STATEMENT OF INTENT

BETWEEN

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

AND

THE EIROFORUM ORGANISATIONS

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The **European Commission** (hereinafter referred as **"the Commission"**) duly represented by its Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science,

and

the following intergovernmental Organisations:

The European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN);

The European Fusion Development Agreement (EFDA);

The European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL);

The European Space Agency (ESA);

The European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO);

The European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF);

The Institut Laue-Langevin (ILL);

duly represented by the Directors General, or equivalent:
(hereinafter referred to as **"the EIROforum Organisations"**)

CONSIDERING

- The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union whereby cooperation in the field of research, technological development and demonstration with third countries and international organisations is promoted;

- The EIROforum Charter which constitutes the framework for EIROforum (see enclosure) and whereby the EIROforum Organisations commit to play an active and constructive role in promoting the quality and impact of European research;

- The common 2020 vision for the European Research Area adopted on 2 December 2008 by the Council of the European Union (EU)[1];

- The Framework Programmes of the European Union for research, technological development and demonstration activities;

- That the EIROforum Organisations in their position as European world-class research infrastructures in their scientific fields each focus a significant part of their Member States' international activities in their own specialist areas whilst extending scientific relations beyond the borders of Europe, thereby actively contributing to the international visibility and standing of European science and research;

- That the EIROforum Organisations have demonstrated excellence in other areas, such as knowledge exchange, training of young scientists and engineers, science communication and outreach to society;

- That several of the activities and interests of the EIROforum Organisations interface with those of the Commission, in particular in the European Research Area (ERA);

- That the co-operation between the Commission and the EIROforum Organisations is of mutual interest and for the benefit of the European Research Area and of European citizens;

- The 2007 Green Paper on new perspectives for the European Research Area[2], which calls for greater cooperation and strengthened partnership with intergovernmental research organisations such as the EIROforum Organisations, notably as regards research programming, training and mobility of researchers, research infrastructures, intellectual property and international cooperation in research;

- The ERA International Cooperation Communication of 2008[3] which confirms the usefulness of a strengthened partnership between the European Community and European intergovernmental research organisations, notably the EIROforum Organisations to help assemble the critical mass needed to provide an effective response to policy challenges that are increasingly global;

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1 Competitiveness Council Conclusions 16767/08 on "2020 Vision for the European Research Area", 1-2 December 2008.

2 "The Green Paper on the European Research Area" refers to the Commission Green Paper "European Research Area: New Perspectives", adopted on 4 April 2007, COM (2007) 161 final.

3 "A strategic European Framework for international science and technology cooperation", 24 September 2008, [COM(2008)588].

- The cooperation between the EIROforum Organisations and the Commission on the basis of a Statement of Intent signed on 27 October 2003;

- That the Commission is a signatory of the European Fusion Development Agreement (EFDA) under which the Joint European Torus (JET) Facilities are used collectively by the EURATOM Fusion Associates;

- The Framework Agreement signed on 25 November 2003 between the European Space Agency and the European Community;

- The Administrative Arrangement for Cooperation signed on 18 January 1995 between the Commission and EMBL;

- The Memorandum of Understanding signed on 17 July 2009 between the Commission and CERN which has replaced the Administrative Arrangement for Cooperation of 10 October 1994 between these two Sides.

HEREBY ACCEPT:

The Commission and the EIROforum Organisations, with due regard to their respective competences, institutional settings, operational frameworks and internal rules and procedures, as may apply, intend to cooperate in the areas covered by the present Statement of Intent.

(1) The Commission and the EIROforum Organisations will explore synergies and conduct specific joint activities that are of common interest and have European added value, including contributing to the consolidation and further development of the European Research Area, in areas such as :

- research programming,

- human resources and training and mobility of researchers,

- research infrastructures,

- intellectual property and knowledge sharing,

- international cooperation in research.

Furthermore, the Commission and the EIROforum Organisations also intend to continue and to strengthen their collaboration, in particular in the fields of e-science, science education and communication. For this purpose they may explore synergies and develop joint activities.

(2) The Commission and the EIROforum Organisations will inform and consult each other, as appropriate, on issues of mutual interest pertaining to their respective research programmes, in particular in relation to the consolidation and further development of the European Research Area.

(3) The EIROforum Organisations will endeavour to make available to the Commission their experience and expertise for the benefit of the European Research Area, including through participation of representatives of the EIROforum Organisations in relevant EU meetings, committees, and expert working groups.

(4) The Commission will endeavour to draw upon this expertise and consult, as appropriate, with the EIROforum Organisations on the development of policy and strategy in areas of mutual interest.

(5) The Commission and the EIROforum Organisations will establish and maintain contacts and mechanisms for communication to achieve the aims foreseen by the present Statement of Intent.

(6) The Commission and the EIROforum Organisations will meet annually to assess progress and possibly discuss further ways to enhance mutual collaboration and explore potential synergies.

(7) The present Statement of Intent is without prejudice to any bilateral instrument concluded between the Commission and individual EIROforum Organisations or which may be concluded in the future.

(8) The Commission and the EIROforum Organisations will agree on questions related to the interpretation and implementation of the present Statement of Intent.

(9) The Statement of Intent of 27 October 2003 is replaced by the present Statement of Intent.

ENCLOSURE

EIROforum CHARTER

A number of powerful research infrastructures and laboratories which are used by extensive networks of scientists have been developed and deployed within Europe by European Intergovernmental Research Organisations since the early 1950s. These organisations have set up a coordination and collaboration Council (EIROforum) with their Director General (or equivalent) as its members.

A primary goal of EIROforum is to play an active and constructive role in promoting the quality and impact of European Research. In particular the group will be a basis for effective, high-level interaction and coordination between the member organisations. It will mobilise its substantial combined expertise in basic research and in the management of large international infrastructures, facilities and programmes, for the benefit of European research development. This will be pursued by exploring the existing intimate links between the member organisations and their respective European research communities.

The aims of EIROforum are, in particular, to:

1) Encourage and facilitate discussions among its members on issues of common interest, which are relevant to research and development.

2) Maximise the scientific return and optimise the use of resources and facilities by sharing relevant developments and results, whenever feasible.

3) Co-ordinate the outreach activities of the organisations, including technology transfer and public education.

4) Take an active part, in collaboration with other European scientific organisations, in a forward-look at promising and/or developing research directions and priorities, in particular in relation to new large-scale research infrastructures.

5) Simplify high-level interactions with the European Commission (EC) and other organs of the European Union, and enable an effective response to specific requests for expert advice in the areas covered by the member organisations.

6) Provide co-ordinated representation to the outside world including the general public, national governments and non-European countries.

Done in Munich on 24 June 2010 in eight original versions in the English language.

For the European Commission

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn
Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science

For the European Organisation for Nuclear Research

Rolf Heuer
Director General

For the European Fusion Development Agreement

Francesco Romanelli
EFDA Leader and
EFDA Associate Leader for JET

For the European Molecular Biology Biology Laboratory

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For the European Space Agency

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For the European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere

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