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Subject: Principles and values for international cooperation in research and innovation

- Council conclusions (adopted on 10 June 2022)
 - = Statement by the Council on Russian military aggression against Ukraine and its impact on R&I
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STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL ON

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

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

The Council recalls that the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as promoting peaceful relations among nations forms the foundation of international cooperation in the field of R&I and that the violation of these principles and values 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 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 invites the Commission to regularly provide it with information in this context.

The Council stresses therefore the need to further implement coordinated mechanisms, taking into account existing national measures, in order to support researchers and students who are forced to flee or are under threat due to Russia's military aggression. 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 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.
