



Brussels, 19.6.2015
C(2015) 4063 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 19.6.2015

**on the signature of a Joint Statement to take action on working in partnership in
achieving the European Research Area (ERA)**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 179 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The European Council of 4 February 2011 called for completing the European Research Area by 2014 to create a genuine single market for knowledge, research and innovation. The European Council of 24-25 September 2013 confirmed the end of 2014 deadline.
- (2) The Commission Communication on 'A Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth' adopted on 17 July 2012 called for a partnership between Member States, stakeholder organisations and the Commission. That partnership is contributing to the realisation and functioning of the European research area in the meaning of Article 179 of the Treaty.
- (3) The signature of a Joint Statement and Memoranda of Understanding (17 July 2012) and a Joint Declaration (13 December 2013) provided the basis of the partnership between the Commission and the stakeholder organisations, acknowledging the particular importance and role of the European research stakeholder organisations for the realisation of the European Research Area by 2014.
- (4) The Commission Communication on the ERA Progress Report of 15 September 2014 confirms that the ERA partnership has made good progress in delivering ERA and that the stakeholder organisations continuously support the ERA agenda. However, more needs to be done to make ERA fully operational and it is up to Member States and research stakeholders to implement the necessary ERA reforms and make ERA work.
- (5) The Commission Communication on the ERA Progress Report of 15 September 2014 and the related Council Conclusions of 5 December 2014 identified potential new challenges, such as the need for tighter integration of research and innovation objectives and the need to improve the ERA monitoring mechanism.
- (6) The signing of a Joint Statement by the Commission and stakeholder organisations is necessary to give visibility to and reinforce the specific Commission – stakeholder axis of the partnership. In the Joint Declaration of 13 December 2013 the stakeholder organisations expressed their willingness to continue working in 2014 in partnership towards the achievement of the ERA. Considering the need to tackle the new challenges identified, the signing of a Joint Statement is also necessary in order to address those needs as well as to strengthen the partnership by including new stakeholder organisations.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Joint Statement by the Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research (CESAER), the European Association of Research and Technology Organisations (EARTO), the European University Association (EUA), the League of European Research Universities (LERU), Science Europe (SE) and the European Commission to take action on working in partnership in achieving the European Research Area (ERA) (the 'Joint Statement'), as set out in the Annex, is approved.

Article 2

The Commissioner in charge of Research, Science and Innovation is authorised to sign on behalf of the European Commission the Joint Statement.

Done at Brussels, 19.6.2015

For the Commission

Carlos MOEDAS

Member of the Commission

CESAER

conference of european schools
for advanced engineering education
and research



EUA

European University Association

LE
RU

LEAGUE OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES



SCIENCE
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Shaping the future of research



C(2015) 4063 final – Annex 1

JOINT STATEMENT

BY

**THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN SCHOOLS FOR ADVANCED
ENGINEERING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (CESAER), THE EUROPEAN
ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATIONS
(EARTO), THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION (EUA), THE LEAGUE
OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES (LERU), SCIENCE EUROPE (SE)
AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**TO TAKE ACTION ON WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP IN ACHIEVING THE
EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA (ERA)**

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ENGINEERING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (CESAER), THE EUROPEAN
ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATIONS
(EARTO), THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION (EUA), THE LEAGUE
OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES (LERU), SCIENCE EUROPE (SE)
AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**TO TAKE ACTION ON WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP IN ACHIEVING THE
EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA (ERA)**

Professor Ernst Schmachtenberg, President-Elect of the Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research (CESAER), Maria Khorsand, President of the European Association of Research and Technology Organisations (EARTO) and Muriel Attané, Secretary-General of EARTO, Professor Maria Helena Nazaré, President of the European University Association (EUA) and Lesley Wilson, Secretary General of EUA, Professor Alain Beretz, Chair of the League of European Research Universities (LERU) and Professor Kurt Deketelaere, Secretary General of LERU, Professor Miguel Seabra, President of Science Europe (SE) and Carlos Moedas, Member of the European Commission in charge of Research, Science and Innovation, hereafter collectively referred to as the partners, have today stated their willingness to continue to work in partnership to take concrete steps towards the implementation of the European Research Area (ERA).

This Joint Statement has been made on the occasion of the conference 'A new start for Europe: Opening up to an ERA of Innovation' on 23 June 2015 in Brussels.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT:

- The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) (Articles 179, 180 and 181) states that the European Union has the objective of promoting scientific and technological advance, and calls in particular for the achievement of the European Research Area (ERA) to strengthen the scientific and technological bases of the Union and of its industry, and to make them more competitive. TFEU refers to the ERA as an area of free circulation of researchers, scientific knowledge and technology. (1)
- The Commission Communication 'Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative Innovation Union' states that the European Research Area must be completed in order to allow researchers and innovators to work and cooperate across the EU, to increase the effectiveness of the investments needed to get ideas to market and to make Europe a more rewarding place for innovation. (2)

- The Commission Communication on 'A Reinforced European Research Area partnership for Excellence and Growth' adopted on 17 July 2012 called for a partnership between Member States, Stakeholder Organisations and the Commission. This Partnership is contributing to the realisation and functioning of the European Research Area in the meaning of Article 179 of TFEU. (3)
- The signature of a Joint Statement and Memoranda of Understanding (17 July 2012) and a Joint Declaration (13 December 2013) provided the basis of the partnership between the Commission and the Stakeholder Organisations, acknowledging the particular importance and role of the European research Stakeholder Organisations for the realisation of the European Research Area. (4)
- The ERA Progress Report of 15 September 2014 and the related Council Conclusions of 5 December 2014 identified potential new challenges, such as the need for tighter integration of research and innovation objectives and the need to improve the ERA monitoring mechanism. The latter also reaffirmed the support of the Council for Member States to develop an ERA Roadmap at European level to guide the national implementation of the ERA. (5)
- The ERA Progress Report of 15 September 2014 states that the Stakeholders' Platform is a good instrument, contributing to ERA policy-making and implementation and that it could involve new stakeholders to reflect society's needs and challenges. (6)
- The Commission Communication on 'Research and innovation as sources of renewed growth' states that the quality, efficiency and impact of public spending on research is closely linked to a stronger knowledge base, leverage of private funding and generating increasing economic returns, while the Annual Growth Survey 2014 states that national research systems should be modernised in line with the objectives of the European Research Area. (7)
- The Strategic Roadmaps of the Stakeholder Organisations contribute to the realisation of the European Research Area (LERU: An ERA of Change, Science Europe: Science Europe Roadmap, EARTO: EARTO Recommendations for Future EU Innovation Policy, CESAER works on the basis of a rolling ERA Action Plan, EUA will continue to encourage its members to carry out the actions that are set out in the MoU of 2012 and the priorities of the EUA Antwerp Declaration.) (8)

THE PARTNERS HAVE DECIDED THE FOLLOWING:

- To work together in the spirit of the Lisbon Treaty towards the achievement of the European Research Area in order to strengthen the scientific and technological bases of the Union and of its industry, and to make them more competitive for the benefit of the European society; Up to 31 December 2019 and if deemed necessary beyond, partners will in particular further strengthen efforts to make the ERA fully operational and to make ERA work; (1)
- To foster links between researchers and innovators and facilitate their work and cooperation across the European Union, making Europe a more rewarding place for research and innovation; (2)
- To continue working together in partnership, in the scope of the Stakeholder Platform, on the key priorities identified in the ERA Communication of 17 July 2012, in line with the Joint Statement of 17 July 2012 and the Joint Declaration of 13

December 2013, to include the international dimension and to strive to identify relevant new ERA priorities; (3)

- To acknowledge the importance of the partnership approach in order to achieve the ERA goals and the important role that stakeholder organisations have to play in this regard; (4)
- To continue to be strong players in identifying and tackling the future research and innovation challenges ahead while considering the second ERA Progress Report of 15 September 2014 and the related Council Conclusions of 5 December 2014 (including the requested ERA Roadmap at European level as developed by the Member States in close collaboration with the Commission) and the various strategies/agendas to take concrete steps towards implementation of ERA on key priority areas developed by the stakeholder organisations¹; (5)
- By the end of the year, to support the process of expanding the Stakeholders' Platform to include other organisations representative at EU level that would like to work together in partnership, in the scope of the Stakeholder Platform where this would be relevant for the achievement of the ERA objectives as well as to tackle the new challenges. The new members of the Stakeholders' Platform shall make clear commitments towards ERA; (6)
- To establish a communication strategy in order to pursue appropriate communication channels between the Stakeholder Platform and the other ERA governance partners; (7)
- To exchange ERA relevant studies, assessments, expert reports among the partners; (8)
- To provide added value to the process of further developing and improving the framework conditions for research, science and innovation and ensure tighter integration of research and innovation objectives, in order to contribute to the progress of the European society at large and to a new boost for jobs and growth in particular; further new and specific actions will be defined in agreement between the partners. (9)
- This Joint Statement is valid until 31 December 2019 and could be subject to a mid-term evaluation, if needed, by the Partners and the Commission, designed to identify the most important remaining gaps in terms of ERA implementation, and provide suggestions for new tracks or actions that could be initiated by the European Commission and Member States to bridge such gaps. (10)
- The Partners will publicly report about the actions they will develop in accordance with this Joint Statement following their strategic roadmaps and their own communication policy. (11)

¹For LERU: 'An ERA of Change' [LERU An ERA of Change](#);

For Science Europe: 'Science Europe Roadmap' [Science Europe Roadmap](#);

For EARTO: EARTO Recommendations for Future EU Innovation Policy: [EARTO Recommendations 2014](#)

For CESAER: CESAER works on the basis of a rolling ERA Action Plan focussing on Human Resources for Research, Open Science, Knowledge Transfer, and Cross-border Cooperation implemented by Task Forces and Working Groups. For results, see: <http://www.cesaer.org/>

For the EUA: EUA will continue to encourage its members to carry out the actions that are set out in the MoU of 2012 and the priorities of the EUA Antwerp Declaration:

http://www.eua.be/Libraries/Project_logos_images/Antwerp_Declaration_21_05_2015_final.sflb.ashx.

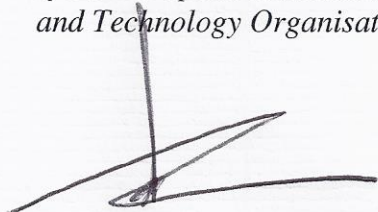
This Joint Statement constitutes a voluntary, non-binding informal agreement, without legal status under Belgian law. The partners acknowledge that their or their members' action will stay within the scope of their or their members' remits, as allowed by their respective jurisdictions and institutional autonomy and without prejudice to existing obligations under Union law.

Done at Brussels on 23 June 2015

Professor Ernst Schmachtenberg, President-Elect of the Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research (CESAER)



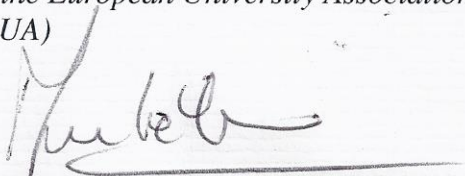
*Maria Khorsand, President
of the European Association of Research
and Technology Organisations (EARTO)*



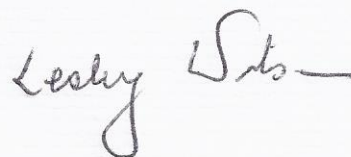
*Muriel Attané, Secretary General
of the European Association of Research and
Technology Organisations (EARTO)*



*Professor Maria Helena Nazaré, President
of the European University Association
(EUA)*



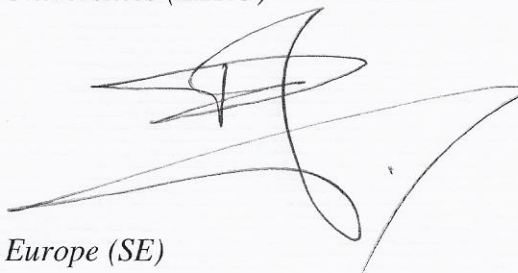
*Lesley Wilson, Secretary General of the
European University Association (EUA)*



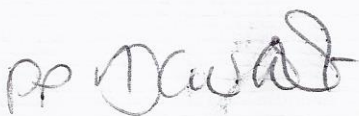
*Professor Alain Beretz, Chair
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Universities (LERU)*



*Professor Kurt Deketelaere, Secretary
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Professor Miguel Seabra, President of Science Europe (SE)



Carlos Moedas, Member of the European Commission in charge of Research, Science and Innovation

