



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: The Spanish delegation
To: Council

Subject: Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area
("PRIMA")
Information from the Spanish delegation

Delegations will find attached a note from the Spanish delegation on “Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (“PRIMA”)” with a view to the AOB items at the meeting of the Competitiveness Council on 2 December 2022.

Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (“PRIMA”)*Information from the Spanish delegation***General overview**

Following a request made by nine Member States in December 2014, the European Commission adopted a proposal to establish a new public-public Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) as an Article 185 initiative in October 2016. This article of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides for the financial participation of the Union in research programmes undertaken by some Member States. The Commission's proposed decision would create an Article 185 initiative that would establish the partnership for a period of 10 years, providing PRIMA with €200 million in EU funds from the Horizon 2020 framework programme for research and innovation (R&I). This decision was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on 4 July 2017.

PRIMA has now become a key R&I European Union tool for the Mediterranean region by aligning R&I policies on common interests and challenges through knowledge-based agro-food and water systems solutions.

PRIMA has a clear European added value, playing a key role in finding solutions in the Mediterranean that contribute to the achievement of EU policy priorities.

The PRIMA initiative currently has 19 countries participating (12 EU + 7 South Med) and, since 2017, has implemented several actions and programs in joint EU and Mediterranean R&I priorities. The participants of this partnership stand on equal footing, allowing PRIMA to become an essential science diplomacy instrument between Europe and Northern Africa and the Middle East.

PRIMA's active term ends in 2024. Therefore, while respecting the right of initiative of the Commission, Spain would like to express its interest in supporting the Commission in the extension of the PRIMA decision during the Spanish Presidency of the Council in 2023. Through this European joint effort, we will ensure the continuation of PRIMA's success and achievements under the subsequent framework programme for R&I.