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The Eight Framework Programme (FP8) and the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers

In removing obstacles to researchers' mobility in the European Research Area, the following key items will be discussed and the links between them explored during the conference.

- **FP8.** Through the Europe 2020 strategy and the Innovation Union flagship initiative, the context for the Union's research and innovation policy is now firmly set for the years to come. In light of Europe 2020 and the Innovation Union, FP8 will clearly need to reflect the ongoing commitment to create smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and jobs.

- **The ERA Framework proposal.** Based on the strengthened legal basis for the ERA in the Lisbon Treaty, in 2012 the Commission will propose an ERA framework and supporting measures to remove obstacles to mobility and cross-border co-operation, aiming for them to be in force by the end of 2014. This should result in achieving a genuinely unified European Research Area with greater coherence between European and national research policies, in which all actors, both public and private, can operate freely, forge alliances and gather critical mass in order to compete and cooperate on a global scale.

- **The Charter and Code.** The 'European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for their Recruitment' spell out the roles, responsibilities and rights of researchers, their employers and funders. The aim of this Commission Recommendation is to promote attractive research careers and improve employment and working conditions for researchers throughout Europe. The implementation of the 'Charter and Code' is a major component of the European Union's strategy to stimulate employment and economic growth, by creating a competitive, transparent and open labour market for researchers. The Commission supports institutions in the concrete implementation of the Charter & Code through the 'Human Resources Strategy for Researchers'.

- **The Communication on Modernisation of higher education.** Europe needs strong universities to build the Innovation Union and to compete on a world scale. Europe's universities should train our work force in the skills needed by industry as well as engage in frontier research, which addresses major challenges. The planned 2011 communication will support the reform and modernisation of universities, by setting out a new reinforced agenda.