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**ERAC-SFIC**

**WORKING PAPER**

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From:	SFIC Secretariat
To:	ERAC (European Research Area and Innovation Committee)
Subject:	ERAC Plenary in Helsinki on 2 October 2019 - Item 5.1 - SFIC statement on its mandate for ERAC's consideration

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In view of item 5.1 of the agenda of the ERAC plenary on 2 October 2019, please find attached for your information a note from SFIC with the SFIC statement on its mandate.

A reference to this document can be found in the SFIC contribution to the updates from the ERA-related groups (document WK 10146/19, item 5.1 of the agenda of the ERAC plenary on 2 October 2019).

## SFIC statement on its mandate for ERAC's consideration

According to the current SFIC's mandate (doc. 7308/16; art. 17), the mandate shall be assessed at least every 3 years<sup>1</sup> by ERAC. It therefore needs to be addressed in 2019.

The relevance of the renewal of the mandate was discussed during the strategic workshop on March 6th and in the SFIC Plenary on March 7th, 2019. It was concluded that the elements in the mandate could be restructured thematically in the framework of a future revision of the mandate, but that the main points were still considered valid. Engaging in the time-consuming process of changing the mandate was not considered essential, at this stage, for the sake of wording.

For a future update, some points could be considered:

According to the ERA governance review 2018 documentary analysis, the group's self-assessment as well as the survey results, the SFIC mandate covers ERA Priority 6 to a large extent. The activities of the group are found to be mostly in line with the mandate.

According to its mandate, SFIC has an advisory role regarding international S&T cooperation, but it does not explicitly specify to whom. It should be recalled that as a dedicated configuration of ERAC, SFIC's main target is the same as that of ERAC (Council, Commission and MS/AC). For clarity's sake, a future revised mandate of SFIC might recall this explicitly.

Beyond this, clarification of the group's main purpose might also be of relevance: dealing with the international cooperation dimension within the framework programme and/or fostering exchanges between MS/AC about their international S&T co-operation policies. Such a clarification may also help defining more strategic and targeted activities and, in consequence, contribute to increase SFIC's impact.

One idea could be to specify SFIC's activities around the 3 following axes:

- SFIC between MS/AC: prioritisation, sharing good practices, recommendations/advice, benchmarking, joint actions
- SFIC within ERAC: link with other ERA-groups, advice and sharing
- SFIC with COM: INCO tools, science diplomacy, international cooperation, sharing good practices, future orientation/advice

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<sup>1</sup> Doc 7308/16 : SFIC's mandate shall be assessed when necessary, but at least every three years, by ERAC in line with ERAC's agreed procedure for this exercise, and recommendations shall be made to the Council on whether the mandate needs to be revised or repealed in order to reflect progress in the implementation or updates of ERA priorities