

NOTE

From:	SFIC Secretariat
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Summary conclusions of the 39th meeting of the Strategic Forum for International S&T Cooperation (SFIC), held in Brussels on 4 December 2018

The meeting was chaired by Ms Rozenn Saunier (FR).

1. Tour de table

Delegations informed each other about important national INCO developments. The incoming Romanian presidency of the Council presented its programme in the area of research (WK 15209/2018). The Commission provided an overview of activities undertaken in the last quarter of 2018 and planned until March 2019. The RO delegation provided feedback from ESFRI, which is preparing a strategic research agenda for international cooperation (called PLUS). The HU delegation informed that reports on the governance models of the European Open Science Cloud and the principles of open science and open innovation had been adopted by the ERAC Standing Working Group on Open Science and Innovation (OSI).

A collection of delegations' written contributions as well as the reports from ESFRI and OSI will be circulated.

2. SFIC draft opinion on FP9

SFIC discussed the text as set out in document WK 14218/18. All intervening delegations supported the text. AT recalled the importance and urgency of an opinion. FR and DK proposed a modification. The chair will send out a revised version with the opportunity for delegations to react to the changes. Based on feedback a final version will be submitted for adoption by written procedure.

3. Working Groups

a) Benchmarking WG

The FR delegation informed SFIC about the state of play in the benchmarking working group and the envisaged next steps (see WK 14248/18 and WK 15210/2018). Delegations agreed to use their national roadmaps in the framework of the WG. COM informed SFIC that the new version of countries roadmaps would be published soon.

b) Toolbox WG

The DE delegation informed about the last steps to be taken in view of concluding the work of the Toolbox WG. A revised draft of the final document will be circulated for comments and subsequent adoption by written procedure before the end of 2018.

The Joint Research Centre of the Commission presented how the data requested by the toolbox WG could be integrated on the Research and Innovation Observatory (RIO) site (WK 15211/2018). Currently information on joint patents (OECD data) and internationally mobile students (UNESCO data) are integrated. Deadline for ideas for additional data is 12 December 2018 via the SFIC Secretariat to the JRC. Furthermore, RIO still needs a contribution from SFIC on the type of data to be added and a descriptive introductory text.

4. Future of SFIC

The chair presented the draft survey (WK 14479/2018) and set a deadline for responses (21 January 2019). The objective is to be able to react to the ERA report recommendations and to make SFIC fit for the future. Delegations proposed to change the order of questions. The full text of the ERA recommendation for SFIC will be added as an introductory paragraph. A question on the maximum number of parallel working groups and the required resources will be added.

The Chair announced that a workshop would be organised the day before the next SFIC plenary meeting to clarify the objective and mandate of SFIC in the future (i.e. on 6 March 2019).

5. Mutual Learning Exercise (MLE) on "National strategies and roadmaps for international cooperation in R&I"

The Commission presented the MLE and invited delegations to express their willingness to participate in the MLE by 6 December 2018 (WK 14162/2018 and WK 15212/2018).

The Chair, recognising the difference in scope, recalled the need to closely coordinate the work of the WG on benchmarking with the scope of the MLE.

6. Workshops on road maps and international cooperation strategies

The Commission presented the proposal for a number of workshops on road maps and international cooperation strategies. The workshops are intended as full day, participatory workshops, focussing on two topics (one in the morning, one in the afternoon). For the workshops the Commission will be present with representatives of the relevant topical directorates.

Delegations expressed support for the idea. But until now very few delegations have expressed interest. The Commission considers that at least 10 delegations should participate in order to make the workshops useful.

Deadline for expression of interest is 17 December 2018.

7. INCO Service Facility

- a) Service request on a conceptual framework for monitoring International Cooperation

The DE delegation presented the slightly revised service request for monitoring international cooperation. The Commission insisted that existing studies and reports on this issue should be properly taken into consideration. SFIC adopted the revised request and requested its transmissions to the Commission.

8. OECD STI compass

The OECD presented its latest tool on STI policies and initiatives (<https://stip.oecd.org>).

9. Any other business

The AT delegation informed about the first findings and learnings from the BILAT and INCOBRA initiatives in particular in view of aspects that may be P2P relevant (WK15223/2018). A presentation of the final report will be put on the agenda of one of the next SFIC meetings.

The ES delegation proposed to invite the FET Flagships for a presentation of their INCO activities in one of the next SFIC plenaries.

Next SFIC plenary dates:

7 March 2019

12 June 2019
