



**Brussels, 14 June 2017
(OR. en)**

10252/17

**RECH 234
RELEX 525**

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. prev. doc.:	10251/17 RECH 233 RELEX 524
Subject:	Draft Belém Statement on Atlantic Research and Innovation Cooperation - Approval

1. Under the leadership of Brazil and South Africa, and together with the Member States, efforts to develop scientific cooperation in the South and Tropical Atlantic and in the Southern Ocean have been ongoing for several years now.
2. In order to mark and celebrate all these achievements, and as announced during the Competitiveness Council of 29 November 2016, Commissioner Carlos Moedas will host a high level ministerial event in Lisbon in July 2017. This event will be the occasion to bring together the key political leaders and stakeholders from the Member States, as well as from Brazil and South Africa. The event will also provide the opportunity to showcase the first results of the Horizon 2020 Blue Growth projects aimed at the Atlantic basin, and other national initiatives of the Member States alongside and across the Atlantic Ocean.
3. At the occasion of the this event the "Belém Statement on Atlantic Research and Innovation Cooperation" will be co-signed by Commissioner Moedas, on behalf of the European Union, and members from the Governments of Brazil and South Africa.

4. The Commission presented the draft text of the statement to the Research Working Party at several occasions and took on board the comments made by delegations. On 12 June the Working Party on Research agreed on the final text of the statement.
5. The Permanent Representatives Committee is, therefore, invited to:
 - to confirm the agreement reached at Working Party level of the text of the Belém declaration; and
 - to suggest the Council to approve, as an "A" item of the agenda of one of its forthcoming meetings, the position of the Union on said declaration as contained in document ST 10251/17.
