



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 25 May 2021  
(OR. en)

8929/1/21  
REV 1

RECH 228

**NOTE**

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From: The European Commission  
To: Council

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Subject: Communication from the Commission on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation  
- *Information from the Commission*

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Delegations will find attached an information note from the European Commission on "Communication from the Commission on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation" with a view to AOB items at the meeting of the Competitiveness Council on 28 May 2021.

**AOB – Communication from the Commission on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation***Information from the Commission*

On 18 May, the Commission adopted a Communication on the global approach to research and innovation – Europe’s strategy for international cooperation in a changing world<sup>1</sup>.

The strategy responds to today’s transformed global setting and the urgent need to scale up multilateral action to tackle global challenges such as climate change and health threats. It reaffirms the EU commitment to openness in research and innovation but also raises the need for Europe to promote a level playing field, reciprocity and the respect of fundamental values in its cooperation with the rest of the world.

The global approach to research and innovation aims also at strengthening the EU’s role in multilateral partnerships to deliver new solutions to the green, digital, health and innovation challenges.

The new strategy should also be implemented by adapting the EU’s bilateral cooperation with partner countries to make it compatible with European interests and values, including by supporting the transition to resilient, inclusive and knowledge-based societies and economies in low and middle-income countries.

To maximise impact, the Commission is proposing to implement the Communication through initiatives modelled on a *Team Europe* approach combining actions from the EU, its financial institutions and Member State efforts. The Communication identifies 17 key actions to contribute to delivering the strategy, such as developing principles for international cooperation in research and innovation in coordination with the Member States, developing guidelines to support European universities and research organisations on dealing with foreign interference, strengthening multilateral initiatives such as Mission Innovation, supporting the establishment of a global health joint undertaking under the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership, and developing an ambitious ‘Africa Initiative’ under Horizon Europe. The Commission will monitor the implementation of the actions and evaluate their contribution to the strategy’s objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2021) 252

The Commission proposes to report to the European Parliament and the Council every two years on the implementation of the strategy.

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