

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
RESEARCH COMMITTEE

– CREST –
Secretariat

CREST 1205/04

NOTE

To: Crest delegations

Subject : **DRAFT SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS OF THE 295th MEETING OF THE
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE (CREST)
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 16 JULY 2004**

The meeting was chaired by Dr. MITSOS (European Commission, Director General for Research).

1. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The Committee adopted the agenda as set out in communications CM 2737/04 of 7 July 2004 and 2589/04 of 25 June 2004.

2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS OF THE 294th MEETING

The Committee approved the summary conclusions set out in doc. CREST 1204/04.

3. INFORMATION FROM THE PRESIDENCY AND THE COMMISSION

a) Mr. VAN KOOIJ (Dutch Presidency) informed the Committee on work during the start of the Dutch Presidency, in particular:

- the outcome of the informal Competitiveness Council meeting in Maastricht, The Netherlands, "Fostering Excellence: Challenges for productivity growth in Europe", from 1-3 July 2004 (details are available on the Presidency home page, <http://www.eu2004.nl>);
- the outcome of the "KickOff" meeting, held on 1 July 2004 in Maastricht, entitled "EUROPE 25 - a new chance ?";
- the outcome of the conference organised by the Association of Netherlands' Universities at the University of Amsterdam on 9 July 2004 under the title "University-industry cooperation in EU RTD programmes";
- the forthcoming conferences on:
 - "Genomics Momentum 2004", 30, 31 August and 1 September, Rotterdam;
 - "Brain Gain, the Instruments", 29 and 30 September, The Hague;
 - "Investing in Research and Innovation: Realising the Potential of Public-Private Interaction", 12 and 13 October, Noordwijk;

Information on all of these events is available on the Dutch Presidency site on the CORDIS database, <http://www.cordis.lu/netherlands/>.

b) The Chair informed the Committee that the Communication on the Financial Guidelines had been adopted by the Commission.

Mr. ESCRITT (Commission services) informed the Committee on the Science and Technology in Society (STS) Forum, Kyoto, the inaugural meeting of which will take place from November 14 to 16 in Kyoto, Japan. Names of more potential European participants at this important event would be welcome (e-mail Brendan.Hawdon@cec.eu.int).

4. CREST REPORT ON 3% AND OPEN METHOD OF COORDINATION

- (i) The Chair reminded CREST to deliver a result-oriented report with clear and action-oriented recommendations.

The co-ordinator of the CREST team of rapporteurs, Mr. Chris DARBY (United Kingdom), gave an overview to the Committee on the state of work on the draft final report. This was followed by complementary presentations by the other members of the team of CREST rapporteurs, Messrs. Luis DELGADO MARTÍNEZ (Spain), José BONFIM (Portugal) and András SIEGLER (Hungary). All rapporteurs underlined the fact that recommendations and good practices are context- dependent. It is therefore important, in identifying types of schemes that could be recommended as good practices, to bear in mind the specific context and factors of transferability.

Delegations made a number of comments which were noted by the rapporteurs. IE underlined that the omc process should be seen in the light of the review of the Lisbon process. AT asked for information on ERAWATCH and how it would link to the omc process. The Chair indicated that a note on ERAWATCH will be presented by the Commission at the next CREST meeting.

The Chairman concluded that work on the report will proceed as follows:

- rapporteurs will meet immediately after CREST in order to continue their drafting;
- by 30 July 2004 they will circulate a draft CREST report to CREST Members;
- written comments from delegations are welcome until the evening of 6 September 2004;
- by 17 September a revised draft report will be circulated to CREST Members;
- on 1 October the 296th CREST will proceed to the final discussion and adoption of the CREST report;
- on 12 and 13 October, the CREST report will be discussed in the meeting at Director General level in the context of the conference 'Investing in Research and Innovation' organised by the Netherlands' Presidency.

The Chairman reminded CREST that the report should go further than identifying common minimum denominators. It should be as targeted and concrete as possible, and provide good practice examples bearing in mind the different characteristics and systems of countries.

- (ii) Mr. SARAGOSSI (Commission services) updated the Committee on the results of the Snapshot on public funding of R&D and on progress with the National Industrial R&D Scoreboard. The snapshot provides for the first time a reasonably complete picture of current public investment trends. The final draft will be sent to delegations at the end of July for validation of the data before end of September. Regarding the industrial scoreboard, an analysis of the data received from some MS will be prepared by DG RTD in cooperation with IPTS and presented in the autumn to enable lessons to be drawn for next year's exercise.
- (iii) Professor Paul ZAGAMÉ (ERASME team, France) presented to the Committee the findings of an assessment of the 3% RTD Effort for Europe using the macroeconomic model NEMESIS. From the simulation it is clear that, while increased RTD expenditure will increase public deficits in the short term, the long-term effects on growth and employment are quite impressive, namely:
- an increase in GDP from 10,9% to 22,5%, in mean by 15%, by 2030, and
 - a mean increase in employment by 10 million jobs by 2030.

5. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FORESIGHT

- (i) Mr. CARACOSTAS (Commission services) informed the Committee on the missions and activities of the "Science & Technology Foresight" unit in Directorate K of DG Research.

More information on DG Research foresight activities is available on

<http://www.cordis.lu/foresight/home.html>

Information on STRATA projects:

<http://www.cordis.lu/improving/strata/selected.htm>

Information on JRC/IPTS activities:

<http://www.jrc.es/welcome.html>

- (ii) Mr. SANDBERG (Swedish delegation) informed the Committee on the conclusion of a Swedish national foresight exercise, whose results were presented at a seminar in Brussels on 22 June 2004. This exercise was done in preparation for a research bill, which will be submitted to the Swedish Parliament in autumn.
- (iii) Mr. VAN KOOIJ (Netherlands delegation) informed the Committee on a seminar planned by the Dutch Presidency in December 2004 in Amsterdam on "Issues and topics for transnational foresight".
- (iv) Mr. GAILLARD (French delegation) informed the Committee on the French futuris.fr foresight study, conducted in preparation for a future French research bill.

6. SCIENCE AND SOCIETY ACTION PLAN

- (i) Ms. SAMUELSON (Sweden), the CREST rapporteur, presented to the Committee preliminary main findings of the survey on the clusters set up to implement the Science and Society Action Plan. The report will be finalised with additional input from the Commission and then distributed to CREST Members.
- (ii) Mr. MAGNIEN (Commission services) provided a presentation on relevant past and envisaged activities.
 - A report from the conference “The Europe of Knowledge – 2020, a vision for University-based Research and Innovation”, held in Liège on 25-28 April 2004. Reference was made to the establishment of a High Level Forum on university research as its main follow-up, to be launched in September;
 - Findings of the Commission with regard to the achievements of all 8 clusters initiated by CREST under the Science & Society Action Plan were communicated, providing further evidence for the transition (in 6 cases out of 8) from the status of loose networks under the umbrella of an open coordination system to their formalisation as ERA-nets or actual projects of the framework programme;

- The announcement that the Commission would on March 9-11, 2005, organise a European Forum on “Science & Society”, with a view to embracing on-going efforts at both national and European levels (including activities of CREST clusters) to fulfil the objectives of the Action Plan, and looking into the future of any science and society partnership in the context of the renewed policy for research in the Union. Together with supporting studies launched alongside, the Forum will be an integral part of the evaluation work planned by the Commission.

(iii) The Chairman concluded that:

- in December 2004, CREST will take stock of the state of progress and examine the final report from Ms.Samuelson;
- the Commission will also report on past and future activities in implementation of the Science and Society Action Plan. It will communicate its roadmap for the overview and assessment of progress, which will be available by the time of the planned Forum. Additional information from the Member States on activities on a national level would be welcome.

7. BASIC RESEARCH¹

- (i) The Netherlands and Spanish delegations delivered presentations to the Committee of their national systems of support to Basic Research.
- (ii) In conclusion, the Chairman suggested that:
- CREST should take note of the key issues which arose from the presentation (like the question of autonomy vs. political control of the national funding bodies);
 - In the next meeting of CREST, significant time would be allocated to further presentations (so far, Denmark, Austria, Norway, Switzerland, Germany, United Kingdom, Finland and Latvia have volunteered) with a view to an open discussion;
 - Subsequently, the specific needs for additional input would be decided.

¹ See key questions set out in the annex.

8. AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING (1 OCTOBER 2004)

The meeting will take place in Brussels. The agenda should include the following items:

- 3% and open method of co-ordination (discussion and adoption of the final CREST report and possible discussion on the modalities and nature of the second OMC cycle);
- update on ERAWATCH;
- Basic Research
 - = Further national presentations by Member States;
 - = Presentation, if possible, of the report on “National policies on Basic research”;
- Infrastructure Forum
 - = Information on ESFRI activities and experiences.

Key questions for the presentations on "National Funding Agencies and Basic Research"

Policy aspects

- Mandate and mission of funding agencies (including the role of the scientific community in their management and governance)
- Is basic research their only/main mission?
- Has their mission evolved? Have any models or “best practices” outside the country influenced this evolution?
- Allocation of overall budget: who decides and on which criteria?
- How is priority setting worked out? Is the approach bottom-up, targeted or a combination of both?

Operational aspects

- Disciplinary structure (one or several agencies, allocation of budget by discipline, interdisciplinary projects)
- Selection mechanism (peer review?)
- Main funding mechanisms (fellowships, individual grants, collaborations)
- Executive board (profile, mandate, appointments)
- Staff profiles and numbers
- Evaluation: Are funding agencies and their activities regularly assessed?

Presentational guidelines: The answers to each question should highlight any issues that can be regarded as “best practice” or have a particularly “innovative” character.