



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 2 May 2013**

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**RECH 134  
COMPET 256  
RELEX 354  
DEVGEN 104**

**NOTE**

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From: Presidency  
To: Delegations

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No. Cion prop.: 14000/12 RECH 344 COMPET 563 RELEX 838 DEVGEN 245  
No. Prev. doc.: 8228/13 RECH 95 COMPET 191 RELEX 270 DEVGEN 83

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

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Delegations will find, attached, draft Council conclusions on "Enhancing and focusing EU international cooperation in research and innovation: a strategic approach" with a view to the discussion by the Research Working Party at its meeting on 7 May, 2013.

The changes to the previous document (8228/13) are indicated in ~~striketrough~~ and **bold underlined**

**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"<sup>1</sup>, 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"<sup>2</sup>;
- **Its Conclusions of 26 May 2010 on "Various issues related to the development of the ERA", inviting "Member States and the Commission to work towards coordinated positions in view of research related topics in international summits and fora"**<sup>3</sup>.
- 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"<sup>4</sup>, confirming that scientific and technological cooperation with third countries is an issue of common concern and coordinated approaches should be considered, wherever appropriate;

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<sup>1</sup> Doc. 10231/08

<sup>2</sup> Doc. 16763/08

<sup>3</sup> **Doc. 10246/10**

<sup>4</sup> Doc. 17165/10

- Its Conclusions of 11 December 2012 on a "Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth"<sup>5</sup>
- The ERAC opinion on the "development of an ERA Framework"<sup>6</sup> of 9 December 2011, incorporating elements of **highlighting the international nature of science and its political environment, following** the SFIC opinion on the ERA Framework<sup>7</sup> of 18 November 2011;

## General

1. REAFFIRMS the need for developing an **ERA** European Research Area which is open to **and inter-active** with the world and therefore the vital importance of developing its external dimension;
2. REAFFIRMS the added value **that** international cooperation in research and innovation can bring in **is vital to the** strengthening **of** 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, **and that good international relations may, in turn, facilitate effective cooperation in research and innovation** including through science diplomacy;
3. ACKNOWLEDGES the important progress **towards improved international cooperation** made in **through** FP7 **projects**, for instance **in particular through the INCO Programme, and also** as regards the development of **by opening participation to third countries and contributing to the development of** flagship international cooperation **flagship** 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;

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<sup>5</sup> Doc. 17649/12

<sup>6</sup> Doc. ERAC 1215/11

<sup>7</sup> Doc. ERAC-SFIC 1356/11

5. WELCOMES in this respect the Commission's Communication "Enhancing and focusing EU international cooperation in research and innovation: A strategic approach"<sup>8</sup> **as an important contribution to the ongoing development of the ERA**, 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~~ **ensuring that** Horizon 2020 as it allows ~~facilitates cooperation between~~ researchers from across the globe to cooperate with each other ~~on subjects of their own choice~~ **on addressing shared challenges, based on the principle of reciprocity.**

### **Roadmaps for international cooperation**

7. INVITES the Commission, **in close cooperation with the Member States**, to systematically consider where international cooperation can add **strategic** value in implementing Horizon 2020 and CALLS on the Commission therefore, **in conjunction with the relevant Programme Committees**, to consider **where** international cooperation an ~~essential cross-cutting element of~~ **could play a particularly valuable role in** the Horizon 2020 work programmes;
8. STRESSES the importance of ~~ensuring~~ **seeking** common interest and mutual benefit in ~~prioritising~~ international cooperation activities, **in particular in relation to Horizon 2020**, and INVITES the Commission, ~~in association~~ **working in close cooperation** with the Member States, to identify priorities **and indicative budgets** for international cooperation on the basis of ~~the~~ Horizon 2020 proposals and **of the results of FP7 projects**, ~~by using objective information, allowing to seek added value in terms of the criteria mentioned in the Communication;~~
9. INVITES the Commission, ~~in association~~ **cooperation** 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;

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<sup>8</sup> Doc. 14000/12 (COM(2012) 497 final)

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, **on the basis of mutual benefit**;
11. INVITES the Commission to prepare multi-annual roadmaps for cooperation with the key **strategic** partners of the Union, which will identify priorities, instruments and indicative budgets **for activities within Horizon 2020** for international cooperation **on research and innovation**; ACKNOWLEDGES **CALLS on the Commission to ensure** that the Member States ~~will be~~ **are fully** involved in the **process of** identification of **partner countries and** areas for international cooperation and **in** the **preparation and** development of the multi-annual roadmaps;
12. INVITES the Commission to present the first roadmaps ~~in early 2014~~ **by the end of 2013**, and to indicate ~~in the~~ **their correlation to** Horizon 2020 work programmes, ~~in a visible manner~~ **and to regularly report on** how they 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.~~**13.**RECOGNISES the importance of developing common principles for the conduct of **to facilitate** 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.~~**14.**INVITES the Commission, in close cooperation with the Member States **and partner countries, as well as taking into account the work done by relevant stakeholders at European level,** to develop such common principles on ~~the issues of~~ **such as** responsible research and innovation, research integrity; peer review of proposals; promotion of ~~the role of women in science~~ **gender equality** and the gender dimension in research and innovation; researcher 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 **and to research infrastructures;**

~~17.~~**15.**INVITES **REAFFIRMS the invitation to the Member States, stakeholder organisations** **and** the Commission to ~~take the lead in promoting~~ the development of such common principles with the Union's international partners, **and to undertake further work in the areas covered by these common principles,** 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 Member States**

~~18.~~**16.** STRESSES the importance of ~~deepening and~~ strengthening the partnership between the Commission and the Member States, **including stakeholder organisations where appropriate**, to ensure that ~~national and~~ Union **and national** activities are complementary and mutually reinforcing;

**17. EMPHASISES that this partnership between the Commission and the Member States is a crucial element of the EU's strategic approach to international cooperation in research and innovation, with the involvement of the Council and Member States in relevant decision-making channels on issues about the Union's international activities with relevance for STI policies, when necessary; and RECALLS the close cooperation needed with Associated Countries in the development of the ERA;**

~~19.~~**18.** ACKNOWLEDGES the **important advisory** work of the **Strategic Forum for International S&T Cooperation (SFIC)**, ~~as substantial in~~ **its contribution to** mutual learning and **its role** in promoting coordination of international cooperation priorities of Member States, **for instance, as regards the India initiative and the building up of the Indo-European Research and Innovation Partnership;** ~~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;~~ **and ENCOURAGES SFIC to continue its work with its initiatives such as with India, China, the USA, Brazil and others;**

~~20.~~**19.** 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.~~**20.** In this respect WELCOMES the establishment of processes such as Groups of Senior Officials ~~to fully involve~~ **with full involvement of** Member States in joint priority-setting.

~~22.~~**21.** INVITES SFIC, in light of the new strategic approach proposed by the Commission, to contribute to the **design, development, and elaboration** ~~implementation~~ of the multi-annual roadmaps where joint action between the Union and the Member States is appropriate in **collaboration and open discussion with the stakeholders**, while also ~~developing additional joint actions between Member States, including the development of~~ **developing** joint research and innovation agendas **as well as joint actions** with key **between the Union, Member States and strategic** partners **in third countries, making use of Horizon 2020 instruments, when appropriate**;

~~23.~~**22.** INVITES SFIC to contribute to the development of the common principles for the conduct of international cooperation in research and innovation, notably through **the provision of relevant advice and** the sharing of information **on international cooperation policies and activities** and best practice developed at national level;

~~24.~~**23.** INVITES SFIC to ~~strengthen~~ **continue** its efforts towards sharing of information on ~~national~~ **Member States' and the Union's** international **R&D&I** cooperation policies and activities.

### **Implementation, governance and evaluation**

~~25.~~**24.** INVITES **ENCOURAGES** the Commission to ~~implement the new strategy by making~~ full use of the programming process and governance structures of Horizon 2020, **when implementing the new strategy** including by ~~presenting the international dimension of the Horizon 2020 work programmes in a coherent manner~~;

~~26.~~**25.** 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 Document<sup>9</sup> to the Communication;

~~27.~~**26.** URGES **ASKS** the Commission to ~~this extent to include~~ **promote** the international dimension of research and innovation as a key aspect **within the activities** of the Research and Innovation Observatory, **and in every survey or consultation on the ERA**;

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<sup>9</sup> Doc. 14000/12 ADD1.



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.~~

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