Opening the Door to a World of FAIR Research Digital Objects – On the Threshold to the European Open Science Cloud

In present times, we face many societal challenges: a COVID pandemic that affects our health and well-being as well as our economies; climate change as an urgent and increasingly visible phenomenon that has long-term effects for the whole planet; and digital transformation. Science plays a crucial role in describing phenomena, enabling an informed debate and for finding answers to these societal challenges. The European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) as a major initiative within the European Research Area (ERA) is the means to find, share, and re-use data and thus to improve and expand knowledge. After an intensive pilot phase with preparations on many levels, we are now ready to enter a new phase of EOSC and a web of FAIR data and services for science and research.

Building on:
* Council conclusions "The transition towards an Open Science system", adopted on 27 May 2016, which promoted the idea of the European Open Science Cloud;
* European Open Science Cloud Council Conclusions of 29 May 2018, which gave a more detailed outline of the initiative;
* Vienna Declaration on the European Open Science Cloud of 23 November 2018, which launched the pilot implementation phase of EOSC;
* EOSC Governance Symposium 2020, held under the German EU-presidency from 19 –22 October 2020, during which the outcomes of the closing EOSC governance were presented and discussed by the scientific community;
* Evaluation of the first implementation phase (2018–2020) of the European Open Science Cloud of 23 September 2020.
* Council conclusions on the new European Research Area

As presented and underlined in the Research Council, we, the delegates of the Member States and Associated Countries in the EOSC Governance Board,

* **Reaffirm** that Open Science, FAIR data, and better use of digital methods and services are a basis for closer co-operation in science and research, more efficient and impactful development of new knowledge and technology, as well as evidence-based decision making;

- **Recognise** the EOSC as a major milestone to implement a "web of FAIR data and services" which allows for increased access to and reuse of research results and data in the ERA;
- **Recognise** that EOSC will promote the interoperability of the European research resources and enhance the return on investment in research;
- **Underline** that EOSC is one of the digital related initiatives that are essential for the EU to remain globally competitive and to ensure adherence to European values as well as technological sovereignty;
- **Welcome** the significant progress made in further developing and rolling out the EOSC based on a pan-European federation of data infrastructures and services and oriented on the needs of the users;
- **Recognise** the efforts of the scientific community on European, national and institutional level to achieve this progress and to set up the EOSC Association as a legal entity as well as developing the strategic agenda of the overall initiative;
- **Acknowledge** the progress that has been made under the preliminary governance 2018–2020, towards a new and sustainable structure of the EOSC, which will be organised as a co-programmed partnership between the European Commission and the EOSC Association;
- **Confirm** that Member States and Associated Countries engaged in the tripartite governance of the EOSC will contribute to EOSC through strategic advice, aligning national policies, cooperation with the other partners and coordinating and federating national efforts and investments;
- **Ask** for a regular evaluation of the progress towards the implementation of the goals of the EOSC Partnership.

On the threshold to the implementation phase we commit to making EOSC a successful initiative and a successful example for close cooperation within a new and sustainable ERA.