

# A new European Partnership for International S&T Cooperation



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# ROADMAP

- 1. What is the Partnership about?**
- 2. Why does Europe need this Partnership?**
- 3. How is the Partnership implemented?**
- 4. ...and EECA countries?**

# What is the Partnership about?

## A sustainable partnership requires:

- Commitment from Member States, the Council and the Commission
- Close interaction between Member States, Associated Countries, third country partners and Commission, and all research actors
- Appropriate institutional settings for effective implementation
- Council to oversee and monitor progress of the further opening of the ERA (i.e. the Partnership is Member States-Led!)
- Continued support and follow-up by the European Parliament

# What is the Partnership about?

## Principles proposed by the Commission: « A Strategic European Framework for International S&T Cooperation »

- Widening the ERA and making it more open to the world
- Ensuring coherence of policies and complementarity of programmes
- Fostering strategic cooperation with key third countries
- Developing the attractiveness of Europe as a research partner

# What is the Partnership about?

## Competitiveness Council, 2 Dec 2008

- Encourage dialogue at European level / facilitate consultation between stakeholders
- Share information and experience
- Increase co-ordination / strengthen dialogue platforms
- Increase the impact of S&T agreements (e.g. reciprocity; mutual benefits)
- Ensure coherence between instruments and S&T capacity building

# What is the Partnership about?

## “2020 Vision for the ERA”

- **Based on key building blocks**
  - Seamless mobility and attractive careers for researchers
  - Fully exploited knowledge and intellectual property
  - Coherent and efficient research programmes and priorities
  - Joint (access to) world-class research infrastructures
  - **Coherent international S&T cooperation strategies**
  - Realising the ‘Knowledge Triangle’: strong universities, research institutions and innovative business

# Why does Europe need this Partnership?

- Major global challenges (climate change, securing energy supplies, biodiversity and ecosystems, etc) need effective global S&T cooperation
- New global S&T players emerging
- Growing level of international competition for researchers
- Increasing cost of research infrastructures

# How is the Partnership implemented?

Conclusions of the Competitiveness Council of 2 December 2008 on a "*European Partnership of International Scientific and Technological Cooperation*" invited Member States and the European Commission to collaborate within a **Strategic Forum for International S&T Cooperation (SFIC)**

# How is the Partnership implemented?

## The Strategic Forum for International S&T Cooperation

Group of *high-level representatives* of Member States, countries associated to FP7 and the European Commission

### Objective:

*"facilitate the further development, implementation and monitoring of the international dimension of ERA by the **sharing of information and consultation between the partners** with a view to **identifying common priorities** which could lead to **coordinated or joint initiatives**, and coordinating activities and positions vis-à-vis third countries and within international fora."*

# How is the Partnership implemented?

## General tasks of the SFIC as defined in its Mandate:

- **Sharing and structuring information;**
- **Pooling relevant knowledge;**
- **Identify partners' objectives and common priorities;**
- *Where appropriate, coordinating activities* of a similar nature implemented by Member States and the Community ('variable geometry');
- *If necessary, proposing joint initiatives;*
- **Networking** of Member States' and the Commission's scientific advisors in key third countries.

# How is the Partnership implemented?

What will SFIC work on during 2009/10 ?

**!!! STILL UNDER PREPARATION AND NOT AGREED YET !!!**

- **Strengthening evidence-based policy-making**
- **Identify joint cooperation objectives and potential instruments**
- **Fostering the international dimension of research programmes**

# How is the Partnership implemented?

## State of affairs:

- Two meetings took place on 18/2 and 25/5/2009
- Mr Volker Rieke, Deputy Director-General in the German Ministry for Education and Research, was elected as Chair
- It was decided to **invite, in general, countries associated to FP7**
- The SFIC will be supported by **two ad-hoc Task Forces**, one on “Information Sharing” and one on “Global Challenges/Priority Setting”
- A Work Programme 2009/10 is currently under preparation by the Chair based on input of Delegations

## Next steps:

- The third meeting is scheduled for 1 Oct 2009 (in 2009 one more is planned for November/December)
- The first **report to the Council and the Commission is due in Spring 2010**

## ...and EECA countries?

- New Partnership as an opportunity to reinforce research cooperation activities with third countries
- Mutual learning can be strengthened through such a Partnership
- Profit by pooling resources and sharing information
- Greater coherence of action in Europe, to help third countries interface with Europe
- ERA is open NOT a « European Research 'Fortress' »

**We need a more research and  
innovation intensive, integrated  
and attractive  
European Research Area  
Excellent Research Attracts**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/era>

