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Subject: EOSC Summit - The way forward

Dear Stakeholder,

I would like to thank you once again for your active participation in the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) Summit which was a success in many respects.

I will start with some numbers, as they are truly impressive. The Summit brought together, from all over Europe, 110 players that are key for the implementation of the EOSC. 80 key stakeholders attended, representing all categories and scientific fields, including representatives of 15 national scientific infrastructures. 13 research funders and about 20 officials attended from ministries of Member States and Associated Countries. Overall, we had representatives from 23 Member States and Associated Countries attending. The Summit reached much beyond Brussels: about 1800 people from all over the globe watched the web stream of the event. #EOSCSummit and #EOSC were the second and third most popular Twitter topics in Belgium during the whole day.

What these figures tell me is that our initiative to join forces is the way forward and is supported by the world of science.

But numbers tell only part of the story. What particularly impressed me at the Summit was the strong sense of commitment, dedication and intellectual rigour that was demonstrated with respect to the implementation of the EOSC. We agreed that the EOSC is a truly common European project that we cannot afford to fail. This will however only work if we all take it upon ourselves to show commitment.

At the Summit we all could witness the first signs of this commitment. Building on this momentum, I am also asking you to further engage fully in making the EOSC a reality. On the same day as the Summit, an [editorial in Nature](#) called on governments, funders and scientific communities to move beyond lip-service and commit to data-sharing practices and platforms. This could not have been a coincidence!

Since the Summit, all session chairs and rapporteurs have been working hard to draw the conclusions from the Summit. They revisited the input papers to factor in the commitments and introduced several clarifications. Enclosed to this letter you will find the tangible result of these efforts: the EOSC Declaration and the related action list. Many of you have already pledged your support in tangible ways. I strongly encourage you not just to agree with the Declaration, but to commit yourself to take some of the specific actions forward. For this, you can be in touch with my services at any time.

After the summer break we will make the EOSC Declaration available to the wider public to allow other stakeholders as well to pledge their commitments.

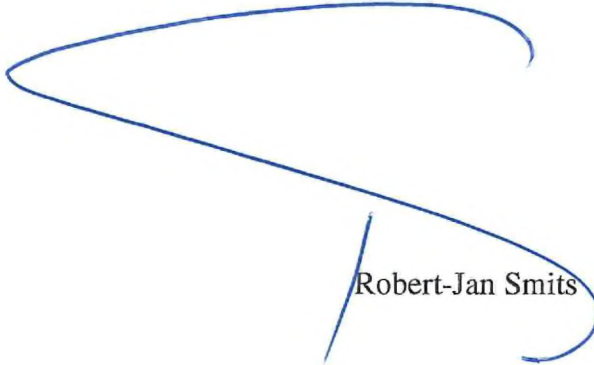
There is no way back now, but that does not mean that everything is already written in stone. The discussion has to continue and there will be plenty of occasions in future to engage and make your voice heard. We are working with the [EOSCPilot project](#) to ensure that the EOSC implementation takes centre stage at the [First stakeholder engagement event](#), to be held on 28-29 November in Brussels. I hope you will be able to attend, as we see this as the first event of the future *EOSC Stakeholder Forum* that I proposed at the Summit.

We will use the EOSC Declaration as well as a basis for discussions with Member States.

I want to finish by thanking once again all panellists, speakers, chairs, rapporteurs and other participants for their great contribution. It was my pleasure to steer you through a long and productive day. To take but one metaphor from the Summit: we are all on the same ship, sailing towards greater things in science.

Welcome to the coalition of 'doers'.

Yours sincerely,



Robert-Jan Smits

