

ERA IN ACTION – EUROTECH UNIVERSITIES’ COMMITMENTS TO PROGRESS ON ERA

PRESS RELEASE

On 17 July, the [EuroTech Universities Alliance](#) was received by EU Commissioner for Research and Innovation, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, at a ceremony marking the one year anniversary of the Commission’s [Communication on the European Research Area](#) (ERA). Along with other associations of technical universities (TU), the EuroTech Universities Alliance endorsed the [unilateral statement presented to the Commission by CESAER](#).

The EuroTech Universities Alliance was unique among the associations under the CESAER umbrella in having developed its own specific ERA-related targets. Entitled “ERA in Action”, the Alliance’s commitments include joint measures relating to doctoral education, recruitment, knowledge transfer, gender, open access and communicating science and technology, e.g.: shared access to and creation of joint transferable skills courses; promotion of best practices on innovation and knowledge transfer. “ERA in Action” has been integrated into the CESAER umbrella statement.

Wolfgang A. Herrmann, President of TU München and current President of the EuroTech Universities Alliance, stated: *“Less than one year since the inauguration of its Brussels office, the EuroTech Universities Alliance is proud to be recognized at the highest levels of the Commission as well as by other key European stakeholder organizations as carrying an important and legitimate voice on the European research, innovation and higher education policy landscape.”* Turning to the Alliance commitments in relation to ERA, Herrmann added: *“The Alliance was able to make such clear and strong commitments precisely because its strategic long term inter-institutional cooperation is closely in line with ERA’s vision of reducing research fragmentation, enhancing researcher mobility and increasing Europe’s attractiveness as a global leader in research and innovation.”*

For the EuroTech Universities, this special occasion is the beginning of a new phase. The Alliance’s voluntary ERA-related commitments will now be pursued actively and progress will be monitored in a clear and transparent way.

BACKGROUND

The ceremony on 17 July was both a review of ERA-related progress and a look ahead. After reviewing progress in relation to Science Europe’s unilateral statement and the MoUs which the Commission signed a year ago with EUA, LERU, EARTO and NORDFORSK, representatives of the main associations of European universities of science and technology were invited to present their commitments in relation to ERA. Earlier in 2013, European TU associations, namely CESAER, EuroTech Universities, CLUSTER, IDEA League, and Nordic 5 Tech agreed to “speak with one voice” when presenting common positions on European research, higher education and innovation policies. Since the members of the EuroTech Universities Alliance, CLUSTER, IDEA League and Nordic 5 Tech are all members of CESAER, it was agreed that the latter should act as the overall “umbrella” for the positioning on ERA.



ABOUT THE EUROTECH UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCE

The EuroTech Universities Alliance is a strategic partnership of four leading universities of science & technology in Europe: TUM (Technische Universität München), EPFL (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne), DTU (Danmarks Tekniske Universitet) and TU/e (Technische Universiteit Eindhoven). The Alliance builds upon and combines the excellence, expertise and capabilities of its partner universities to develop technical solutions which address grand societal challenges. It is also a forum for cooperation and exchange on a range of issues in research, education and innovation, including the recruitment and career development of researchers.

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