

EUROPEAN UNION

EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA  
AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE  
Strategic Forum for International  
S&T Cooperation

Secretariat

Brussels, 10 March 2017  
(OR. en)

**ERAC-SFIC 1355/17**

**NOTE**

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From: SFIC Secretariat  
To: SFIC Delegations  
Subject: Mandate of the SFIC Working Group on a Toolbox for International cooperation - extension of mandate duration

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Delegations will find annexed to this Note the revised mandate of the SFIC Working Group on a toolbox for international cooperation, as approved by the SFIC plenary on 8 March 2017.

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**MANDATE OF THE SFIC WORKING GROUP SET UP TO MAKE A TOOLBOX FOR  
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

1. The Working Group on a Toolbox for international cooperation has the objective to develop a practical overview for the Member States, Associated Countries and the Commission in their implementation of international STI agreements and STI cooperation activities at bilateral and multilateral level.
2. The Working Group will focus in particular on the following activities:
  - a) Identify different sets of users for the toolbox (ministries and funding organisations most relevant);
  - b) Gather information from MS/AC/EC, which can provide relevant input to the project;
  - c) Make an overall assessment, based on relevant existing studies together with input from MS/AC/EC;
  - d) Provide an overview of relevant instruments for international cooperation based on points b) and c);
  - e) Cooperate and coordinate with the SFIC country-specific working groups;
  - f) Collect relevant MS/AC experiences of different instruments as well as examples of good practice;
  - g) Consider possible synergies/links with the new Commission's anticipated Service Facility in support of the strategic development of international cooperation in research and innovation;
  - h) Propose SFIC recommendations based on the mapping and the assessment.

3. The Working Group shall contribute to and take account of the EU Multi-Annual Roadmaps, planned policy dialogues and activities in Horizon 2020, as appropriate.
4. The Working Group was set up for a period of 18 months, commencing on 29 September 2015. SFIC decided at its plenary meeting on 8 March 2017 to extend the Working Group's mandate by 12 months, commencing on 29 March 2017. This period can be extended after assessment and approval by the SFIC Plenary.
5. The SFIC Rules of Procedure (ERAC-SFIC 1355/16) are applicable to this Working Group.

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