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ERAC 2  
RECH 245  
COEST 321

## "I" ITEM NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)  
Subject: Involvement of Ukraine as observer in the European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC)

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1. The Agreement for the association of Ukraine to Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2014-2020, was signed on 20 March 2015 and ratified by the Ukrainian parliament on 17 August 2015.
2. The European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC) is a strategic policy advisory committee whose principal mission is to provide timely strategic input to the Council, the Commission and Member States on research and innovation issues that are relevant to the development of the European Research Area. At its 26th meeting on 16-17 April 2015, the Committee agreed that, in accordance with the practice applied to countries associated to the EU Framework Programme for research and innovation, Ukraine may be invited to take part in Committee meetings as observer in accordance with paragraph 8 of the ERAC Mandate <sup>1</sup>. However, before giving Ukraine observer status to ERAC, the Permanent Representatives Committee should be informed. With regard to this, the Working Party on Research was informed as the competent preparatory body.

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<sup>1</sup> Doc. ERAC 10331/13 of 31 May 2013.

3. If Ukraine is invited to attend as an observer to ERAC, its representatives will participate under the same conditions as other countries that are associated to the EU Framework Programme, i.e., without voting rights, on an ad-hoc basis<sup>2</sup>, and covering their own expenses. The observer status would also apply to participation, as appropriate, in ERAC's dedicated configurations, i.e., the High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC) and the Strategic Forum for International S&T Cooperation (SFIC).
4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to take note of the intention of the ERAC co-Chairs to invite representatives of Ukraine as observers to ERAC, as well as the intention of the Chairs of ERAC's dedicated configurations, GPC and SFIC, to invite them as observers to these two groups.

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<sup>2</sup> On certain items, the ERAC co-Chairs could reserve participation to Member States only.