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JOINT STATEMENT

BY

**THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATIONS (EARTO), THE
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION (EUA), THE LEAGUE OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES
(LERU), NORDFORSK, SCIENCE EUROPE (SE) AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

ON WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP IN ACHIEVING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

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ON WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP IN ACHIEVING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science (European Commission) and Jan Mengelers, President of the European Association of Research and Technology Organisations (EARTO) and Maria Khorsand, Vice-President of EARTO, Professor Maria Helena Nazaré, President of the European University Association (EUA), Lesley Wilson, Secretary General of EUA, Professor Bernd Huber, Chair of the League of European Research Universities (LERU) and, Professor Kurt Deketelaere, Secretary-General of LERU, Halldór Ásgrímsson, Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers and Professor Guðrún Nordal, Chair of NordForsk, Professor Paul Boyle, President of Science Europe (SE), hereafter collectively referred to as the partners, have today stated their willingness to work in partnership, towards the achievement of the European Research Area (ERA) by 2014, as called for by the European Council, and beyond.

This statement has been made on the occasion of the presentation of the ERA Communication "A Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth".

The partners consider that the direct involvement of research stakeholder organisations will strengthen the European Research Area and will contribute to building a unified research area, open to the world, in which researchers, scientific knowledge and technology circulate freely and through which the Union and its Member States strengthen their competitiveness and their capacity to collectively address grand challenges. This reinforced partnership with the European Commission, in conjunction with relevant actions taken by the Member States, was instigated by the 2008 Ljubljana process.

The partners acknowledge their readiness to cooperate by sharing information and providing input to the on-going and future development of ERA policy, particularly in the context of a dedicated stakeholder platform which will be set up.

The partners, each within its remit, will therefore encourage their members to take timely concrete actions to address the following key priorities:

1. increased effectiveness of national research systems
2. optimal levels of transnational co-operation and competition
3. an open labour market for researchers by improving researcher mobility, training and careers as well as an open and merit-based recruitment

4. gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research
5. optimal circulation and transfer of scientific knowledge

The partners, whilst acknowledging the independence of research-funding and research-performing organisations in the Member States, note that these organisations are key players in the European Research Area. The partners specify their commitment to take action in more detail either through a memorandum of understanding or a unilateral statement. The partners acknowledge that their or their members' action will stay within the scope of their or their members' remits, as allowed by their respective jurisdictions and institutional autonomy and without prejudice to existing obligations under Union law.

The partners will publicly report about the actions they will develop and start, or continue, in accordance with this statement.

Done at Brussels on 17 July 2012

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science (European Commission)

Jan Mengelers, President of the European Association of Research and Technology Organisations (EARTO)

Maria Khorsand, Vice-President of the European Association of Research and Technology Organisations (EARTO)

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