Any other Business Point on Open Science copied from the REPORT OF THE 3544th SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON "COMPETITIVENESS (RESEARCH PART"

Brussels, 30 May 2017

The Commission provided information about ongoing developments of the Open science Policy Platform – adoption of a work plan geared to address the entire scope of the European Open Science Agenda, and consensual adoption of two documents with recommendations on the governance and financial schemes for the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) and on Open Science Publishing. Regarding the EOSC, Commissioner Moedas noted that it is about cross-border and cross-disciplinary research data sharing; he stressed the need for a gate to the different repositories and clouds that exist already. He drew the attention of Ministers to the European Open Science Cloud Summit on 12 June representing a first phase of implementation of the European Open Science Cloud that will give opportunity to take stock of progress, review the Commission's vision and build consensus on an implementation plan.

Regarding Open Science Publishing, he stressed the need to keep current Open Access (OA) mandates and expand to software, protocols etc., but also start discussions on incentives for OA, including altmetrics. On altmetrics, he noted that there is no reliable alternative to current citation-based indicators therefore alternatives need to be developed. However, this needs to be complemented by indicators with qualitative assessment of research results and the development of a way to measure citizens' engagement.

He stressed that the EC needs to act to get to 100% OA by 2020, incl. by developing an OA platform (like Wellcome Trust and Gates foundations), which is not just a new repository but also includes functionalities such as open peer review. In conclusion, he thanked the Dutch and German delegation for the GO FAIR initiative and for «pushing us forward».

DE thanked the Commission for its visionary impulse to put OS on the political agenda. In particular, the EOSC as a reliable and open platform for data sharing will offer great opportunities, but time is pressing, and therefore the June summit is very timely. DE noted that there are already numerous MS initiatives and most building blocks already exist; the GO FAIR initiative is meant to support the EOSC; it is Member States'-driven, cross-disciplinary and bottom-up. NL supported the DE intervention on GO FAIR and noted that it comes from the needs of scientific communities to share and reuse data (similar to the early stage of Internet development in 80’s and 90’s). NL stressed that today the focus is on the FAIR principles. “FAIRifing data” has already started, and EU must support this revolution to stay in the lead. NL also called on all Member States to join GO FAIR. FR stressed the key importance of OS/EOSC/data sharing and supported the urgency to act on EOSC. The French delegation confirmed its intention to be associated to GO FAIR.