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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Draft Council conclusions on principles and values for international cooperation in research and innovation
- *Statement by the Council on Russian military aggression against Ukraine and its impact on R&I*

Delegations will find attached a statement by the Council.

Changes in comparison to doc. 8329/1/22 REV 1 ADD 1 are marked in **bold underline** for additions and in ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions.

STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL ON

~~RUSSIAN WAR ON~~ MILITARY AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE AND ITS IMPACT
ON R&I

The Council, stresses that ~~the~~ Russian **military's war** of aggression against Ukraine grossly violates international law and is causing massive loss of life and injury to civilians and that the war ~~in~~ Ukraine has jeopardized the research and innovation (R&I) landscape ~~scientific and technological capabilities~~ of Ukraine. Russia is directing attacks against the civilian population and is targeting civilian objects, including scientific institutions, such as universities, research institutes and libraries and compromising sound scientific relations with the R&I communities of both countries.

The Council recalls that the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms ~~and as well as~~ promoting peaceful relations between nations forms the foundation of international cooperation in the field of R&I and that the violation of these principles and values ~~is~~ poses a serious threat to individual researchers.

The Council welcomes the quick reaction of the Commission and Member States to launch the portal ERA4Ukraine under the Euraxess network as a one-stop shop for information on support to researchers of Ukraine by the EU, its Member States and Associated Countries. The Council acknowledges that ERA4Ukraine is just one of the many on-going initiatives of the Commission, Member States, various organisations as well as individual members of the EU R&I community to support Ukrainian researchers and students and calls for further actions towards Ukraine.

The Council stresses therefore the need to **further** implement coordinated mechanisms, taking into account ~~the~~ existing national measures, in order to ~~welcome~~ **provide a safe working and R&I environment for researchers and students** ~~who are no longer able to work in their own countries because they are threatened or persecuted such as the Ukrainian scientists who were~~ **are** forced to flee **or are under threat** due to **Russia's military aggression** ~~the armed conflict~~. Moreover, the Council highlights the necessity to put in place appropriate support to allow Ukraine to **maintain and** regain its **higher education and** scientific capacities.

The Council welcomes the decision to suspend existing and new cooperation with public entities in Russia **and Belarus** initiated by **the Commission within** the European Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation **and other relevant EU programmes, as well as measures taken at Member States' level.**

The Council highlights in that context the relevance of science diplomacy as an important tool for the pursuit of values and principles of international cooperation as well as for linking up R&I policies and overarching policy goals.