

EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 4 June 2014

**EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA
AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE
Strategic Forum for International
S&T Cooperation**

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— Secretariat —

ERAC-SFIC 1356/14

NOTE

From:	SFIC Secretariat
To:	SFIC delegations
Subject:	Mandate of the SFIC Working Group on Russia

Delegations will find annexed to this Note the mandate of the SFIC Working Group on Russia as approved by the SFIC plenary on 19 May 2014.

MANDATE OF THE SFIC WORKING GROUP ON RUSSIA

1. The Working Group on Russia has the objective to advise the SFIC (Member States, Associated Countries and the Commission) on jointly developing a coordinated approach towards a more coherent STI cooperation strategy with the Russian Federation, and on contributing to the EU's roadmap for STI cooperation with Russia.
2. The Working Group will follow a step-by-step approach (where each step has a value on its own), focusing in particular on the following activities:
 - a) Collecting information and sharing experience/best practice on bilateral MS/AC STI activities towards and with Russia, including mobility schemes. To this purpose, a workshop will be organised (if funds be made available).
 - b) Analysing the variety of on-going bilateral cooperation activities with Russia (objectives, instruments, output, impact as well as barriers and gaps). Identifying areas of potential synergies would add value to existing bilateral cooperation activities. This could be the basis for the coordinated efforts vis-à-vis Russia. This analysis will include an overview of the framework for EU-Russia cooperation for the identification of opportunities and priorities.
 - c) Developing concrete recommendations on common objectives towards Russia and respective thematic priorities, suitable instruments for coordinated action (in “variable geometries”) and incentive schemes. These recommendations will be presented, discussed and consolidated in the SFIC plenary in order to advance on the EU's roadmap for the STI cooperation with Russia.

3. The Working Group shall contribute to and take account of the EU Multi-Annual Roadmap for Russia and activities in Horizon 2020, as appropriate.
 4. The Working Group is set up for a period of 2 year, commencing on 19 May 2014. This period can be extended after assessment and approval by the SFIC Plenary.
 5. The SFIC Rules of Procedure (ERAC-SFIC 1351/14) are applicable to this Working Group.
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