

EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 28 March 2014  
(OR. en)

EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA  
AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

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– ERAC –  
Secretariat

ERAC 1206/1/14  
REV 1

**NOTE**

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From:	ERAC Secretariat
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Summary conclusions of the 18th meeting of ERAC, held in Brussels (BE) on 6 February 2014

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Delegations will find attached to this Note the summary conclusions of the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of ERAC, held in Brussels (BE) on 6 February 2014<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the ERAC website for all PowerPoint presentations given at the meeting and for all Commission and ERAC Secretariat documents relating to the various agenda items and circulated to the Committee ahead of the meeting (follow this link: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/policies/era/erac/erac-plenary-meetings/18th-erac-meeting-6-february-2014>).

**Chair:** Rudolf Strohmeier

**Vice-Chair:** Krzysztof Gulda

**Secretariat:** General Secretariat of the Council

**Present:** Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Commission, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom (38).

**Absent:** Bulgaria, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Liechtenstein, Serbia (4).

### **1. Adoption of the provisional agenda**

The Committee adopted the provisional agenda.

### **2. Approval of the draft summary conclusions of the 17th meeting of ERAC, held in Brussels (BE) on 12 December 2013**

The Committee approved the draft summary conclusions of the 17th meeting of ERAC.

### **3. Standing information point**

Delegations were provided with an update on the ERA-related group the Open Access National Points of Reference and the ERA newsletter on Open Access. They were also provided with information on the Mutual Learning Seminar on Research and Innovation Policies that will be held on 20 March 2014, on the Mutual Learning Workshop on Human Resources and Mobility that will be held on 26 March 2014, and on planned actions for the interaction on the implementation of ERA policy with other ERA-related groups<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> See footnote 1 (under Documents).

## 4. ERA and Innovation policy

### 4.1 ERA Progress Report

The Presidency updated the Committee on the procedural state of play of the draft Council conclusions on the ERA Progress Report 2013.

The Chair of Working Group on the European Semester and on ERA Monitoring, Ward Ziarko, discussed the possibility of a mandate from ERAC for the Working Group to draft the operational ERA roadmap based on the recommendations in the ERAC opinion. A clear distribution of work and responsibilities between the Working Group, the Steering Board and the (plenary) Committee as well as the ERA-related groups was needed.

The Committee decided that 1) the Steering Board will look into this and invite the Chair of the Working Group on the European Semester and on ERA Monitoring to its next meeting, 2) a *draft* roadmap should ideally be ready by the beginning of 2015 (the Council's deadline for the roadmap being mid-2015), 3) the other ERA-related advisory groups should be involved in drafting the roadmap because of their specific expertise, 4) active input from MS was needed, and 5) the Commission's 2014 ERA Progress Report should obviously also serve as input to the roadmap. The Committee thought that both the time priorities and the content for establishing ERA needed to be set out clearly in the roadmap.

Several delegations thought the ERA advisory work should be re-grouped on the basis of the 5 ERA Priorities, as the present set-up was thought to be confusing and lacking in operational focus. The Chair and the Vice-Chair welcomed this suggestion, which would be taken up by the Steering Board.

The Chair recalled the Heads of State request to complete ERA by 2014 and the need to demonstrate what has been achieved and to indicate the future work required to implement ERA. The Chair and Vice-Chair proposed that the Steering Board would look at the work that needed to be done in 2014-2015 and come back to the Plenary with a proposal.

## 4.2 Innovation topics

NL will take the lead in Open Access and IPR and EE in Public Procurement of Innovation. Presentations were given by both delegations (the NL presentation is available on the ERAC website: see Footnote 1). — A draft ERAC opinion on these subjects was expected by the end of 2014. NL and EE will set up task-forces (outside the Rules of Procedure). All delegations were invited to join the task-forces. The task-forces will report to the Steering Board.

The Chair welcomed both initiatives and expected opinions with a clear political message that could interest the Council (Competitiveness) and could have an impact on its proceedings.

The Vice-Chair of the ERAC Working Group on Knowledge Transfer presented the Working Group's plans for future activities<sup>3</sup> and its policy implications.

In response to the presentation the Chair pointed out that, being an ERAC Working Group, the KT Group was expected to give focussed *policy advice*.

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<sup>3</sup> See Footnote 1 (PowerPoint presentation).

The Chair agreed that the reports and studies etc. that the KT Group considered should be summarised and shared in an operational way with ERAC to enable policy advice and conclusions to be drawn.

## **5. Implementation and monitoring of the Innovation Union in the context of Europe 2020**

### **5.1 European Semester**

The Committee discussed ongoing work on the European Semester, recalling the ERAC opinion on the AGS 2014 that had already been adopted, as well as the draft ERAC Opinion on Member States' reporting on Research and Innovation reforms in view of their National Reform Programmes NRPs that had been sent to delegations for final comments on 4 February.

The Chair of the Working Group on the European Semester and on ERA Monitoring presented the Group's draft work programme for the European Semester<sup>4</sup>, emphasising that the Group had to prioritise its activities in line with its mandate, i.e. it should focus on advising on the European Semester cycle and future ERA progress reports, as well as other ERA monitoring mechanisms that it might be called upon to advise on.

The Chair concluded by supporting the need to "operationalise" ERAC opinions.

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<sup>4</sup> See Footnote 1 (PowerPoint presentation).

## 5.2 2013 Innovation Union Competitiveness Report

The 2013 edition of the Innovation Union Competitiveness Report had been presented at the 17th ERAC meeting on 12 December 2013<sup>5</sup>. The Report contributes to the Europe 2020 Strategy by providing in-depth statistical and economic analysis covering the main features of efficient research and innovation systems.

Delegations discussed the Report on the basis of a summary note mapping the conclusions of the IUC report onto the objectives of the European innovation policy<sup>6</sup>.

The Chair concluded that the discussion showed the need for a cross-ministerial approach at the level of the Council (Competitiveness) and stressed the added value of translating policy to other areas and not just focussing on R&I Ministries, noting that if the topics were well chosen there was interest for broader policy uptake.

## 6. Mandate/Rules of Procedure/Administrative issues

### 6.1 Presentation of report for tracking ERAC impact

The Vice-Chair presented the initial findings on tracking ERAC's impact based on the input from Member States and Associated Countries<sup>7</sup>. Input had been limited so far, leading the Vice-Chair to call on MS and AC who had not yet sent their contribution to do so by 14 February. More input was needed to get a representative and reliable picture of ERAC's impact on MS level. The Vice-Chair was open to a different approach to assessing ERAC's impact but needed a response (rather than silence) from delegations in order to take this exercise forward with a view to reporting (in writing) to the Committee at its meeting on 27 March.

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<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/policies/era/erac/erac-plenary-meetings/17th-erac-meeting-12-december-2013> (PowerPoint presentation).

<sup>6</sup> See footnote 1 (under Documents).

<sup>7</sup> See footnote 1 (PowerPoint presentation).

## 6.2 Election of members of the Steering Board

Under Article 4 (3) of the Rules of Procedure, the Steering Board shall, amongst other members, consist of up to two Member State representatives who shall be elected by a majority of the representatives of Member States or their alternates for a period of 18 months. The Committee elected (unanimously) Mr David Wilson (UK) for the current vacant position on the Steering Board.

## 7. Any other business

DK gave information to the Committee on the Euro science Open Forum that will be held from 21 to 26 June 2014 in Copenhagen.<sup>8</sup>

The Chair presented the Ministerial Summit on Earth Observation that had been held in Geneva on 17 January 2014. — He informed delegations that the Summit had given him the firm impression that the European Research Area was already seen as a reality by the world outside the EU. A Note on the summit meeting was later circulated to delegations.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> The Euro science Open Forum (ESOF) is a biennial pan-European scientific meeting staged to provide an interdisciplinary forum for open debate and discussion on the role and future of scientific research, education and innovation. ESOF 2014 will take place from 21 to 26 June 2014 in the Carlsberg City in Copenhagen with up to 5,000 delegates, including world-leading scientists, early-career researchers, business people, entrepreneurs, innovators, policymakers, science and technology communicators and the general public. The programme will feature a total of 7 Nobel Laureates and Fields medallists, numerous business leaders from world-leading R&D-intensive companies and several ministers and high-level policy-makers.

<sup>9</sup> See Footnote 1 (under Documents).

The next ERAC meeting will be held on 27 March 2014 in Brussels. The Steering Board will draw up the draft provisional agenda on the basis of the Work Programme 2013-2015.

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