

Dear Colleagues,

This spring, ERA has been erased from the National Reform Programmes of Member States in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy. Moreover, at the forthcoming Competitiveness Council at the end of May, the ERA Roadmaps of the Member States do not appear on the agenda of the meeting other than at an informal lunch event.

These are recent examples that suggest a decreasing relevance of the European Research Area. Attached you will find a policy brief that tries to re-establish the full importance of ERA: **A Plea for a Newly United Europe**. Whether we like it or not, ERA contributes to the success or failure of the European project at large. To ignore ERA means to damage our policy field beyond repair.

I invite you to read my policy brief as an early and purely personal contribution to the reflections on the next (9th) Framework Programme. To read the full text, please click on the following link:

<https://era.gv.at/object/document/2575>

If you wish, you can add comments below the policy brief on the website.

With best regards,

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