

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
RESEARCH COMMITTEE

– CREST –
Secretariat

CREST 1203/1/05
REV 1

NOTE

To: **CREST**

Subject : **DRAFT SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS OF THE 300th MEETING OF THE
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE (CREST)
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 18 MARCH 2005**

The meeting was chaired by Mr ESCRITT and by Ms de la TORRE (European Commission).

1. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The Committee adopted the agenda as set out in communication CM 503/05 of
16 February 2005.

2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS OF THE 299th MEETING

The Committee approved the summary conclusions from the last meeting as set out in
doc. 1202/05 CREST.

3. INFORMATION FROM THE PRESIDENCY AND THE COMMISSION

a) Mr DIEDERICH (Luxembourg Presidency) informed the Committee on:

- those agenda points scheduled for the Competitiveness Council meetings on 18 April 2005 and 6/7 June 2005 concerning research topics, in particular the expected presentation of the Commission's proposal on the seventh Framework Programme (FP 7);
- the forthcoming Spring European Council on 22/23 March 2005 in Brussels, dealing in particular with the Mid-term review of the Lisbon strategy;
- the preparatory work for the second European Space Council due to take place under the Luxembourg Presidency and prepared in accordance with the EC/ESA Framework Agreement;
- the Joint Research/Atomic Questions Working Party and CREST meetings in Mondorf-les-Bains (Luxembourg) scheduled for 23-25 May 2005;
- a conference on simplification of administrative procedures to take place in Luxembourg on 16 and 17 June 2005.

b) Ms de la TORRE (Commission services) informed the Committee on

- some items of the report on future European Research recently adopted by the European Parliament (so-called Locatelli report);
- the Communication by the Commission on the Lisbon Mid-term review to the Spring European Council;¹
- the setting up of a "sounding board" by the Commission as an initiative to analyse ways and means of simplifying procedures in the future FP 7, including in particular the access of small actors to the programme.

c) Mr SMITS (Commission services) informed the Committee on the options for Art. 169 initiatives within the research framework programmes. Experience has been gained with the current initiative and potential new topics for Art. 169 initiatives in FP 7 are under discussion. The Committee was also informed of the High-Level Seminar on Programme coordination in Europe to be held on 21 October 2005.

¹ doc. 5990/05: "Working together for growth and jobs - a new start for the Lisbon strategy". - COM (2005) 24 final.

- d) Mr BINGEN (Commission services) informed the Committee on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.¹ Mr BINGEN also gave information on the implementation report on the mobility strategy for the European Research Area, which is currently being prepared by the Commission.

Mr MAGNIEN (Commission services) provided further information on the Forum "Science and Technology in Society" which had been initiated by the Japanese authorities and would involve high-level experts dealing in a multi-national context with environment, energy and economic questions. The Commission intends to participate with a representative delegation from those Member States which are not themselves directly participating in this forum and will take contact in advance with experts from those Member States in this regard.

Mr MAGNIEN then gave additional information on the European Forum "Science and Society". The French delegation suggested pooling the information given by the Commission on the different topics of this European Forum, for example by using a web-site.

4. FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT (1999-2003)

Presentation by Dr. Ormala (Vice-President, Technology, Nokia) of the Five Year Assessment report on "The European Union Research Framework Programmes"

The Committee welcomed and took note of the presentation by Dr. Ormala and held a short exchange of views on the topic, supporting the analysis and recommendations of the report.

¹ doc. 7321/05 RECH 57.

Presentation by Dr. Luukkonen (Research Institute of the Finnish Economy)¹ of the Five year Assessment report on "Research and Technology Development in Information Society Technologies"

The Committee welcomed and took note of the presentation by Dr. Luukkonen. Delegations were grateful for additional information on some of the items contained and definitions used in the report.

5. 3% AND OPEN METHOD OF CO-ORDINATION

Mr GOENAGA (Commission services) informed the Committee on the state-of-play in the second cycle. The work of the groups would be completed at different points of time during 2006; recommendations from the groups would be discussed and adopted by CREST once they were available. Mr Goenaga drew the attention of CREST to an information note on two policy studies on OMC which had recently been launched. One study concerns the "Design of research programmes" and the other "Private sector interaction in the decision making processes of public research." The Commission invited Member States to cooperate with the contractors in sharing preliminary findings and obtaining additional information.

Directors General responsible for research would take stock of the progress on the OMC second cycle at a CREST meeting in October 2005 and would be invited to give guidance for future work.

The Commission also planned to issue a Communication on the progress made in the implementation of the 3 % Action Plan and recommendations for future actions. In parallel with this Communication, there would be a staff working paper dealing with S&T indicators on the most important aspects of EU investment and performance in the knowledge-based economy, where R & D has a central role. The 2005 Snapshot (done via CREST in 2004) would be launched via Eurostat in collaboration with national statistical offices in May, and CREST would be asked to cooperate with the statistical offices to collect the best possible data.

¹ Dr. Luukkonen gave the presentation replacing Prof. Gago (former Portuguese Minister of Science and Technology and current President of the Portuguese Laboratory for Particle Physics).

The countries leading the OMC 3 % expert groups that have been established at the 20th January CREST meeting, namely BE ("SMEs"), ES ("Reform of Public research organisations") and NL ("Policy mix"), presented the latest developments of their respective work.

Mr VERLAECKT (Belgian delegation) reported on the progress in the group "Design measures to promote the growth of young research-intensive small and medium-sized enterprises". It is planned to issue a mid-term report by the group in October 2005 and a final report in March 2006.

Mr DELGADO (Spanish delegation) reported on the preparatory meeting and kick-off meeting that had taken place in the group on the topic "Promote the reform of public research centres and universities, in particular to promote the transfer of knowledge to society and industry". The group will in particular examine issues such as the organisation of research, knowledge exchange structures, promotion of spin-offs and career rewards/ incentives to researchers collaboration with industry. Member States will exchange information and conduct "light" peer-reviews on reform topics. Four countries have volunteered to submit themselves to examination, and six countries will act as evaluators.

Ms VAN VELDHOVEN (NL delegation) summarised the latest developments in the topic "Improve the design and implementation of national policy-mixes". Being the lead country for this topic, the Netherlands had also circulated an updated work module, comprising the results of a "kick-off" meeting in The Hague on 4 March 2005. The members of the group had already decided on peer review procedures with countries volunteering as evaluators and as the subjects of country-specific reports.

The Norwegian and the UK delegation expressed interest in leading two new working groups - the UK on "Intellectual property rights" and NO on "fiscal measures", and presented the respective work modules.

Ms HAUGE (Norwegian delegation) and Mr GIERLINSKI (Co-chair of the group; Polish delegation) presented the work module for the topic "Promote sound evaluation methods of fiscal measures for research to enhance their effectiveness." The topic would be led by Norway (Chair: Mr HAMBRO) in cooperation with Poland. Both delegations had already registered interest from seven other countries to participate. The group would deal with guidelines for the evaluation of fiscal measures, analyse the strengths and weaknesses of existing evaluations and provide a synthesis of material already existing on the topic. Moreover, peer reviews on measures taken by some countries would also be possible. As work progresses, a number of stakeholders might be invited to the meetings of the group. The kick-off meeting was planned for the 7 April, but will now take place on 22 April 2005 in Warsaw.

Mr BRYANT (UK patent office) presented an outline of the work module for the topic "Improve the coherence and effectiveness of 'Intellectual Property Rights ownership'- regimes for publicly funded research." The topic would be led by the UK delegation. Among the proposed objectives would be the elaboration of a practical set of guidelines, an analysis of possible ways to facilitate cross-border cooperation, the examination of inconsistencies of national rules and of arrangements for licences. The exact working methods and procedures could be fixed by the participants themselves at a later stage. The group should aim at a set of guidelines in a final report (planned for summer 2006) which could also serve as a possible input for further workshops or fora. Six countries have so far expressed their interest in participating in this group.

Following a short discussion, the two groups were established. Delegations interested in participating in their work should nominate participants to the groups and inform the Commission (Mr Goenaga) accordingly.

Mr GOENAGA reminded delegations that a template for the research elements of national Lisbon reports would also be a valuable item for work in the "Policy-mix" group. This would ensure comparability between national Lisbon reports on the relevant issues.

6. EURAB (EUROPEAN RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD)

Professor H. NOWOTNY (Chairperson of EURAB) gave a presentation of the ongoing activities of the board and of the results already achieved. In general, EURAB should analyse problems and give guidance for future research policy (including FP 7). The results of the work of EURAB would be regularly published on its web-site. Furthermore a summary report on the first phase of EURAB's activities (2001-2004) is available.

The second phase of EURAB's work started in 2004. EURAB has set up a number of working groups dealing with issues such as:

- the assessment of certain instruments in FP 6 in the light of the Marimon report and in view of the forthcoming FP 7 (here further discussions would take place in April in EURAB);
- the structure of FP 7 in the light of the financial perspectives and suggesting criteria for setting priorities;
- the potential of regions for research and innovation;
- the role of universities;
- research and technology organisations (RTOs);
- Industry's involvement in the European Research Area - the possibilities of increasing RTD investment and its attractiveness ;
- Society and Science.

EURAB would also welcome suggestions from Member States for future work topics in order to contribute to bridging the gap between national and Community research policy.

Delegations expressed considerable interest in the information provided, discussed some parts of the current work of EURAB and suggested new items for study. This concerned, in particular, the coordination of national and Community policies, the issue of safeguarding the quality of evaluations and optimising the choice of evaluators, the involvement of universities in the European Research Area and the role of the future "Framework Programme for Competitiveness and Innovation (CIP)".

The Chair thanked Ms Nowotny and the CREST members for their interesting discussion on EURAB.

7. BASIC RESEARCH

The Committee took note of the presentations on the national basic research systems given by

- Mr OMLING (Director General of the Swedish Research Council)
- Ms PREDESCU (Deputy Director General, Ministry of Education and Research; Romania)

The Chair reminded delegations that it had been planned to appoint a rapporteur to draw up a summary on the 16 presentations on national basic research systems so far presented.

Mr VERLAECKT (Belgian delegation) who had expressed his willingness to take over this task explained the planned scope of the summary: it would not be appropriate to report on statistical figures due to the lack of common definitions and harmonized data.

The summary would be pragmatic and concentrate on items such as the:

- selection procedures for projects;
- kind and degree of government intervention;
- governance of systems;
- international dimension;
- success ratio of project applications.

The rapporteur would also give the opportunity to all delegations to update information on these issues (not only those who had given presentations at CREST meetings).

The Committee agreed to nominate Mr VERLAECKT as rapporteur for the report.

8. WOMEN AND SCIENCE

Mr KLUMPERS (Commission services) gave a presentation of the findings in the latest staff working document by the Commission¹ on the subject of women and science.

¹ doc. 7322/05 RECH 58 SOC 124 - SEC (2005) 370- "Women and Science: Excellence and Innovation - Gender Equality in Science".

After a short exchange of views, the Chair, at the request of the Austrian delegation, agreed that CREST would reserve the right to come back to this interesting issue at one of its forthcoming meetings.

9. AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of CREST is scheduled to take place in Mondorf-les-Bains (Luxembourg) on 23/24 May 2005.

The agenda could include the following items:

- Luxembourg research policy presentation
- 3 % and Open Method of Co-ordination
- = Further information on progress in the working groups
- National Basic Research Systems
- = Presentation by the Lithuanian delegation
- The proposal for FP 7, including synergies with CIP
- Commission presentation of a paper on Art. 169 initiatives