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WORKING PAPER

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MEETING DOCUMENT

From:	The Commission
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Research on 26 February 2021 AOB item - The ERA Forum for Transition and the Pact for research and innovation in Europe - Information from the Commission

Delegations will find attached a note from the Commission on "The ERA Forum for Transition and the Pact for research and innovation in Europe" with a view to the AOB items at the Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Research on 26 February 2021.

AOB – The ERA Forum for Transition and the Pact for research and innovation in Europe

Information from the Commission

Following the adoption of the Commission communication on a New ERA for Research and Innovation (September 2020) and the Council Conclusions on the New ERA (December 2020), the implementation of the new ERA and its roll out was discussed in the ERAC plenary meeting on 16 December 2020. Broad support was obtained on the establishment of an Expert Group for the ERA Forum for Transition ('the Forum').

The ERA Forum for Transition

In January, the Commission established the ERA Forum for Transition in the form of an informal **expert group of Member States representatives** - to help finalise the new ERA governance framework and jointly prepare an ERA policy agenda setting out our priority actions to achieve the new ERA.

The Commission (DG R&I) will chair and steer the work of the Forum, which will act as the platform to discuss and support the implementation of the various initiatives starting from the ERA Roadmap proposed in the ERA communication.

The Forum first convened on 4 February in view of agreeing on its work plan and key deliverables in 2021. It will notably help provide advice and expertise in view of the development of the future ERA governance framework, in particular on a Pact for R&I. The Forum will also kick-start the work on the new ERA priorities, including the four ERA pilot actions identified in the Council conclusions and provide input for a new yearly ERA scoreboard to monitor ERA progress.

This is a very ambitious work plan and the way forward to meet our expectations and those of stakeholders in Europe for a new ERA for research and innovation. We will engage with stakeholders at all stages, notably through dedicated workshops and during the next R&I Days in June. The Forum will focus its next three meetings on preparing the Pact for research and innovation.

The Pact for research and innovation in Europe

The Forum should provide advice in view of the preparation of a Pact for research and innovation to be adopted in 2021. The Pact is intended as the centrepiece of the future ERA governance framework and will act as the reference document for research and innovation policymaking at EU and Member States level.

The Pact will set out:

- The **shared “values and principles”** that underpin R&I in Europe, drawing notably but not exclusively on existing policy guidelines, charters and codes of practice developed over the last 20 years (on, e.g. open access, gender equality, career conditions).
- The **jointly agreed “areas for priority actions”** to achieve ERA where Member States agree to coordinate and join up efforts and prioritise national investments and reforms. This will guide the elaboration of the future ERA policy agenda.

With the Pact, the governance process should be made more effective and impactful with regular political dialogue with Member States addressing priorities, implementation strategies and progress monitoring towards the realisation of the set objectives.

The Commission intends to make in June or July a proposal for a non-binding act, in view of its adoption by end of 2021. The Commission will ensure adequate consultation of the European Parliament and other EU institutions.