



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 31 May 2013**

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**RECH 219  
COMPET 380**

**OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

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From: Council

To: Delegations

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No. Prev. doc.: 9763/13RECH 177 COMPET 319

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Subject: Council resolution on the advisory work for the European Research Area

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Delegations will find attached the Council resolution on the advisory work for the European Research Area as adopted by the Council ("Competitiveness") at its meeting on 30 May 2013.

**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 ERA, 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 2010, 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", which emphasised the importance of quickly taking all measures necessary, in line with the "ERA vision 2020", for a well functioning and coherent European Research Area;

RECALLING the conclusions of the European Council of 4 February 2011, 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 2012 and recalled in its conclusions of 29 June 2012 and of 18-19 October 2012;

RECALLING the Council conclusions on the development of the European Research Area (ERA) through ERA-related groups of 1 June 2011, 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 groups;

RECALLING the Commission's Communication on a reinforced European Research Area partnership for excellence and growth of 23 July 2012, and the Council's response to this in its conclusions of 12 December 2012, 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 2013<sup>1</sup> and its recommendations; AGREES that ERAC should be renamed the European Research Area and Innovation Committee (while keeping the existing acronym (ERAC)) in order to enhance its advisory role in research-led innovation, and INVITES the Committee to reflect this adequately in its work programme, as well as to liaise with the subgroup on innovation of the Enterprise Policy Group (EPG);
2. NOTES that the advisory work for the European Research Area is currently organised on the basis of ERA initiatives and priorities that have now been redefined and is being undertaken by seven different ERA-related groups<sup>2</sup> with four different reporting lines; NOTES also that, while these groups produce valuable advice in themselves within their own remit, they have all been created well before the new priority areas for achieving a fully functioning ERA by the end of 2014 were set by the Commission in the Communications of July 2012, welcomed by the Council in December 2012, and of September 2012;
3. NOTES furthermore 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 also 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;

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<sup>1</sup> Doc. ERAC 1201/13

<sup>2</sup> 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.

4. THEREFORE INVITES the ERA-related groups to consider together, in the interest of the timeliness, effectiveness and efficiency of advice to Council, Commission and Member States how best to improve their cooperation, consultation and coordination, and in particular to do so in accordance with Paragraph 28 of the Council conclusions of December 2012<sup>3</sup>; EXPRESSES its support for the action plan mentioned in recommendation No 5a of the ERAC Report<sup>4</sup>;
5. AGREES that the statuses, the mandates and the reporting lines of those ERA-related groups that have been established by the Council should be reviewed by the end of 2014 and INVITES the Commission and the Committee itself to consider whether such a review is required in relation to the groups that they have established; such reviews could be carried out on the basis of (1) an assessment of the extent to which mutual cooperation, consultation and coordination 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;

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<sup>3</sup> 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).

<sup>4</sup> 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.

6. ESTABLISHES the new mandate of the Committee as set out in the Annex to this resolution and INVITES the Committee and, where appropriate, the Commission, to implement the recommendations included in the Committee's report of 18 April 2013 without delay.
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**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 principal 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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