



The EU's coming ERA Act and the Fifth Freedom: Advancing Science in and for Europe

September 29th, 2026.
From 12.00 to 14.00 pm
Aula Europa Headquarters of the
European Union in Barcelona

Passeig de Gràcia, 90. 1st floor.

Register for the event.

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In 2024, former Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta published a report on the Single Market, commissioned by the EU Council during Spain's presidency. In this report, the Fifth Freedom – the “Freedom of Knowledge” – is described as an important instrument for completing and boosting the Single Market. At the same time, this Fifth Freedom has already for decades been considered to be crucial for creating a fully integrated European Research Area. What is the Fifth Freedom? Why is it needed now? What barriers exist for Open Access to knowledge, and for full and equal researcher mobility, irrespective on national citizenship among EU countries? What other elements will the Commission's upcoming ERA Act contain? And how can the Fifth Freedom and the ERA Act strengthen the European knowledge society and democratic values? This event aims to inform scientists and the public about the ERA Act's elements and goals, their implications, the steps to be discussed over the next years, and to inspire citizens to become engaged in Europe's ambitious new science policy.



Manuel Aleixo

*Cabinet expert,
European Commissioner for
Startups, Research and Innovation*



Giulia Sandri

*Research and Development
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Thomas Sturm

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