JOINT CONCLUSIONS
by the Co-Chairs of the Meeting

BUILDING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TURKEY

Brussels, 24 November 2016
The «Building the European Research Area in partnership with Turkey» high level meeting was hosted by the European Commission in Brussels on 24 November 2016. This meeting was a follow up to the successful event in Ankara held on 8-9 October 2015, which concluded that all stakeholders should increase their efforts to intensify the partnership between the European Research Area (ERA) and the Turkish Research Area (TARAL) to establish a high-performing research and innovation capacity in Turkey and in the EU, and to build a strong public science base where researchers, scientific knowledge and technology can freely circulate.

The 2016 meeting brought together senior representatives of the Alliance of Turkish Research Universities (Bilkent University, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul Technical University, Koç University, Middle East Technical University, Sabancı University), TÜBİTAK, Science Europe, the League of European Research Universities, the European University Association, the Helsinki Group on Gender in Research and Innovation, the Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research, the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures, the European Research Facilities association, the Strategic Forum for International STI Cooperation, the Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility, and the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Research and Innovation.

The meeting was co-chaired on the EU side by Mr Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General of the European Commission’s Directorate General for Research and Innovation, and on the Turkish side by Prof. Dr. Mustafa Vergan Kök, President of ODTÜ on behalf of the Alliance of Turkish Research Universities (ALTRU), and Prof. Dr. A. Arif Ergin, President of TÜBİTAK. The list of participants is attached.

The meeting confirmed the commitment of all participants to intensify and accelerate the alignment of the ERA and the TARAL based on the following principles:

A. Effective national research systems based on adequate investments in science, technology and innovation, excellence-based allocation of funds, adequate mechanisms for industry-academia collaboration, autonomy of universities, and academic freedom;

B. An open labour market for researchers based on open transparent recruitment procedures, sustainable and transparent career trajectories, and facilitated mobility of researchers across institutions, sectors and countries;

C. Gender equality in research, at all seniority levels as well as gender mainstreaming in research;

D. Optimal circulation and transfer of scientific knowledge across countries and disciplines and between academia and industry, including open access to scientific publications and research data;

E. International cooperation to extend in partnership the frontiers of knowledge and jointly address the grand societal challenges which our societies are facing.

The meeting agreed that a closer linking of the ERA and the TARAL is vital to ensure that research systems in Turkey and the EU can jointly address societal challenges and contribute to lasting economic growth and competitiveness at all levels (local, regional, national and global). It is also agreed that participation of Turkish Universities in European ERA Stakeholder organisations is essential to foster exchange of good practices and mutual learning on ERA priority implementation.

All participants underlined the important role of Horizon 2020 to facilitate the alignment of the ERA and the TARAL, for supporting mobility and for developing long lasting partnerships between EU and Turkish researchers.

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held in Turkey. The members of the Alliance of Turkish Research Universities will continue to contribute to the preparation of a national ERA action plan that will be discussed at the next meeting.
List of Participants

Alliance of Turkish Research Universities (ALTRU)

Prof. Dr. Abdullah Atalar
President, Bilkent University

Prof. Dr. Cevdet Aykanat
Associate Provost, Bilkent University

Prof. Dr. Ezhan Karasän
Dean of Faculty of Engineering, Bilkent University

Prof. Dr. Ayşin Ertüzün
Vice President, Boğaziçi University

Prof. Taner Bilgiç
Faculty of Industrial Engineering, Boğaziçi University

Prof. Dr. Alper Ünal
Vice President, İstanbul Technical University

Prof. Dr. Levent Trabzon
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, İstanbul Technical University

Prof. Dr. Umran Savaş İnan
President, Koç University

Prof. Dr. İrşadi Aksun
Vice President, Koç University

Elif Ebru Tan
Research, Project Development & Technology Transfer
Director, Koç University

Prof. Dr. Mustafa Verşan Kök
President, METU

Prof. Dr. Gönül Turhan-Sayan
Vice President, METU

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Yozgatlıgil
Assistant to the President, METU

Prof. Dr. Ayşe Gülöden Kadioğlu Aksel
Acting President, Sabancı University

Dr. Volkan Özgüz
Director of Nanotechnology Research and Application Center, Sabancı University

Prof. Dr. Meltem Müftüler-Baş
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Jean Monnet Chair
TÜBİTAK

Prof. Dr. A. Arif Ergin
Dr. Orkun Hasekioğlu
Mr. Hakan Karataş
Mr. Mirat Satoğlu
Dr. Selda Ulutaş Aydoğan
Ms. Hande Alpaslan

President
Vice President
Director for International Cooperation
Director for Turkish Academic Network and Information Center
Head of EU Framework Programmes Department, Directorate for International Cooperation
Head of Unit for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Governance Mechanisms, Directorate for STI Policies

ERA Stakeholders

Ms Amanda Crowfoot
Mr Kurt Deketelaere
Mr Thomas Jorgensen
Ms Jacqueline Barbara
Mr David Bohmert
Prof Giorgio Rossi
Prof Carlo Rizzuto
Ms Rozenn Saunier
Ms Eeva Kaunismaa

Director, Science Europe
President, League of European Research Universities (LERU)
Senior Policy Coordinator, European University Association (EUA)
Helsinki Group on Gender in Research and Innovation
Secretary-General, Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research (CESAER)
Chair, European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESRFI)
Chair, European Research Facilities association (ERF)
Chair, Strategic Forum for International STI Cooperation (SFIC)
Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility (SGHRM)
European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation

Mr Robert-Jan Smits
Director-General
Directorate-General for Research and Innovation
European Commission

Mr Kostas Glinos
Head of Unit
Strategy, EFTA and enlargement countries, Russia, Asia and Pacific

Mr Bernhard Fabianek
Policy Officer
Strategy, EFTA and enlargement countries, Russia, Asia and Pacific

Ms Fabienne Gautier
Head of Unit
Open Science and ERA policy

Ms Ana Arana Antelo
Head of Unit
Science with and for society

Mr Philippe Froissard
Deputy Head of Unit
Research infrastructure

Mr Daniel Spichtinger
Policy Officer
Data, Open Access and Foresight