat provided by the General Secretariat of the Council.

ERAC Working Group on Knowledge Transfer (KT)

Set up: June 2009.

Status: working group of ERAC, although it functions independently of ERAC.

Mandate: Mandate of the CREST Working Group on Knowledge Transfer (doc. 1208/09 of 19 June 2009), renewed on 20 March 2012 (see doc. ERAC 1202/12).

Membership: EU Member States, countries associated to the EU Framework Programmes.

Chairmanship: EU Member State representative.

Details: The mandate specifies that KT acts as a strategic advisory body to ERAC on knowledge transfer, as well as its responsibility to report to ERAC at least once a year with a short written report or an oral presentation. The Secretariat is provided by the Commission.
