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European Union

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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations  
Subject: Draft Council conclusions on principles and values for international cooperation in research and innovation

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Delegations will find attached a presidency text on the “draft Council conclusions on principles and values for international cooperation in research and innovation” with a view to the Research Working Party meeting on 28 April 2022.

Changes in comparison to WK 5090/22 are marked in **bold underline** for additions and in ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions.

**DRAFT Council Conclusions on principles and values for international cooperation in research and innovation**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING

- its conclusions on 28 September 2021 on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation - Europe's strategy for international cooperation in a changing world<sup>1</sup>, in which it **identified the Union's shared key principles and values in international research and innovation (R&I) cooperation and** invited the Member States and the Commission to engage in a co-design process to further develop the **m** Union's principles key and values for international research and innovation (R&I) cooperation;
- Council Recommendation (EU) 2021/2122 on a Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe<sup>2</sup>, in which it recommended that Member States apply a set of values and principles for R&I in the Union, in close collaboration with stakeholders **and promote them in their interactions with third countries in order to achieve a level playing field and common framework conditions**;

**Introduction**

**0.a RECALLS that the Russian invasion of Ukraine is an act of war, and an attack on freedom, democracy and self-determination, which strongly jeopardises the principles and values on which the 'Global Approach to R&I' is based; STRESSES the urgent need to adjust the direction of development of international R&I cooperation to the broader context of international relations; STRESSES that respect for principles and values for international R&I cooperation only thrives in a context where the international rule of law, in particular the territorial integrity of autonomous states, is well respected;**

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<sup>1</sup> 12301/21

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 431, 2.12.2021

**0.b UNDERLINES that in a context of conflict, specific measures for international R&I cooperation may favour individuals or organisations respecting the international rule of law and restrict or ban others; CALLS UPON the Commission and the Member States to take appropriate measures to support international students and researchers that face the risk of persecution or that were forced to flee due to armed conflicts;**

1. NOTES that international R&I cooperation **should** promotes democratic values and cooperation for peace, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, access to the most up-to-date knowledge as well as collaboration between and circulation of ~~the best~~ talents in the world; RECALLS that international R&I cooperation is necessary to face global challenges, ~~and also~~ creates economic ~~and business~~ opportunities in established and emerging markets and allows the **global role** ~~influence~~ of the Union to be reinforced through science diplomacy;
2. **WELCOMES HIGHLIGHTS** the willingness **ambition** of researchers, innovators, academics and students to collaborate internationally; **UNDERLINES** that the Commission and Member States should ensure that they are able to work freely with their partners from third countries in an environment based on principles and values shared by all actors, in order to ensure a balanced cooperation; **HIGHLIGHTS** ~~that common principles and values should thus be promoted at European Union level in line with other strategic interests of the Union as a follow up to the Marseille Ministerial Conference on a Global Approach to Research, Innovation and Higher Education;~~ and **STRESSES** the importance to support higher education institutions and research and technology performing organisations through ~~such~~ a coordinated European approach with a view to achieving balanced and mutually beneficial collaboration, which is part of ~~Europe~~ **the Union**'s soft power and capacity as a global standard setter.
3. NOTES the need to rebalance international R&I cooperation on the basis of reciprocity and level playing field, following the principle "as open as possible, as closed as necessary"; and **EMPHASISES** that this cooperation should be considered in the light of the Union's **principles and** values ~~and interests~~ **as presented at the Marseille Ministerial Conference on a Global Approach to Research, Innovation and Higher Education, and other strategic interests of the Union,** in particular to promote the Union's technological sovereignty and Union's strategic autonomy while preserving an open economy;

## Principles and values in international R&I cooperation

4. RECOGNISES freedom of scientific research as the right to freely define research questions, to employ sound scientific research methods, to challenge conventional wisdom and to propose new ideas and theories; and SUPPORTS the rights of researchers to share, disseminate and ~~publish~~ **communicate** openly the results and data of this research, including through training and teaching, and to associate in representative professional or academic organizations without being disadvantaged by the system in which they work or by governmental or institutional censorship and discrimination;
5. STRESSES the importance of ethics and integrity and URGES to take ethical concerns into account in international scientific and academic collaboration, among others when research work involves human subjects and privacy, animal experimentation or the environment, including through independent and transparent ethical peer review processes; UNDERLINES that research integrity includes elements of trustworthiness, honesty, respect and responsibility **in order** to obtain reliable research results, in a transparent and reproducible manner, ~~by counteracting the spread of pseudosciences and misinformation and, thus~~ **building and, to maintaining** trust in science, ~~in the scientific process and in the relationship between science, scientists and society~~; INVITES the Commission and the Member States to base their **international R&I cooperation** approach on the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity;
6. HIGHLIGHTS research excellence as the main driver of international R&I cooperation, ~~thanks to its quality and added value, the rigor of the scientific method, the choice and definition of research questions aiming at creating new knowledge or responding to common challenges~~; UNDERLINES that research excellence must also be assessed on the principles of ethics and integrity and should be fostered by free ~~and balanced~~ circulation of researchers and knowledge;
7. PROMOTES gender equality **and inclusiveness** in terms of professional equality and, in particular, equal opportunities in careers **and the integration of a gender dimension in R&I content**; **CALLS ON combating discrimination based on gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation**;

8. ENCOURAGES Open Science in order to seek reciprocal consolidation and dissemination of research results through frameworks and strategies focusing on open and immediate access to scientific publications, as well as the structuring, preservation and, as far as possible, the opening or sharing of research data **in accordance with the findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable ('FAIR principles'), as well as** ~~and software, and source codes produced by research,~~ **and** access to networks; ~~and~~ SUPPORTS open science infrastructures, open participation of societal actors in the scientific process, communication with the **society** ~~general public~~ and open innovation;
9. ENCOURAGES the Commission and the Member States to foster and promote the improvement of the universal protection and enforcement of intellectual and industrial property rights, as well as ~~ensuring~~ the protection of privacy and personal data, ~~so as~~ **in order** to favour a balanced approach between the protection of stakeholders' interests and the economic and societal ~~enhancement~~ **impact** of knowledge **valorisation**;
10. RECOGNISES value creation and societal and economic impact deriving from fundamental research and from science, technology and innovation, in particular to address societal challenges through products, services, processes and solutions, as well as through the scientific knowledge contributing to evidence-informed policymaking ~~at individual and collective level~~; UNDERLINES that R&I **should** promote the well-being of **people and other** ~~citizens and~~ living beings in a sustainable and mutually respectful approach to all of the planet's environment and resources, economic and societal prosperity, and knowledge transfer;
11. ENCOURAGES societal and environmental responsibility ~~and solidarity~~ and INVITES the Commission and the Member States ~~to commit~~ to respond to the needs of society in their international R&I cooperation in order to ~~expand collective capacities and~~ achieve greater societal and environmental benefits and to promote the participation of stakeholders, local communities and citizens in the design and implementation of policies, by strengthening science dialogue and communication activities to support trust and engagement in science and innovation; **ENCOURAGES solidarity with developing countries and** NOTES that international R&I cooperation is also ~~an~~ **a key** instrument contributing to the development and reinforcement of a knowledge-based economy in **these** ~~developing~~ countries;

12. ACKNOWLEDGES the importance of risk management and security; RECOMMENDS that the Commission and the Member States take measures to counter and manage the risks inherent to international R&I cooperation, while providing adequate precautions concerning the security of the Union, the safeguarding of intellectual and industrial property rights, and the rules for the protection of privacy and personal data; INVITES the Commission and the Member States to draw on **and develop further** the good practices identified for example in the Commission Staff Working Document on “Tackling R&I foreign interference”<sup>3</sup> **in order to facilitate research organisations to implement them;**

**Towards a multilateral dialogue on the principles and values of international R&I cooperation with key international partners**

13. INVITES the Union’s key international partners in R&I cooperation ~~to join forces with us and~~ to engage in a **multilateral** dialogue **with the Union** on the basis of these principles and values ~~in a multilateral approach, in order~~ **notably** to contribute to a robust and common framework for balanced and mutually beneficial international R&I cooperation ~~and~~ for peaceful purposes, to establish a common basis for the respect of principles and values, to foster the establishment of a level playing field, ~~including in the areas of intellectual property, open science and data protection,~~ to **reinforce** ~~ensure the integration of~~ solidarity **with developing countries** ~~in international cooperation,~~ and to ~~protect cooperation~~ against any R&I foreign interference ~~that would jeopardize the Union’s interests, principles and values.~~

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<sup>3</sup> 5396/22