

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

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**Secretariat**

**Brussels, 26 July 2019  
(OR. en)**

**ERAC-SFIC 1355/19**

**NOTE**

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From: SFIC Secretariat  
To: Delegations  
Subject: SFIC Work Programme 2019-2020

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Delegations will find attached the Work Programme 2019-2020 of the Strategic Forum for International S&T Cooperation (SFIC), as adopted via written procedure on 26 July 2019.

## SFIC WORK PROGRAMME 2019-2020

SFIC is a dedicated configuration of ERAC with the objective to facilitate the further development, implementation and monitoring of the international dimension of the European Research Area (ERA) by sharing information and by consulting between the partners with a view to identifying common priorities which could lead to coordinated or joint initiatives, and coordinating activities and positions vis-à-vis third countries and within international fora.

The main target groups for SFIC are the European Commission (mainly DG RTD; in some cases other DGs or the External Action Service) on the one hand and the Member States (mainly ministries responsible for research and innovation and related funding agencies; in some cases ministries of foreign affairs etc.) on the other hand. Some of the issues may also be interesting for an interested wider public. The groups are therefore labelled in the below Work Programme accordingly as EC, MS and IWP to specify the main target groups of the foreseen activities.

The SFIC Work Programme 2019-2020 is based on the mandate as well as the previous and current SFIC work and it has been developed with the input from delegations, in particular from a strategic workshop held on 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 and debates at plenary and Steering Board level. It also takes into account the recommendations from the ERAC Review of the advisory structure 2018 with view to increasing the impact of SFIC's work.

In this context SFIC will not only strive to increase its output (mainly number of opinions, positions papers etc.) but will also focus on advancing the outcome (e.g. advices taken up by national delegations and/or the EC) by increasing continuous and strategic communication efforts with the relevant target groups.

The intermediate impacts of these activities should be visible for example via the first Horizon Europe Work programme that would cover and monitor international cooperation in a comprehensive and encompassing manner and by increased joint activities of the Member States and EC towards countries and regions outside the EU.

Areas of action	Timeline			
	1 <sup>st</sup> semester 2019	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester 2019	1 <sup>st</sup> semester 2020	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester 2020
1. Strategic advice on international S&T cooperation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop on the international perspective of the Horizon Europe Cluster “Energy, Climate and Transport” with the EC (MS, EC)</li> <li>• Potential 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop regarding Horizon Europe’s international dimension (MS, EC)</li> <li>• Contribution of SFIC regarding the International cooperation dimension of Horizon Europe, including its strategic position (MS, EC)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution of SFIC regarding the International cooperation dimension of Horizon Europe, including its strategic position (MS, EC)</li> <li>• Contribution of SFIC related to the “Science diplomacy role” of Horizon Europe (MS, EC)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution of SFIC regarding the International cooperation dimension of the first Horizon Europe Work Programme (MS, EC)</li> </ul>

<p>2. Contribution to the European Research Area including the co-operation within ERAC and ERA-related groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Workshop on the future of SFIC (MS, EC)</li> <li>• Benchmarking Working Group (MS, EC)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benchmarking Working Group including MLE (MS, EC)</li> <li>• Insight on SFIC impact/accomplishment (MS, EC)</li> <li>• Insight on future of ERA (MS, EC)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benchmarking Working Group finalisation (MS, EC)</li> <li>• Follow up of the MLE on international cooperation (MS, EC)</li> <li>• Insight on future of ERA (MS, EC)</li> <li>• Exchange and update with the SWG Gender in R&amp;I (MS, EC)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange and update with the SWG Gender in R&amp;I (MS, EC)</li> <li>• Insight on future of ERA (MS, EC)</li> </ul>
<p>3. Joint strategic approaches and actions for international R&amp;I cooperation, including pooling and sharing relevant knowledge concerning 3<sup>rd</sup> countries</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus Topic Africa Ad-hoc Group (MS)</li> <li>• Focus Topic China Ad-hoc Group (MS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus Topic Africa Ad-hoc Group (MS)</li> <li>• Focus Topic China Ad-hoc Group (MS)</li> <li>• Innovation and Business aspects in International STI cooperation (EC, MS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovation and Business aspects in International STI cooperation (EC, MS)</li> </ul>

<p>4. Sharing and structuring information and good practices on international R&amp;I cooperation activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MLE on international cooperation strategies (MS)</li> <li>• Implementation of the Rio-Observatory thematic analysis “International cooperation” (MS, IWP)</li> <li>• Focus issue “Science Diplomacy” (EC, MS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MLE on international cooperation strategies (MS)</li> <li>• Advancing the Rio-Observatory thematic analysis “International cooperation” (MS, IWP)</li> <li>• Focus issue “Science Diplomacy” (EC, MS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MLE on international cooperation strategies (MS)</li> <li>• Advancing the Rio-Observatory thematic analysis “International cooperation” (MS, IWP)</li> <li>• Focus issue “Science Diplomacy” (EC, MS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advancing the Rio-Observatory thematic analysis “International cooperation” (MS, IWP)</li> </ul>
<p>5. Networking and coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SFIC communication plan set-up of a Task Force (MS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With EEAS and Horizon 2020 projects on Science Diplomacy (EC, MS)</li> <li>• SFIC communication plan finalisation (MS)</li> <li>• Networking with stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SFIC communication plan implementation (EC, MS, IWP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SFIC communication plan implementation (EC, MS, IWP)</li> <li>• Networking with stakeholders</li> </ul>