



Brussels, 2 October 2026
(OR. en)

13815/26

RECH 390
COWEB 119
EDUC 395
CULT 115

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Commission's intention to enter into discussions on a Ministerial Declaration for the EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Meeting of the Steering Platform on Research and Innovation to be adopted on 22 October 2026 in Brussels - Authorisation to sign a non-binding instrument

1. On 22 September 2026, the Council approved the Commission's intention to enter into negotiations on a Ministerial Declaration for the EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Meeting of the Steering Platform on Research and Innovation to be endorsed on 22 October 2026 (doc. 12746/26).
2. On 16 September 2026, the Commission presented to the Research Working Party the draft Ministerial Declaration (doc. 13156/26).
3. On 1 October 2026, following a written procedure, the Research Working Party agreed the draft declaration as set out in doc. 13973/26.

4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to:

- confirm the agreement on the draft Ministerial Declaration for the EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Meeting of the Steering Platform on Research and Innovation to be endorsed on 22 October 2026;
 - recommend that the Council authorise the signing of the draft declaration as set out in doc. 13973/26 , subject to possible small adjustments as a result of negotiations with the Western Balkans counterparts, but without changes in substance.
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