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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	7470/26
No. Cion doc.:	6868/26
Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION on a European Union framework for science diplomacy - Second Presidency compromise text

Delegations will find attached a Presidency compromise text on the Proposal for a Council Recommendation on a European Union framework for science diplomacy with a view to the Research Working Party meeting on 24 April 2026.

Changes in comparison to the first Presidency compromise text (doc. 7470/26) are marked in **bold underline** for addition and in ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions.

ANNEX

2026/0060 (NLE)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

on a European Union framework for science diplomacy

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 292, in conjunction with Article 182, paragraph 5, thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

(1) Science is a global public good, expanding the frontiers of knowledge and developing solutions for the benefit of humankind through fundamental and applied research, across the public and private sectors.

(2) The universal language of science has the ability to connect and inspire people and nations.

(3) Science has always been a driver of European integration and contributes to shaping European identity based on shared principles and values.

(4) Science, research**,** ~~and~~ innovation **and higher education** are core elements of the Union's soft power and contribute to enhancing the Union's relations with third countries, including **during** ~~in~~ situations when diplomatic relations are difficult.

(5) There is a need to ensure that the international research and innovation system is both open and secure, **following the principle "as open as possible, as closed as necessary",** in **line** ~~conformity~~ with the Council recommendation on enhancing research security[1].

(6) Research and innovation are at the heart of the Union's competitiveness, resilience, prosperity and societal wellbeing, **while also contributing to protect its interests and values.**

(7) Horizon Europe is the world's largest multilateral research and innovation programme, being open for participation of third countries, including through association to the programme by trusted partner countries in the Union's neighbourhood and beyond, as well as for the participation of researchers worldwide.

(8) The 'Choose Europe for Science' initiative[2] is **aiming to** enhanc**e**~~ing~~ the attractiveness of the Union for researchers from all over the world, in particular through the grants of the European Research Council (ERC)[3], the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA)[4] and instruments provided **at national and subnational levels** ~~by Member States~~.

(9) ~~*(merged with 10)* Global competition is increasing due to~~ **T**~~t~~he development and deployment of groundbreaking technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI) **or quantum, contribute to increasing global competition** and have profound impacts on people's lives. The use of AI in science as a transformative force creates unprecedented opportunities as well as challenges, for example related to **intellectual property,** data governance, scientific publishing, model sharing, access to knowledge and computing, and scientific ethics and integrity.

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1 Council recommendation of 23 May 2024 on enhancing research security, OJ C 3510, 30.5.2024.

2 https://commission.europa.eu/topics/research-and-innovation/choose-europe_en

3 https://erc.europa.eu/homepage

4 https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/

(10) The Union faces a**n unpredictable** ~~volatile~~ geopolitical environment characterised by increasing pressure on international cooperation, democracy, multilateralism, the rule of law and science itself.

(11) State and non-state actors exercise increasing pressure on global goods and commons, including on spaces beyond national jurisdiction.

(12) Progress has not been satisfactory in achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[5] and the Sustainable Development Goals, and the resolution of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, requiring joint efforts between countries**,** informed by scientific evidence.

(13) The Union and its Member States are among the main enablers of global intergovernmental science-policy bodies such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)[6] and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)[7] .

(14) Research provides the evidence needed to underpin international agreements and support policy decisions across a wide range of sectoral diplomacies, where relevant.

(15) Foreign and security policy, including the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), impacts research and innovation policies, both directly, e.g. by imposing restrictions on engagement with certain international partners and competitors, and indirectly, e.g. by facilitating international cooperation and creating a level playing field.

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5 https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda
6 https://www.ipcc.ch/
7 https://www.ipbes.net/

(16) As knowledge, research and innovation translate more than ever into power and geopolitical influence, a strong and independent Union would benefit from better capitalising on the Union's research and innovation assets **and building a diversity of strategic partnerships**.

(17) Given the increasing connection between science, technology and innovation, on the one hand, and foreign and security policy, on the other, as reflected in numerous Union policy documents[8] and major recent reports[9], there is a need for a European Union framework for science diplomacy**.**

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[8] Inter alia, Commission communication on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation, COM(2021) 252 final of 18.5.2021 and the related Council conclusions, 12301/21 of 28.9.2021; Joint communication on strengthening the EU's contribution to rules-based multilateralism, JOIN(2021) 3 final of 17.2.2021; ~~Commission communication on a European strategy for universities, COM(2022) 16 final of 18.1.2022~~; Council conclusions on principles and values for international cooperation in research and innovation, 10125/22 of 10.6.2022; Council conclusions on strengthening the role and impact of research and innovation in the policymaking process in the Union, 16450/23 of 8.12.2023; ~~Joint communication on an International Digital Strategy for the European Union, JOIN(2025) 140 final of 5.6.2025 and the related Council conclusions on Advancing the International Digital Strategy for the European Union, 15315/1/25 of 20.11.2025~~; Commission communication on a European strategy on research and technology infrastructures, COM(2025) 497 final/2 of 30.9.2025; Joint communication on strengthening EU economic security, JOIN(2025) 977 final of 3.12.2025; Council recommendation of 23 May 2024 on enhancing research security (OJ C, C/2024/3510, 30.5.2024).

[9] Enrico Letta, *Much more than a market – Speed, Security, Solidarity. Empowering the Single Market to deliver a sustainable future and prosperity for all EU Citizens,* 2024; European Commission: *The future of European competitiveness. Part A, A competitiveness strategy for Europe,* Publications Office of the European Union, 2025; European Commission: *Align, act, accelerate – Research, technology and innovation to boost European competitiveness,* Publications Office of the European Union, 2024; European Commission: *A European framework for science diplomacy – Recommendations of the EU Science Diplomacy Working Groups,* Publications Office of the European Union, 2025.

(18) By **interlinking and** strengthening the dialogue between science and diplomacy, science diplomacy ~~can~~ play**s** a vital role in

a) safeguarding and promoting the Union's democratic values, strategic interests and technological and data sovereignty;

b) strengthening the Union's position as one of the leading global science and technology actors **through open and secure** international scientific cooperation;

ba) enhancing trust in science, **fostering the uptake of foresight and scientific advice in decision-making processes**, and promoting ~~evidence-informed decision-making,~~ public engagement;

c) maximising the impact of the Union's research and innovation potential for the pursuit of peace, **protection of human rights,** multilateralism~~,~~ and a rule-based international order; and

d) reinforcing the Union's commitment to managing global public goods and commons sustainably, fighting the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and contributing to the achievement of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

(18a) The Union's science diplomacy should

a) remain firmly grounded in the core of the Union's values, as set out in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, including freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law and respect for human rights;

b) (*ex recital 28*) ~~Union science diplomacy should be rooted in the values on which the Union is founded, as set out in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, and~~ **be** based in particular on the principles and values underpinning international cooperation in research and innovation - as outlined in the Global Approach to Research and Innovation[10], the Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe[11], the Marseille Declaration on international cooperation in research and innovation[12] and the Brussels Statement "Multilateral dialogue on principles and values for international cooperation in research & innovation"[13], most notably academic freedom and freedom of scientific research, scientific excellence, research ethics and integrity, research security, gender equality, **equal opportunities for all,** diversity and inclus**iveness**~~on~~, open science and open data, and evidence-informed policymaking;

c) *(ex recital 22a)* ~~The Union's science diplomacy should~~ be conducted in **full respect of the respective competences, as defined by the Treaty, and** in ~~full~~ coherence with the Union's external action and relevant programmes, in particular Horizon Europe.

(18b) Science diplomacy should not serve as a mechanism to undermine Union level sanctions.

(19) The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other multilateral organisations foster global and regional dialogues on science diplomacy to which the Union should contribute.

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10 Commission communication on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation, COM(2021)252 final of 18.5.2021.

11 COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION (EU) 2021/2122 of 26 November 2021 on a Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe, OJ L 431, 2.12.2021.

12 https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2022-03/d-claration-de-marseille--17072.pdf

13 https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/94d6bb42-1fe7-478c-b6b4-d0be4dfb0204_en?filename=brussels-ministerial-statement-2024-02.pdf

(20) To pursue its interests and involving state and non-state actors, the Union should act strategically and in a coordinated manner in terms of science diplomacy vis-à-vis its global partners and competitors, which are investing in their own science diplomacy capacities.

(20a) There is a need to strengthen equitable and mutually beneficial partnerships with the Global South, particularly in regions of strategic relevance for the Union, including through Global Gateway Team Europe Initiatives and triangular cooperation mechanisms, in order to support young researchers and brain circulation, reinforce scientific capacity, tackle research asymmetries, promote knowledge co-creation, and address shared global challenges.

(21) Several Member States have been developing and adopting national science diplomacy strategies and strengthening the scientific-technological capacities in their diplomatic services at home and abroad.

(22) Given the multitude of ongoing activities, it is necessary to foster coherence and optimise the use of resources in science diplomacy, both at Union and Member States' levels. To this end, ~~the Union should facilitate~~ coordination, **peer learning and exchange of best practices are needed,** and, where appropriate, ~~provide~~ tailor-made guidance **and assistance** to Member States **should be provided by the Commission**, taking their specific situations **and existing disparities** into account.

~~(22a)~~ *(now recital 18a, subpoint c))* ~~The Union's science diplomacy should be conducted in full coherence with the Union's external action and relevant programmes, in particular Horizon Europe.~~

(23) Science diplomacy ~~is a driver towards~~ **can contribute to** advancing and achieving the European Research Area (ERA), **both internally and externally**. Therefore, the establishment of a European Union framework for science diplomacy has been included in the ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027[14] which contributes to working on the concept of a "fifth freedom" – the Single Market for research and innovation[15].

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14 Council recommendation of 24 June 2025 on the European Research Area Policy Agenda 2025-2027, OJ C 3593, 30.6.2025.

15 Enrico Letta, idem.

(24) The Union builds on a strong legacy of initiatives that **shaped global** ~~could be considered~~ science diplomacy, **including** ~~with~~ the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN)[16] ~~being the most prominent example~~ and **the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)**[17]. A vibrant European community of science diplomacy scholars and practitioners has emerged in recent years, leading, for example, to the creation of the EU Science Diplomacy Alliance[18] and the EU Ministries of Foreign Affairs Science Diplomacy and Advice Network.

(25) Therefore, the Union and its Member States should establish themselves as global leaders in science diplomacy, in order to defend their own interests, promote European values, and serve the global public good.

(26) For the purposes of this recommendation:

(1) 'science' refers to the systematic study of the structure and behaviour of the physical and social world through observation, experimentation, **analysis,** interpretation and the testing of theories against the empirical evidence obtained. It encompasses natural sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine**,** as well as social sciences**,** ~~and~~ humanities **and arts,** and covers both fundamental and applied research in the public and private sectors;

(2) 'diplomacy' refers to ~~the profession, activity, or skill of~~ conducting international relations by state and non-state actors through peaceful means such as dialogue and negotiation, including through representatives abroad;

(3) 'science diplomacy' refers to the direct or indirect use of science, scientific evidence and scientific cooperation to **inform and** support **foreign policy** ~~diplomatic objectives~~ at different levels as well as **to** the deployment of diplomacy to support **and promote international cooperation and** scientific progress.

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16 https://home.cern/
17 https://iiasa.ac.at/
18 https://www.science-diplomacy.eu/

(27) This recommendation does neither impinge on the competence of Member States in any policy area, including foreign and security policy, nor the autonomy and independence of scientific institutions.

~~(28)~~ *(now recital 18a, subpoint b))* ~~Union science diplomacy should be rooted in the values on which the Union is founded, as set out in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, and based in particular on the principles and values underpinning international cooperation in research and innovation – as outlined in the Global Approach to Research and Innovation~~[19]~~, the Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe~~[20]~~, the Marseille Declaration on international cooperation in research and innovation~~[21] ~~and the Brussels Statement "Multilateral dialogue on principles and values for international cooperation in research & innovation", - most notably academic freedom and freedom of scientific research, scientific excellence, research ethics and integrity, research security, gender equality, diversity and inclusion, open science and open data, and evidence-informed policymaking.~~

HEREBY RECOMMENDS THAT MEMBER STATES**,** with full regard to subsidiarity, proportionality, institutional autonomy and academic freedom, and in accordance with Member States' national specificities, different starting points, and their competences **pursuant to the Treaty** ~~regarding foreign policy~~, and taking into account the need for optimising resources, both at Union and Member State level, take the following strategic, operational and enabling actions:

Strategic actions

1. acknowledge the importance of science diplomacy as a component of their **research and innovation and** foreign and security polic**ies**~~y~~ as well as its contribution to the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy by recognising its potential within the relevant ~~foreign and security~~ policy strategies;

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19 Commission communication on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation, COM(2021)252 final of 18.5.2021.

20 COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION (EU) 2021/2122 of 26 November 2021 on a Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe, OJ L 431, 2.12.2021.

21 https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2022-03/d-claration-de-marseille--17072.pdf

1a. **in cooperation with the Commission, maximise the impact of science diplomacy for promoting the Union's values, including freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law and respect for human rights, as well as peace and multilateralism;**

2. acknowledge the potential of science diplomacy for fostering international cooperation activities in science, research and innovation, and use science diplomacy actions to position the Union as a global leader of academic freedom, freedom of scientific research, open science**,** and **open and secure** international cooperation in research, technology and innovation, including through the 'Choose Europe for Science' initiative on the basis of a Team Europe approach, and through the association of third countries to the Horizon Europe and Euratom Programmes;

3. in cooperation with the Commission, harness science diplomacy for pursuing the interest of the Union's competitiveness, **resilience, prosperity and societal wellbeing,** for example to better position the opportunities offered by partnerships with the Union, including via the Global Gateway strategy[22], to promote European technologies, ~~to leverage the influence of the Union's research and innovation and regulatory capacity for~~ **to support the Union's role in** the setting of **global** technical standards, **as well as** ~~and to support~~ the Union's technology and data sovereignty**, on the basis of reciprocity, ensuring that partner countries uphold equivalent principles of openness and data sharing**;

4. in cooperation with the Commission, foster inter- and transdisciplinary dialogues at Union, national and subnational levels between the various science diplomacy actors on balancing scientific goals with foreign and security policy interests, considering in particular the need to (a) assess the impacts of restrictions on international scientific cooperation, (b) identify and mitigate economic and research security risks, **in particular in critical and sensitive technology areas,** and (c) explore and exploit the potential of science diplomacy to prepare the ground for **research and innovation** and foreign and security policy action;

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22 https://commission.europa.eu/topics/international-partnerships/global-gateway_en

5. **in cooperation with the Commission,** with due consideration of security concerns related to dual use technologies and other sensitive technologies, identify specific areas in which science diplomacy can be used by foreign and security policy as a trust-building tool for maintaining ~~and promoting~~ dialogue with **third** countries, **even when diplomatic relations are difficult** ~~which do not share the Union's values or with which formal dialogue is strained or interrupted, or where scientific support for diplomacy or diplomatic support for science can help foster peace and mutual understanding~~, **while ensuring that such dialogue does not lead to the unauthorised transfer of sensitive knowledge to foreign military or intelligence services, or undermine Union level sanctions;**

6. wherever it can add value to existing policy processes, use science diplomacy to advance the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, to support the development and implementation of international agreements, to address global sustainability challenges, including in fragile and geopolitically contested environments such as the Arctic **and the Mediterranean** region**s**, and to sustainably manage global goods and commons in a fragmented geopolitical environment, including spaces beyond national jurisdiction such as the high seas and deep sea, Antarctica, the Low Earth Orbit, the moon and other celestial objects, as well as common goods like the radiospectrum and a dark and quiet sky;

7. in cooperation with the Commission, promote Union leadership in global science diplomacy by (a) engaging in the global science diplomacy discourse as promoted by UNESCO and other international fora, and by (b) strengthening ties and building alliances with trusted partners worldwide, guided by the common Union's and Member States' interests and based on common principles and values in research and innovation;

8 ~~new~~. **building on successful examples like the Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME)[23],** use science diplomacy to facilitate the establishment and development of international research infrastructures, thereby promoting the Union's ambition and convening power;

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23 https://www.sesame.org.jo/

9. **in cooperation with the Commission,** position European research and technology infrastructures as strategic assets of the Union's soft power in science diplomacy[24] and as key drivers of the Union's **strategic autonomy and** ~~,~~ scientific excellence, ~~competitiveness, resilience and technological sovereignty,~~ capitalising on their potential to attract the best talent, on their contribution to innovation, breakth**r**ou~~r~~gh research, knowledge generation, standard-setting and sharing of findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable (FAIR) data, and on their role in advancing bilateral and multilateral relations;

Operational actions

10. where not already in place **and building on existing structures**, consider establishing adequate support **arrangements** ~~structures~~ for the coordination of science diplomacy across government and with key stakeholders at different levels, including by the appointment of a national science diplomacy coordinator, if appropriate, and by exploring synergies with other sectoral diplomacies, such as climate, green, water, ocean, polar, space, energy and health diplomacy, with particular emphasis on the cross-linkages with tech and digital diplomacy as well as cultural diplomacy;

11 ~~*(ex 7)*~~. **where relevant and in consultation with the Commission, as appropriate,** consider drawing up national roadmaps for interest- and value-driven science diplomacy actions, to be updated in regular intervals, based on: (a) the identification of strategic thematic and geographic priorities and interests at Union, national and subnational levels agreed between the relevant science diplomacy stakeholders, and (b) an assessment of mutual interest and opportunities for cooperation between the Union and non-EU countries in specific areas, **including through Horizon Europe participation and association**;

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24 Commission communication on a European strategy on research and technology infrastructures, COM(2025) 497 final/2 of 30.9.2025 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2025:497:REV1

12. review and**, if necessary,** reinforce the scientific advice and foresight mechanisms of ministries of foreign affairs and other relevant ministries, with a view to identifying capacity gaps and developing recommendations for the improvement of these science-for-policy mechanisms, including by the **possible** placement of researchers **and research staff**[25] as scientific advisors in diplomatic services**, as appropriate, building on lessons learned from existing science advice mechanisms at global, Union, national and subnational level**, thereby supporting wider efforts for promoting the use of scientific evidence in public policymaking[26], including through the ERA Action on Advancing European Science for Policy;

12a **review and, if necessary, reinforce the diplomatic and international cooperation mechanisms of ministries of science and other relevant structures in research and innovation, by identifying capacity gaps and developing measures to improve diplomatic skills in these mechanisms, including by the possible placement of experienced diplomatic advisors in scientific institutions;**

~~13.~~ *(now action 24a)* ~~in cooperation with the Commission, strengthen the monitoring of groundbreaking developments in research, technology and innovation, such as the increased use of AI in science within the framework of the overall Union policy on AI[27], by assessing their implications for scientific collaboration, research integrity, ethics, and the Union's competitiveness and resilience, value creation and technological sovereignty, integrating these insights into relevant national strategies, and promoting a human-centric, responsible, transparent, equitable and secure use of these technologies at global level;~~

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25 **See COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION of 18 December 2023 on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe, OJ C 1640, 29.12.2023.**

26 In line with the Council conclusions on strengthening the role and impact of research and innovation in the policymaking process in the Union, 16450/23 of 8.12.2023.

27 https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/ai-office

14. in cooperation with the Commission, step up the Union's engagement in and ~~where possible,~~ support to science-based international organisations in a coordinated manner, **where possible**, including global intergovernmental science-policy platforms**,** and strengthen the cooperation with non-governmental international organisations active in the field of science diplomacy such as the International Science Council (ISC)[28] and the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA)[29] as well as organisations working on technical standards and conventions;

15. in cooperation with the Commission, create networks and synergies between science and technology attachés in diplomatic representations of the Union and the Member States worldwide, in order to maximise their **short and long term** impact and make better use of existing resources, **including of national networks and digital platforms,** while keeping the focus on coordination rather than creating new structures, and avoiding unnecessary administrative burden;

16. in cooperation with the Commission, support the Union's science diplomacy outreach by taking a structured approach towards the scientific diaspora of Member States, assisting in the creation of relevant networks in cooperation with academic exchange services **and other existing relevant mechanisms**, by making better use of national and Union alumni networks of programmes and mobility schemes such as the Marie Curie Alumni Association[30] and Erasmus Mundus Association[31], and by capitalising on well-established events that promote science-based people-to-people engagement across geopolitical divides;

17. develop a strategic**, coherent and consistent** approach towards refugee scholars and researchers at risk with the aim of facilitating their continued contribution to research and innovation, based on the principles and values the Union stands for, **while implementing the necessary safeguards;**

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28 https://council.science/
29 https://www.gesda.global/
30 https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu/
31 https://www.em-a.eu/

18. work towards **an impactful cooperation with the Global South by** building equitable science diplomacy partnerships ~~with low- and middle-income countries~~ that will foster the contribution of local knowledge and expertise to shared global challenges, and provide opportunities for capacity-building, thereby tackling also asymmetries in research and innovation capacities;

Enabling actions

~~19new.~~ *(now action 22a)* ~~encourage, in full respect of national competences in education, the integration of elements related to science diplomacy, the role of science in international cooperation and evidence-informed policymaking into education and training programmes, in order to raise awareness among younger generations of the links between science, policy and global challenges, including by fostering science diplomacy youth ambassadors;~~

20. foster linkages between, on the one hand, Member States' diplomatic services, and, on the other hand, **research-performing organisations,** universities and other higher education institutions, including the European Universities alliances, ~~research-performing organisations~~, research funders, **researchers and research staff**, as well as civil society and non-state actors, ~~whose expertise, international networks and innovative capacity~~ **who** can unlock new avenues for innovation and strengthen global partnerships beyond traditional channels between government and academia,

21. in cooperation with the Commission, support the development of positive science diplomacy narratives, underpinned by multi- and interdisciplinary research, systematically including social sciences and humanities, and the spreading of these findings through scientific publications, communication and engagement with the public, with the aim of enhancing trust in science, strengthening the integrity of the information space, combatting disinformation, and shielding democracy, freedom and multilateralism;

22. promote multilingualism in science diplomacy and linguistic diversity in science in line with the G20 Recommendations on Science Engagement[32];

22a. *(ex action 19~~new~~.)* **encourage, in full respect of national competences in education and academic freedom, the integration of elements related to science diplomacy, the role of science in international cooperation and evidence-informed policymaking into relevant education and training programmes, in order to raise awareness among younger generations of the links between science, policy and global challenges, for example by fostering science diplomacy youth ambassadors if desired;**

23. in cooperation with ~~the Commission~~ **academic institutions**, **consider** provid~~e~~**ing** science diplomacy training to scientists and diplomats as well as to professionals working at the interface between science and diplomacy, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including by integrating science diplomacy modules in the ~~curricula and~~ study programmes of diplomatic academies and the training ~~programmes~~ of diplomats prior to their posting abroad~~, with academic institutions playing a key role in the training of scientists and diplomats in the field of science diplomacy~~.

RECOMMENDS THE COMMISSION to take the following actions in particular to support the implementation of points 1 to 23 of this recommendation:

24**.** support a mapping of Union science diplomacy actors, strategies and training offers, and of science diplomacy efforts by the Union's partners and competitors with a view to getting an overview of the existing national frameworks and currently available science diplomacy resources and best practices, as well as of the global science diplomacy environment in which the Union and its Member States operate, **thereby also contributing to reducing disparities between Member States;**

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[32] https://g7g20-documents.org/fileadmin/G7G20_documents/2025/G20/South%20Africa/Sherpa-Track/Research%20and%20Innovation%20Ministers/1%20Ministers'%20Language/Research%20and%20Innovation_Recommendations%20on%20Science%20Engagement_23.09.2025.pdf

24a. *(ex action 13)* **strengthen the monitoring of groundbreaking developments in research, technology and innovation, such as the increased use of AI in science within the framework of the overall Union policy on AI[33], by assessing their implications for scientific collaboration, research integrity, ethics, protection of intellectual property, and the Union's competitiveness and resilience, value creation and technological sovereignty, and promoting a human-centric, responsible, transparent, equitable and secure use of these technologies at global level;**

25. enable a regular exchange between scientists and diplomats, and with experts working at the interface of the two, through the establishment of a virtual European Science Diplomacy Platform based on a Team Europe approach **and built, where possible, on existing Union and national platforms and networks**, which can serve to identify topics for joint science diplomacy action vis-à-vis relevant countries and regions of interest to the Union;

26. establish an ad hoc contact group within the existing ERA framework (e.g. the ~~standing~~ ERA ~~Policy~~Forum **Standing** Sub-Group on the Global Approach ~~to Research and Innovation~~) which can be activated **ad hoc to support the development of** ~~when~~ a common ~~Union~~ response in the field of research and innovation **when** needed in reaction to geopolitical, developments, such as threats to the Union's economic security, military aggressions or democratic backsliding, including by supporting coordinated risk assessment and contingency planning for international research cooperation;

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33 https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/ai-office

27. integrate the European Union framework for science diplomacy in the framework programme for research and innovation and other Union programmes, including the Euratom research and training programme, by fostering instruments such as the 'Choose Europe for Science' initiative, association to and international participation in Horizon Europe, science and technology agreements, Global Gateway projects, the European Open Science Cloud[34], European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERICs)[35] and the Eureka Network[36], as well as initiatives targeted at specific geographical regions and topics such as the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) 2021-2027[37], the AU-EU Innovation Agenda[38], the Global Health European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) 2021-2027[39], Mission Innovation[40], and the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (AAORIA)[41].

28. facilitate the establishment of a Mediterranean Science Diplomacy Centre as announced in the Pact for the Mediterranean[42], **based on existing activities in the region, as well as to develop a joint science diplomacy action in and with the Middle East in close cooperation with the Member States (Joint Policy Action),** and strengthen science diplomacy dialogues with key multilateral and international partners such as the African Union (AU), the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Central Asia, as well as with EU candidate countries **and third countries associated to the framework programme for research and innovation, as appropriate**;

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34 https://eosc.eu/
35 https://www.eric-forum.eu/
36 https://www.eurekanetwork.org/
37 https://prima-med.org/
38 https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-07/ec_rtd_au-eu-innovation-agenda-final-version.pdf
39 https://www.edctp.org/
40 https://mission-innovation.net/
41 https://allatlanticocean.org/
42 Joint communication on the Pact for the Mediterranean, JOIN(2025) 26 final of 16.10.2025

29. strengthen the provision of scientific advice to foreign and security policy, in particular through the activities of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC)[43] and Scientific Advice Mechanism[44] as well as the Union's decentralised agencies[45], including by supporting international dialogues in cooperation with international science advice bodies.

IMPLEMENTATION, COMMUNICATION AND REPORTING

It is recommended that Member States implement points 1 to 23 of this recommendation according to their specific situations, as soon as practicable.

It is recommended that the Commission and Member States communicate about the importance of science diplomacy to the general public.

It is recommended that the Commission monitors the implementation progress of this recommendation using existing ERA governance structures, in particular the ERA Forum **Standing** Sub-Group on the Global Approach ~~to Research and Innovation~~, in cooperation with the European External Action Service, using the ERA Platform and relevant monitoring tools**,** and reports to the Council on the progress in the implementation of this recommendation every two years, as part of its biennial reporting on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation. Therefore, no new structures need to be created.

It is recommended that the ERA Forum Standing Sub-Group on the Global Approach supports the establishment of common indicators applicable to all actors involved in Union's science diplomacy, in order to enable coherent and systematic monitoring of their activities and progress, thereby allowing for the efficient collection of collective information to support the development of convergent actions among them.

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43 https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/index_en
44 https://scientificadvice.eu/
45 https://www.euda.europa.eu/publications/brochures/eu-ansa_en

In this context, Member States are invited, **on a voluntary basis and where available,** to share with the Commission information on their national approaches and initiatives as input for the aforementioned monitoring and reporting activities by the Commission.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President