



**MINISTÈRE
DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT
SUPÉRIEUR,
DE LA RECHERCHE
ET DE L'INNOVATION**

*Liberté
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Marseille, 09 March 2022

PRESS RELEASE

Ministerial Conference on a Comprehensive Approach to Research, Innovation and Higher Education

On 8 March 2022, a conference of the EU ministers for higher education, research and innovation was held in Marseille under the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The aim of the conference was to ensure a coordinated approach regarding international coordination of European policies in these fields.

At the invitation of Frédérique Vidal, French Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the European ministers discussed the key values and principles that the EU and its Member States could uphold together to promote international cooperation in the fields of research, innovation and higher education.

Frédérique Vidal, on behalf of the French Presidency of the Council, notably had the opportunity to present the Marseille Declaration on international cooperation in research and innovation. This Declaration sets out nine values and principles shared by the Member States and the European Commission such as the freedom of scientific research, ethics and integrity and open science. It provides a framework for the future for fair, open, inclusive, participatory science that works for the common good, which will form the basis for dialogue with non-EU countries.

The delegations supported this initiative and highlighted the importance of having a basis of shared values and principles to ensure international cooperation in research, innovation and higher education that is open and founded on trust and reciprocity. They insisted on the need to provide researchers, innovators and students with a safe environment that is conducive to fruitful collaboration. They also insisted on the necessity of promoting balanced and reciprocal collaboration with non-EU countries. The Council will then examine the priorities of the initiative to establish a basis for multilateral dialogue with the European Union's key partners.

The delegations expressed their wholehearted solidarity with Ukraine and their commitment to ensuring that the European Union remains a haven of freedom for scientific research and democratic values, in particular by supporting establishments for higher education and research through European and national programmes, to welcome students, researchers and academics whose freedom is threatened. The Presidency invited the

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Commission to support the coordination of Member States' actions to assist students, teachers and researchers whose freedom is in peril in the current context.