



Brussels, 3 December 2021  
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14389/21

RECH 542  
ERAC 7

#### 'I' ITEM NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee

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Subject: Attendance of associated countries to the Horizon Europe Programme to the informal videoconference of the members of the European Research Area Committee (ERAC) on 13 December 2021  
- Approval

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1. Following the approval of the Council conclusions on the future governance of the European Research Area (ERA) on 26 November 2021<sup>1</sup>, the third countries associated to the Horizon Europe Research Framework Programme<sup>2</sup> (hereinafter “associated countries”) will be invited to participate, on a voluntary basis, in the ERA actions contained in the ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024 attached to the Council conclusions.
2. In line with the Council conclusions, ERAC should provide its views on the ERA Policy Agenda by April 2022, in order to facilitate Member States and where applicable associated countries to identify within the first semester 2022 the ERA actions in which they wish to participate.

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<sup>1</sup> 14308/21.

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

3. For the purpose of the invitation to the informal videoconference of the members of ERAC on 13 December 2021, the associated countries are the following: Iceland, Norway, Moldova, Turkey (already associated), Armenia, Ukraine (agreements signed but awaiting ratification), Georgia, Kosovo<sup>3</sup>, Israel, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia and Serbia (agreements to be signed on the week of 6 December).
4. Against this background, the ERAC co-Chairs would like to invite one representative of each one of the above-mentioned associated countries to the informal videoconference of the members of ERAC on 13 December 2021 for the following agenda items:
  - a) Information from the co-Chairs and from the Presidency: in order for the associated countries to be informed of the future Presidency's priorities, as this will have an impact on the implementation of the framework programme to which they are associated, as well as on the future ERA actions;
  - b) Strategic debate on First ERA Policy Agenda and the future role of ERAC: given that the associated countries will be invited to participate in the ERA actions of the ERA Policy Agenda;
  - c) Updates from the Commission Expert Group on the "ERA Forum for Transition": given that the associated countries will be invited to participate, on a case-by-case basis, in the work of the future "ERA Forum" to be set out in accordance with the abovementioned Council conclusions on the future governance of the ERA;
  - d) Highlights from the ERA-related Groups - "Wrap-up" achievements: given that the associated countries have been participating in the work of the ERA-related Groups under the previous Framework Programme for Research "Horizon 2020";

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<sup>3</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

- e) Follow-up on former ERAC strategic debates dealing with knowledge valorisation, research assessment and researchers careers, and presentation on one EU Mission: given that these are all actions in the ERA Policy Agenda, and therefore of interest to associated countries as they might wish to participate in all or some of these actions;
  - f) ERAC Workshop on synergies between ERA and the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) on 14 December 2021: given that it concerns specific actions in the ERA Policy Agenda in which the associated countries may want to participate.
5. The co-Chairs of ERAC consider that it is in the interest of the Council and in line with the framework applicable to the occasional presence of third parties, including interest representatives, at meetings of the Council or of its preparatory bodies consolidated in the Comments on the Council's Rules of Procedure.
6. In view of the informal videoconference of the members of ERAC on 13 December 2021, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to approve the attendance of one representative of each one of the abovementioned associated countries for the agenda items referred to in point 4 of this note.
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