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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. prev. doc.: 8944/24
No. Cion doc.: 5788/24

Subject: *Preparation of the Council (Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)) on 23-24 May 2024*
COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION on enhancing research security
- Adoption

1. On 24 January 2024, the Commission issued a proposal for a Council Recommendation on enhancing research security¹, as part of a package of proposals on Economic Security.
2. The main objective of the proposal was to support Member States and research performing organisations to address research security risks deriving from openness and international cooperation, inherent to research activities.

¹ 5788/24.

3. In particular, the risks identified in the proposal relate to three main areas:
 - (1) undesirable transfer of knowledge (sharing sensitive technology that can jeopardise national security if channelled to military purposes);
 - (2) foreign interference (academic education and research can be improperly influenced by other states in order to diffuse or influence specific narratives or to promote specific objectives of major interest for the third parties);
 - (3) ethical or integrity violations (technologies can also be used to suppress or undermine fundamental values, both in the EU and elsewhere).
4. The Commission proposal and the subsequent three Presidency compromise texts were discussed by the Council Working Party on Research at its meetings of 29 January, 23 February, 14 March and 9 April 2024.
5. Following two informal silence procedures, concluded respectively on 12 and 16 April 2024, the Working Party reached an agreement on the revised third Presidency text, with one delegation still expressing concerns (qualified majority voting rule).
6. The draft Council Recommendation identifies concrete actions and measures to be taken by the Member States and the Commission to enhance research security, with the starting point of a clear and urgent need for raising awareness and building resilience among researchers and academics across Europe.
7. The Council recommends to both Member States and Commission to take into account a list of 9 principles when designing and implementing policy actions to enhance research security. In this regard the draft also contains a set of 14 recommendations to Member States and 11 recommendations to the Commission.
8. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to confirm the agreement reached at technical level on the text of the draft Council recommendation as set out in document 9097/24, with one delegation still expressing concerns, in view of submitting it for adoption by the Council (Competitiveness / Research) at its meeting of 23 May 2023 and of its subsequent publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.