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From:	ERAC Secretariat
To:	ERAC (European Research Area and Innovation Committee)
Subject:	ERAC Plenary 5 December - agenda item 6 (Standing Information Point) - Update on the upcoming edition of the Report "Science, research and innovation performance of the EU 2018".

In view of the discussions under item 6 of the agenda of the ERAC plenary on 5 December, delegations will find attached the "Update on the upcoming edition of the Report "Science, research and innovation performance of the EU 2018".

ERAC - Standing Information Point
Science, Research and Innovation Performance in the EU Report, 2018: Progress update

36th Plenary meeting
Agenda Item 6
Brussels, 5 December 2017

The European Commission is finalising its biennial flagship report "**Science, Research and Innovation performance of the EU**" (SRIP), which analyses Europe's research and innovation (R&I) performance and its drivers. The Report combines in-house macroeconomic analysis (in part I of the Report) and expert-contributed microeconomic in-depth research (in part II) to create a robust narrative that speaks to an audience of both R&I and Economics and Finance policy-makers and analysts.

Following the presentation by the Commission services of the draft Report at the 35th ERAC Plenary meeting in Tartu in September, a number of activities to ensure the overall quality of analysis and relevance of policy messages accruing from the SRIP Report took place; namely:

1. A workshop with Member States and Associated Countries under the auspices of ERAC in collaboration with the Austrian Permanent Representation to the EU and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy on 4 October 2017
2. A high-level Sounding Board of academic, government and business experts on 10 October 2017
3. A European Commission inter-service consultation in November 2017

The results of these three exercises have validated the soundness of the analysis, the relevance of the messages and the importance of this exercise for policy making; and also identified some areas for improvement, including the need to:

- Stress the dramatic importance of innovation in the current context and pace of the changing nature of innovation. Be "more bold and ambitious" in the messaging;
- Underscore the systemic nature of the ongoing changes;
- Highlight the role of China and Asia as poles of innovation;
- Identify better data sources, coverage and exact definitions;
- Expand geographical coverage in specific indicators to all Member States. This applies notably to indicators produced by organisations whose membership does not align with that of ERAC;
- Policy recommendations clustered around groups of countries.

The Commission services have been working on integrating as many of these comments as possible and engaged in discussions on expanding the geographical coverage for specific indicators that come from other sources, to the maximum extent possible.

The Report's launch date is tentatively scheduled for 14 March 2018¹ in Brussels. After the launch, a dissemination campaign will follow in those Member States willing to take part in this activity. Events shall take place in national think-tanks (e.g. COTEC Innovation Foundation in Spain) and/ or national administrations, to stimulate the debate among stakeholders about the crucial role of R&I in Europe to boost productivity and growth. The Commission (contact: Ignacio.Baleztena@ec.europa.eu) stands ready to explore with ERAC Members, or designated persons, these dissemination opportunities in the capitals.

¹ To be confirmed.