



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 24 April 2014
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**RECH 145
COMPET 216**

NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	8448/14 RECH 141 COMPET 206
Subject:	The European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures - Draft Council conclusions

Delegations will find attached draft Council Conclusions on the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures with a view to the discussion by the Research Working Party at its meeting on 28 April 2014.

Changes to the previous document are indicated in **bold underlined** and ~~striketrough~~.

**Draft Council Conclusions on the implementation of the roadmap for the European Strategy
Forum on Research Infrastructures**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

RECALLING its Conclusions of 11 December 2012¹, endorsing the Commission Communication on 'A reinforced European research area partnership for excellence and growth'², and emphasising the need for renewing and adapting the mandate of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) to adequately address the existing challenges and also to ensure the follow-up of implementation of already on-going ESFRI projects after a comprehensive assessment, as well as the prioritisation of the infrastructure projects listed in the ESFRI roadmap;

TAKING NOTE of the ESFRI report of 7 April 2014 entitled the prioritisation of support to ESFRI projects for implementation;

1. WELCOMES the contribution of ESFRI to the objectives of the European Research Area and to achieving the Innovation Union commitment on research infrastructures.
2. ACKNOWLEDGES the work done by ESFRI to establish a shortlist of prioritised projects which are mature enough to be under implementation 2015-2016 and whose timely implementation is considered essential to extend the frontiers of knowledge in the fields concerned.
- 2a. NOTES that ESFRI has identified three projects from the ESFRI roadmap as priorities³ in that they are pushing the boundaries of scientific excellence, are strategically relevant for Europe, and are ready for immediate action.**

¹ Doc. 17649/12

² Doc. 12848/12

³ **The European Plate Observing System (EPOS), the European Life-Science Infrastructure for Biological Information (ELIXIR) and the European Spallation Source (ESS).**

3. CONFIRMS the Member States' commitment to focus their available national resources on the respective prioritised projects they are **financially** participating in.
 4. INVITES the Commission to complement the Member States' own financial commitments through a one-time financial contribution for these priority projects under Horizon 2020, **while continuing to support the preparatory phases of other ESFRI projects.**
 - 4a. ENCOURAGES Member States to consider investing in the implementation and operation of ESFRI projects using also European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) by including research infrastructures in their Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation, and INVITES the Commission and the Member States' authorities to facilitate the creation of synergies between ESIF and Horizon 2020.**
 - 4b. NOTES that ESFRI has identified additional projects that could reach implementation by 2015.**
 5. RECOGNISES the **importance and** progress of those further ESFRI projects that are already under implementation, or well on the way towards it.
 6. WELCOMES the plans of ESFRI to update its roadmap in 2015/2016, **CALLS on ESFRI to continue the prioritisation of all the research infrastructure projects included in this update,** and INVITES the Member States to consider putting forward any further projects for inclusion in this roadmap update.
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