



Brussels, 3 December 2021
(OR. en)

14381/21

RECH 541
ERAC 6

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft Council Decision on the composition and the mandate of the European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC) Draft Council Decision amending Decision 2009/908/EU, laying down measures for the implementation of the European Council Decision on the exercise of the Presidency of the Council, and on the chairmanship of preparatory bodies of the Council - Adoption

1. In June 2019, the European Council approved a new strategic agenda for 2019-2024 which stated that "*each institution should revisit its working methods and reflect on the best way to fulfil its role under the Treaties.*" This launched a reflection process at the level of the Permanent Representatives Committee which resulted in the approval on 3 February 2021, in accordance with Article 19(3) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, of a revised list of the preparatory bodies of the Council (5754/2/21 REV 2), including the European Research Area and Innovation Committee, to be applied as from 1 July 2021.

2. The **European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC)**, was set up by Council Resolution of 14 January 1974, which established a Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) ¹, later renamed the **European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC)** by Council Resolution of 30 May 2013².
3. On 26 November 2021, the Council approved conclusions on the future governance of the European Research Area (ERA), which highlighted that the new ERA and its priorities require a comprehensive redesign of the ERA governance, reaffirmed the ERAC as the high-level strategic policy joint advisory committee, providing early advice to the Council, the Commission and the Member States on strategic research and innovation (R&I) policy issues;
4. The Council also agreed to review the ERAC mandate in order to reflect the new ERA governance and to limit the membership to representatives of Member States and the Commission with high executive level of responsibility for R&I policies, and acknowledged the added value of the co-chairing of ERAC by the representatives of Member States and the Commission.
5. Consequently, the Research Working Party examined the draft Council Decision on the composition and the mandate of the **European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC)** on 15 and 29 November 2021, and reached an agreement on the text, with the AT and DE delegations having a scrutiny reservation on Articles 9.
6. The approval of the mandate of the ERAC also requires a modification of the Council Decision 2009/908/EU laying down measures for the implementation of the **European Council Decision on the exercise of the Presidency of the Council, and on the chairmanship of preparatory bodies of the Council for this committee to be added to the list of preparatory bodies that are not chaired by the six-monthly Presidency.** The text of the modification of that Council Decision is set out in document 14240/21.

¹ OJ C 7, 29.01.74, p. 2.

² Council Resolution of 30 May 2013, doc. 10331/13.

7. The Permanent Representatives Committee is, therefore, invited to:

- suggest that the Council, in part "A" of the agenda of a forthcoming meeting, adopts the Council Decision on the composition and the mandate of the European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC), as revised by the lawyer-linguists and set out in document 14239/21.
 - suggest that the Council, in part "A" of the agenda of a forthcoming meeting, adopts the Council Decision amending Council Decision 2009/908/EU laying down measures for the implementation of the European Council Decision on the exercise of the Presidency of the Council, and on the chairmanship of preparatory bodies of the Council, as revised by the lawyer-linguists and set out in document 14240/21.
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