

# Strategic Forum for International S&T Cooperation (SFIC)

**Background**

**Mandate**

**Goals and tasks**

# SFIC in a nutshell



## ADVISORY BODY

on international research and innovation cooperation



## SUPPORT

Council of the EU and the European Commission



## CURRENT FOCUS AREAS

Africa, China, Science diplomacy



## FURTHER INFORMATION

[erac-sfic@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:erac-sfic@consilium.europa.eu)

<https://era.gv.at/directory/35>

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/preparatory-bodies/european-research-area-innovation-committee/>

<https://ec.europa.eu/Research/iscp/index.cfm?pg=sfic-general>

# SFIC in detail

# Background and setting

## Lisbon Council, 2000

- unified research area open to the world and based on the Internal Market
- free circulation of researchers, scientific knowledge and technology

## Communication:

Towards a European Research Area



European  
Research Area

## Objectives

- boost Europe's competitiveness
- improve the coordination of research activities
- develop human resources
- increase the attractiveness of European research to the best researchers from all over the world

# ERA-related advisory groups

ERAC - European Research Area & Innovation Committee

GPC - High Level Group on Joint Programming

SFIC - Strategic Forum for international S&T Cooperation

ESFRI - European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures

GRI - Gender in Research & Innovation

OSI - Open Science and Innovation

HRM - Human Resources and Mobility

Standing  
Working  
Groups

# European Research Area & Innovation Committee (ERAC)



## ADVISORY BODY

- assisting the European Commission and the Council of the EU
- in the field of research, innovation and technological development



## MISSION

provide strategic input on any research and innovation issue relevant to the development of the European Research Area



## MEMBERS

- European Commission and EU Member States
- OBSERVERS: Candidate Countries and Associated Countries



## CHAIR

European Commission and an elected representative from the Member States

# SFIC - What are we here for?

**dedicated configuration of ERAC**

**facilitating the further development, implementation  
and monitoring of the international dimension of the  
ERA**

**focus on European Union and  
Member States' research and  
innovation activities outside the  
EU and Associated Countries**

# SFIC - Who we are?

## MEETINGS

### DELEGATES

Ministries in charge of Science,  
Research and Innovation

Research Funding Agencies

Research Councils or similar  
Advisory Bodies

Permanent Representations to  
the EU (Science Attaché)

### MEMBERSHIP

**Up to two representatives per  
Member State/Observer  
& 2 alternates**

**European Commission is a full  
Member**

### MEETINGS

Four times per year in Brussels

Back-to-back thematic and  
strategic workshops if  
necessary

# SFIC - What is our mission?

**WE BELIEVE that**



International cooperation plays a key role in finding joint solutions for today's global challenges



Through our work in SFIC we can support the EU's STI cooperation with partners worldwide

# Advisory role of SFIC



How to develop the international cooperation perspective within the EU Framework Programmes

How to develop funding mechanisms and instruments necessary for facilitating international STI cooperation

How to link the activities of SFIC with other ERA-related groups or EU-funded projects and initiatives

How to monitor the international cooperation perspectives with adequate indicators

# SFIC supports International Policy Dialogues

EU has S&T agreements with about 20 countries  
EU has S&T cooperation roadmaps with



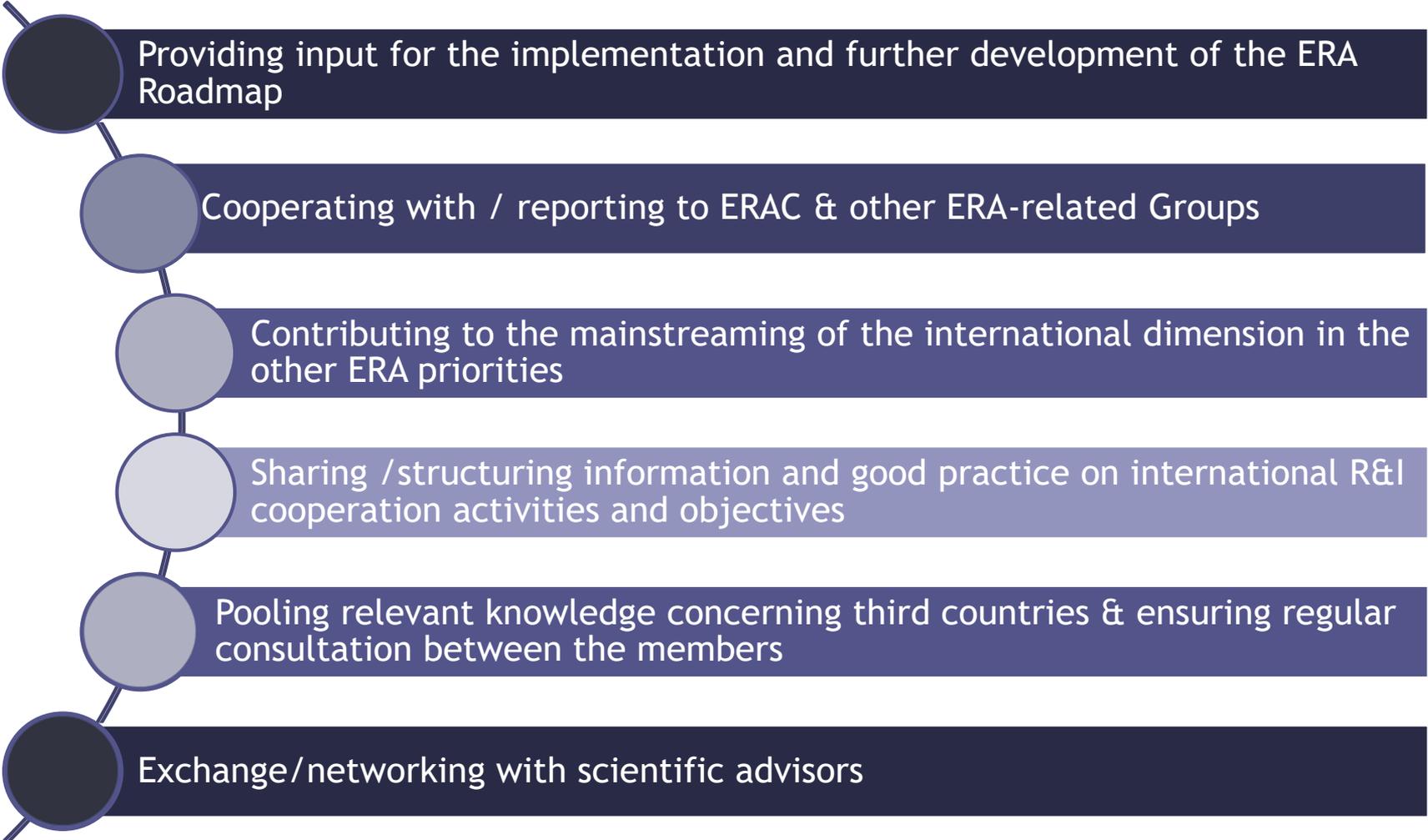
EU has policy dialogue and Senior Official Meetings (SOM) with 7 countries/regions

- Latin America and the Caribbean (EU-CELAC)
- Africa (EU-AU)
- Mediterranean region (EUMED)
- Balkan Region and South-Eastern Europe
- EU's Eastern Neighbours (EU EaP)
- Southeast Asia (EU-ASEAN)
- India (EU-India GSO)

Multi-annual roadmaps for R&I cooperation with third countries



# Further activities of SFIC



Providing input for the implementation and further development of the ERA Roadmap

Cooperating with / reporting to ERAC & other ERA-related Groups

Contributing to the mainstreaming of the international dimension in the other ERA priorities

Sharing / structuring information and good practice on international R&I cooperation activities and objectives

Pooling relevant knowledge concerning third countries & ensuring regular consultation between the members

Exchange/networking with scientific advisors

# Current focus of activities



Monitoring and contribution to the development of the ERA

International perspective of the EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation

Working Groups / Task Forces / Ad Hoc-Groups

- Communication / Visibility
- Benchmarking
  - China
  - Africa
  - Science Diplomacy

# Why & how to get in touch with us

## In case

- international STI cooperation is in the centre of your STI activities;
- you seek advice on the EU's international STI cooperation;
- you want to increase the impact of your international STI activities;
- you seek synergies in your international STI cooperation with other Member States on the EU level

Please contact the Council Secretariat

[erac-sfic@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:erac-sfic@consilium.europa.eu)

or visit

<https://era.gv.at/directory/35>

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/preparatory-bodies/european-research-area-innovation-committee/>

<https://ec.europa.eu/Research/iscp/index.cfm?pg=sfic-general>

## However

if you are looking for **project funding** with international partners in EU Programmes  
Please contact your respective National Contact Points at

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>