



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

Brussels, 23 September 2019

WK 10302/2019 INIT

LIMITE

ERAC-SFIC

WORKING PAPER

This is a paper intended for a specific community of recipients. Handling and further distribution are under the sole responsibility of community members.

WORKING DOCUMENT

From:	SFIC Secretariat
To:	ERAC (European Research Area and Innovation Committee)
Subject:	ERAC Plenary in Helsinki on 2 October 2019 - Item 5.1 - SFIC one-pager statement on its impact for ERAC's consideration

In view of item 5.1 of the agenda of the ERAC plenary on 2 October 2019, please find attached for your information a note from SFIC on its impact.

A reference to this document can be found in the SFIC contribution to the updates from the ERA-related groups (document WK 10146/19, item 5.1 of the agenda of the ERAC plenary on 2 October 2019).

SFIC one-pager statement on its impact for ERAC's consideration

During the recent review of ERA advisory structures (doc 1209/18), the question of impact of the work done by the ERA related groups has been raised several times. More specifically on SFIC, measure 40 pinpoints that *“the SFIC mandate should specify more clearly whom the group is supposed to advise. In relation to this, clarification of the group’s main purpose is needed : dealing with the international cooperation dimension within the FPs or fostering exchanges between MS/AC about their international S&T cooperation policies. Such a clarification may also help defining more strategic and targeted activities and in consequence, contribute to increase SFIC’s **impact**”*.

The measure 42 pointed out : *“SFIC needs to consider ways to increase the quality and **impact** of its opinions and reports”*.

After a presentation by the EC on the key impact pathways for Horizon Europe, the question of SFIC impact was discussed during the SFIC plenary (7th March 2019).

SFIC members took note of the Commission's approach, but considered that it would not be applicable for SFIC, given that research and innovation policy results are difficult to evaluate with quantitative indicators. It was highlighted that relevant indicators of impact can be barely defined for a forum such as SFIC (except for the organizational aspects as mentioned in the measure 41).

SFIC members proposed an alternative option in identifying SFIC's outputs and outcomes (instead of impact). This should be reflected in the update of the work programme and, if relevant, later on with the revision of the mandate. SFIC will make an effort towards a better definition and link of the goals to be reached, the expected output, outcome and possible impact on specific target group(s).

In a general way, it could be worthwhile to have a broad approach including ERAC and other ERA-related groups. SFIC would propose to include that topic in the discussion of the working group dedicated to the future of the ERA.