**Council of the
European Union**

**Brussels, 8 February 2017
(OR. en)**

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**RECH 26
COMPET 60**

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council
Subject:	ESFRI recommendation on coordination of Member States' investment strategies in e-infrastructures

1. In its conclusions of 19 May 2015 on open, data-intensive and networked research as a driver for faster and wider innovation[1], the Council invited the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) to explore mechanisms for better coordination of Member States' investment strategies in e-infrastructures, covering also HPC, distributed computing, scientific data and networks.

2. ESFRI has a key role in policy-making on research infrastructures in Europe. In particular, ESFRI contributes to the development of a strategic roadmap that identifies vital new European research infrastructures for the next 10-20 years.

3. To respond to the invitation by the Council, ESFRI established a dedicated working group to prepare input and draft recommendations to ESFRI on how to implement the conclusions. Based on the report from the working group, ESFRI adopted the recommendation as included in the Annex to this note at its meeting on 9 December 2016.

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[1]   Doc. 8970/15.

4.   At its meeting on 30 January 2017, the Working Party on Research heard a presentation of and exchanged views on the recommendation. It agreed to put the recommendation to the Council for information.

5.   The Permanent Representatives Committee is thus invited to ask the Council to take note of the ESFRI recommendation as included in the Annex to the present note.

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ESFRI   *European Strategy Forum*

ESFRI recommendation on coordination of Member States' investment strategies in e-infrastructures

- ESFRI aims to contribute to an effective and efficient approach to e-infrastructure and services (vertical and horizontal) for European science and its competitiveness in the global scene building on existing Research Infrastructures and electronic Infrastructures.

- ESFRI advises to establish urgently a ***convergent policy of funding mechanisms*** for e-Infrastructures at the various levels (institutional, regional, national, European). Such policy could include ***support and financing of e-Infrastructures*** for scientific users, providing incentives to researchers to generate ***FAIR*[2] *and reproducible (+R) data***, as well as the ***development*** of enabling e-tools/e-technologies and the ***mainstreaming*** of support actions addressing e-needs of all levels of intervention.

- ESFRI suggests to act as ***STRATEGY FORUM OF FUNDERS*** of the e-Infrastructures for European science as a key element of *support of a coherent approach to policy-making on research infrastructure in Europe*.

- ESFRI could be effective in facilitating the coordination of national and European efforts in e-Infrastructures for research and innovation, following the model that has been put in place for Research Infrastructures. The global dimension of e-Infrastructures shall also be addressed in a coherent way.

- ESFRI advises to proceed by ***building on the EOSC HLEG vision*[3]** and by ***strengthening the data FAIR+R generator role of Research Infrastructures*** and the coordination of science and innovation communities also at broad international level as described by the e-IRG roadmap.[4]

- ESFRI advises that ***urgent actions*** must be taken to support the ***training and hiring of e-infrastructure experts/scientists*** and to expand the ***data literacy*** at all levels of education and innovation activities to enable the return from the investment in e-Infrastructures and Research Infrastructures and maximize societal benefits.

- ESFRI advises that ***deploying strategic joint e-services***, including standardization and assisted open access, can be ***most efficiently done at least at European level***.

- ESFRI recognizes that the capacity of distributed High Performance and High Throughput Computing, of communication networks for scientific data, and of transversal e-services, should be ***strengthened by building on national resources*** and adding an effective coordination and a possible additional funding such to realize a full European-scale impact.

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[2]   Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Re-usable.
[3]   Realising the European Open Science Cloud Report 2016
[4]   e-IRG Roadmap 2016

- ESFRI recognizes that the funding approach to *HPC Tier-Zero facilities* bears challenges similar to more centralised large-scale Research Infrastructure facilities[5] with direct industrial policy implications and should be dealt with accordingly.

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[5]   ESFRI Strategy document and Roadmap 2016.