

INFORMAL MEETING OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPETITIVENESS – RESEARCH (18 - 19 JULY 2016, BRATISLAVA)

The informal meeting of ministers responsible for competitiveness (research) is a traditional meeting of ministers of the EU member states at an informal level. The meeting during the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union will be held in Slovakia on Tuesday 19 July 2016 in the Reduta building in Bratislava. For the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport it is one of the most important events in the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU, and its main aim is to discuss effective measures to support young researchers.

Main topics of the ministerial discussion:

1. measures to support young researchers, increase the attractiveness of scientific careers and investment in mobility in research and development,
2. developing a European research, development and innovation ecosystem for innovative SMEs.

The informal discussion of ministers of the EU member states and EFTA countries will be chaired by Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic Peter Plavčan; European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas will participate in both discussions. In the course of discussions on measures to support young researchers, outstanding researchers from Germany, Portugal and Slovakia will take the floor to share their experiences and to propose possible measures to increase young people's interest in science.

The second topic will be introduced by professional and expert representatives of the research and innovative companies - Ivan Štefanko (Neulogy), Martin Bruncko (Aeromobil), Peter Košinár (ESET) and Jan Březina (former MEP and member of the ITRE Committee)

After the ministerial discussion on increasing the attractiveness of scientific careers, there will be a press conference with Minister Peter Plavčan, Commissioner Carlos Moedas and three young researchers. They will officially announce a **manifesto of young researchers to support young researchers (The Bratislava Declaration on Young Researchers)** prepared by the Slovak Presidency in cooperation with a group of outstanding young researchers from the European Union and the European Commission.



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