



Council of the
European Union

058214/EU XXV. GP
Eingelangt am 04/03/15

**Brussels, 4 March 2015
(OR. en)**

6800/15

**RECH 72
COMPET 106
MI 140
TELECOM 60**

NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Draft Council conclusions on the European Research Area Roadmap 2015-2020

Delegations will find attached draft Council conclusions on the European Research Area Roadmap 2015-2020 with a view to the discussion by the Research Working Party at its meeting on 9 March 2015.

Draft Council conclusions on the European Research Area Roadmap 2015-2020

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

RECALLING

- The Conclusions of the European Council of 24-25 October 2013¹ which note the need to accelerate structural reforms of national systems and to strengthen progress monitoring based on robust data provided by Member States in view of obtaining a full European Research Area by the end of 2014;
 - Its Conclusions of 21 February 2014 on the progress report from the Commission on European Research Area (ERA) 2013² which note the progress in delivering the ERA and call for the development of an ERA roadmap by mid-2015;
 - Its Conclusions of 5 December 2014 on the European Research Area Progress Report 2014³ acknowledging that a good progress in delivering the ERA has been made, encouraging further efforts of the Commission, Member States and research stakeholders to make the ERA fully operational, and reaffirming its support to develop by mid-2015 an ERA roadmap at the European level,
1. UNDERLINES that the ERA is at the heart of the Innovation Union flagship initiative and is a crucial component of the Europe 2020 Strategy focusing on maximising the potential of Europe's research systems, fostering innovation, strengthening the scientific and technological bases of the Member States as well as their competitiveness and capacity to address grand challenges, and therefore REAFFIRMS its commitment to make the ERA fully operational.

¹ Doc. EUCO 169/13.

² Doc. 6945/14.

³ Doc. 16599/14.

2. REAFFIRMS that all the building blocks for the ERA as identified in the 2012 Communication on a reinforced European Research Area Partnership are in place and RECOGNISES the start of a new phase in the ERA evolution. Now the Member States, the Commission and the stakeholder organisations should ensure a fully operational ERA through coordinated efforts at the national and the EU level.
3. WELCOMES the development and adoption of the ERA Roadmap 2015-2020 by the European Research and Innovation Area Committee (ERAC). In this context, ACKNOWLEDGES the importance of the work undertaken by the Member States and ERAC, in consultation with the other ERA-related Groups and the ERA Stakeholder Platform.
4. AGREES with the approach taken by ERAC that the purpose of the ERA Roadmap is to identify a limited number of key implementation priorities bearing the biggest impact on Europe's science, research and innovation systems if applied by all the members of the ERA partnership; and to propose a number of specific actions which might be taken to implement these priorities, whilst fully recognising that national research and innovation systems across Europe have different characteristics and specificities and that it is up to the Member States to decide upon the most suited approaches for their systems.
5. UNDERLINES the importance of the implementation of the ERA Roadmap at the national and the EU level and INVITES the Member States to implement the ERA Roadmap and to integrate relevant actions in national action plans and strategies. CALLS for effective use of the Policy Support Facility in this endeavour. In this context, INVITES ERAC to agree on a set of indicators allowing to monitor the implementation of the ERA Roadmap on the national and the EU level and core indicators measuring progress towards a fully operational ERA by the end of 2015. CALLS ON the Commission to integrate the ERA Roadmap into the ERA Progress Report 2016 and the following ERA Progress Report exercises while avoiding creating unnecessary administrative burden.

6. **NOTES** the need to place the ERA Roadmap in a broader strategic context of Europe's growth agenda, including the DSM strategy and the Innovation Union. The relevant ERA actions and measures, where appropriate, must be embedded in the National Reform Programmes in the context of the European Semester. **CALLS** for better coherence between all the ERA actions, including those fostering quality and excellence of the European science, and actions promoting innovation and growth, while taking into account the need to close the research and innovation divide.
7. **UNDERScores** the new digital opportunities and challenges for research, in particular, the exponential increase of research data and **CALLS ON** the Member States and the Commission for coordinated actions addressing the digital dimension of the ERA, including better data management, development of adequate infrastructure and legislative improvements that could increase the effectiveness of text and data mining and re-use of public data and removing obstacles to better access and use of research data.
8. **UNDERScores** the role of the human potential in the advancement of the ERA and therefore **CALLS ON** the Member States and research organisations to develop and strengthen comprehensive human resources strategies taking into account the importance of mobility of researchers, including from outside the EU, the empowerment of young researchers by providing them with attractive career pathways and the need to address the persistent gender bias in careers.
9. **EMPHASISES** that the transnational cooperation in the context of the ERA requires revitalisation and therefore **INVITES** the Member States to better use the coordination instruments, for example through the Joint Programming Initiatives, and develop better synergies with funding programs at different levels, including the European Neighbourhood Instrument and the European Territorial Co-operation instruments. **CALLS** on the Member States to better align the implementation rules and procedures in order to stimulate the cooperation on all levels and to avoid unnecessary administrative burden.

10. UNDERLINES that the ERA Roadmap 2015-2020 should mirror the possible evolution of the priority areas and actions and therefore INVITES ERAC in cooperation with the other ERA-related Groups to revise it regularly. In this context, STRESSES the importance of effective and efficient ERA governance and advisory structure in order to improve the coordination and monitoring of the ERA.
-