

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 1357/14

NOTE

From: SFIC Secretariat

To: SFIC delegations

Subject: Mandate of the SFIC Working Group on USA

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

MANDATE OF THE SFIC WORKING GROUP ON USA

1. The Working Group on USA has the objective to advise the SFIC (Member States, Associated Countries and the Commission) on areas for which there is potential for a more coordinated approach vis-à-vis the USA adding value to existing successful cooperation activities.
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, in close cooperation with BILAT USA 2.0 project:
 - a) Analysing priorities, activities and instruments of EU/Member States bilateral science, technology and innovation (STI) cooperation with USA partners and recommend areas where there is benefit in a more coordinated approach vis-à-vis the USA which would add value to cooperation activities;
 - b) Facilitating a mutual learning process for the EU and Member States working together vis-à-vis the USA through an exchange of views and best practices;
 - c) Developing a SFIC Roadmap towards USA, including an Action Plan with activities based on voluntary participation of SFIC Members and Observers as well as taking into account the variable geometries in the future activities.
 - d) Contributing to the development of the specific activities included in the SFIC Roadmap towards USA and its Action Plan.
3. The Working Group shall contribute to and take account of the EU Multi-Annual Roadmap for USA and activities in Horizon 2020, as appropriate.
4. The Working Group is set up for a period of 2 years, 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.