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European Union

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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	<i>Preparation of the Competitiveness Council on 26-27 May 2016</i> Draft Council conclusions on the transition towards an Open Science system - Policy debate

Policy debate on the next steps in the transition towards Open Science

With its Council Conclusions on the transition towards an Open Science system, the Council sets political goals towards furthering Open Science and commits itself to these goals. Member States show responsibility to ensure a smooth transition. Moreover, the Council calls on concerted action: Member States, Commission and stakeholders should work together and follow a common approach, with regular discussions and stocktaking to ensure that the transition towards Open Science will be successful.

The Presidency intends to facilitate a policy debate on these issues. This will serve to give input to the Commission and the Open Science Policy Platform.

→ **Ministers are invited to put forward one or two key elements of Open Science that they believe are of particular importance.**

The elements could, for example, relate to one or two of the five policy action lines of the Draft European Open Science Agenda of the Commission¹, to some of the twelve action items of the Amsterdam Call for Action on Open Science², to the actions foreseen for the European Open Science Cloud³ or to other possible issues to achieve Open Science⁴.

To ensure a vivid discussion, the Presidency asks all delegations to limit their interventions to two minutes.

Background

On 27 May, the Council is to adopt Council Conclusions. On the same day the Commission will formally launch the Open Science Policy Platform. The platform is an expert group with members from stakeholders that will advise the Commission on how to further develop and practically implement Open Science policies, and will facilitate the uptake by stakeholders. Commissioner Moedas will announce the names of the newly selected Chair and members of the Open Science Policy Platform to the Council.

The activities of the Platform will help to further develop the European Open Science Agenda. The Amsterdam Call for Action can also be one of their starting points, together with reflections on this document and Open Science in general that were collected online in the weeks after the event, and earlier strategic documents. Through the Open Science Policy Platform, stakeholders will make the Open Science goals more concrete. They will help develop the vision on Open Science, discuss the changes taking place, and provide advice on which policy initiatives and concrete actions are needed.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/research/openscience/pdf/draft_european_open_science_agenda.pdf

² <https://wiki.surfnet.nl/display/OSCFA/Amsterdam+Call+for+Action+on+Open+Science>

³ Communication (in all languages)
<http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/?fuseaction=list&n=10&adv=0&coteId=1&year=2016&number=178>

MEMO (Q&A style on the whole DSM package): http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-1409_en.htm

⁴ One example is the 'ERAC Opinion on Open Research Data. Doc. ERAC 1202/16.

The transition to Open Science requires support from stakeholders, especially the researchers themselves, but Member States should also be actively involved. We have set common goals, but each Member State will follow its own course during the transition, because the research and innovation system is different in each of them and responsibilities throughout these systems are different as well. In order to follow the progress of the transition we need regular discussion and stocktaking at the level of the Competitiveness Council.
