



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Commission's intention to enter into a Ministerial statement on principles and values for international cooperation in Research & Innovation on behalf of the EU

Delegations will find attached a note from the Commission for the attention of the Research Working Party members on the above-mentioned subject.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Research & Innovation

Directorate F – Global Approach & International Cooperation in R&I
F.1 – International Cooperation I (Europe, Americas and thematic coherence)

Brussels, 15 November 2023

NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE RESEARCH WORKING PARTY

SUBJECT: *Commission's intention to enter into a Ministerial statement on principles and values for international cooperation in Research & Innovation on behalf of the EU*

CONTACT POINTS: Commission DG RTD, Unit F.1

Martin PENNY

Head of Unit

Tel: +32 229-54504

Email: Martin.PENNY@ec.europa.eu

Richard BURGER

Policy Officer

Tel: +32 229-99507

Email: Richard.BURGER@ec.europa.eu

REMARKS:

In March 2022, the French Presidency of the Council organised a Minister-level conference on principles and values for international cooperation in R&I. It was originally intended that the Marseille meeting would bring together both EU Ministers and their international counterparts. However, as the meeting took place two weeks after Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, the French Presidency held the meeting with EU, EEA and EFTA Ministers only.

Referring to the Presidency's 'Marseille Declaration', which had resulted from that meeting, the Council adopted Conclusions on principles and values for international cooperation in R&I on 10 June 2022, which called on the Commission to launch a Multilateral Dialogue with key international partners on these principles and values. DG RTD launched the dialogue in July 2022 with the EU Member States, the countries associated to or negotiating association to the EU Framework Programme for Research & Innovation¹, the countries with an active S&T Cooperation Agreement with the EU², as

1. Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Morocco, Tunisia

2. Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Egypt, India, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland, USA

well as representatives from European stakeholder organisations³, the International Science Council, the OECD and UNESCO.

Since then, several related thematic workshops (in an on-line format) have been held with participants from these countries and organisations as well as from the European Commission, including on academic freedom; research ethics and integrity; gender equality and inclusiveness; open science; research excellence; and knowledge valorisation.

Building on the work done under the Multilateral Dialogue so far, the Belgian Presidency of the Council (2024 I) plans to host an international Ministerial conference in Brussels on 16 February 2024, almost two years after the Marseille conference.

The international Ministerial meeting in February 2024 will focus on the principles and values for international cooperation in R&I and will bring together the EU Member States, the countries associated to or negotiating association to the EU Framework Programme⁴, the countries with an active S&T Cooperation Agreement with the EU⁵, as well as representatives from select European stakeholder organisations, the International Science Council, the OECD and UNESCO.

The February 2024 Ministerial meeting in Brussels will provide political recognition of the work done as part of the Multilateral Dialogue so far and will aim to gain international endorsement of the Dialogue and of the principles and values it covers. The conference's outcome will be important both in terms of political visibility and in terms of global support for the development of further policy and implementation actions in this area.

It is planned for the international Ministerial conference to issue a statement which will be discussed and agreed with the countries and organisations participating in the Multilateral Dialogue. The intention is for the Ministerial statement to be signed at the conference by as many participants of the Multilateral Dialogue as possible.

The Commission is informing the Council of its intention to sign the Ministerial statement on principles and values for international cooperation in R&I at the conference in February 2024 on behalf of the Union.

The Ministerial statement is a non-binding instrument and is expected to include a number of proposed action points for follow-up under the Multilateral Dialogue on principles and values for international cooperation in R&I.

3. All European Academies (ALLEA), Alliance of research institutes advocating for excellent research in Europe (EU-LIFE), Aurora - European University Alliance, BusinessEurope, CESAER (formerly known as Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research), Coimbra Group [of European comprehensive, multidisciplinary universities], European Alliance for SSH (EASSH), European Association of Research and Technology Organisations (EARTO), European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST), European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), European Research Infrastructure Consortium Forum (ERIC Forum), European Universities Association (EUA), EuroScience, Science Europe, The Guild of European Research-intensive Universities (The Guild), Young European Research universities (YERUN)

4. Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Morocco, Tunisia

5. Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Egypt, India, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland, USA

The Ministerial statement will be a useful tool to promote globally the principles and values which lie at the core of EU policies. It would have no legally binding or financial implications for the Union.

The Commission will seek endorsement by the Council of the above-mentioned Ministerial Statement, according to the agreed procedure for non-binding instruments.

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