

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Crest
Secretariat

CREST 1216/1/09
REV 1

NOTE

To:	Crest delegations
Subject:	Draft Summary conclusions of the 329th meeting of Crest held in Brussels, on 19 and 20 November 2009

The meeting was chaired by the deputy Director-General of the Research Directorate-General of the Commission, Ms Anneli PAULI.

1. ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Committee adopted the provisional agenda as set out in doc. CM 4691/1/09 REV 1.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS OF THE
328th MEETING**

The Committee approved the summary conclusions of the 328th meeting held in Kiruna, Sweden, on 28 and 29 September 2009, set out in doc. CREST 1215/09.

3. STANDING INFORMATION POINTS

- **Presidency**

The Presidency debriefed the Committee of the issues to be discussed by the Competitiveness Council on 3 December, namely:

- Council conclusions concerning guidance on future priorities for European research and research based innovation in post-2010 Lisbon strategy;
- Council conclusions on the joint programming of research in Europe (a. launch of the pilot JPI on neurodegenerative diseases, in particular Alzheimer's; b. progress made in joint programming and the way ahead);
- Council conclusions on the future of ICT research, innovation and infrastructures;
- Council resolution on the enhanced governance of the ERA

In addition, the Presidency informed the delegations that the Council would hold a debate on the future priorities in research, on the basis of a questionnaire, focusing in particular on the targets, simplification and interaction between research and research based innovation).

- **Commission**

The Commission informed the Committee on the following policy initiatives:

- Commission Communication "Investing in the Development of Low Carbon Technologies (SET-Plan)" was adopted on 7 October;
- Annual Report on research and technological development activities of the European Union in 2008 was adopted on 22 October.
- Commission communication "The European Research Council - Meeting the challenge of world class excellence" containing responses to the review of the ERC's structures and mechanisms, was adopted on 22 October;
- Commission communication "A public-private partnership on the Future Internet" was adopted on 28 October;

- Commission Communication " Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES): Challenges and Next Steps for the Space Component" was adopted on 28 October;
- Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the participation by the Community in a Joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme (BONUS-169) undertaken by several Member States, was adopted on 29 October;
- Communications on simplification and on the European Innovation Act are planned for spring 2010.

The Commission also informed the Committee that the European Parliament held a debate on the pilot JPI on combating neurodegenerative diseases, in particular Alzheimer's, at its mini plenary session on 12 November, and adopted a resolution on the matter.

ERA INITIATIVES:

- **High Level group on Joint Programming (GPC)**

SE presidency informed on the meetings of 15 October and 10 November the outcome of which was the identification and substantiation of three JPI themes, to be endorsed by the Council with a view to Commission's input for their launch in 2010, namely:

1. Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change
2. Health, food and prevention of diet related diseases
3. Cultural heritage, Climate Change and Security.

The Presidency also informed the Committee that that the identification and substantiation of JPI themes by the GPC would remain a continuous process and that further themes would be identified by the GPC during the incoming Presidencies (ES and BE Presidencies have already expressed this intention).

- **Strategic Forum for International S&T Cooperation (SFIC)**

The DE delegation informed the Committee that at the meeting on 21 October delegations discussed the input of the two ad hoc task forces, namely on 'information sharing' and on 'priority setting'.

With regard to the first ad hoc task force, the idea of setting-up a joint secure IT tool in the form of an Internet "Sharepoint" was discussed. SFIC will come back to this issue. With regard to the second task force, SFIC discussed the evaluation of India as pilot country and energy research as pilot topic. Another developed country as well as a developing country or region will be selected as additional pilot cases with the same pilot topic of energy research. It was generally acknowledged that work should build upon existing mechanisms and that cooperation with other relevant fora should be considered to avoid overlaps and to identify effective channels for multilateral RTD cooperation. With regard to energy research it was noted that energy research already involves a certain complexity in the governance of this area at EU level (SET Plan), in view of the fact that SET Plan as well as Joint Programming and in future possibly also SFIC cover partially identical topics but foresee different coordination structures the clarification of interaction between these instruments represents an urgent priority issue.

As additional pilot initiative it was agreed to take the EU-LAC and EU- MED summits as a learning example how SFIC could contribute and engage in similar international summits. The political dialogue process with Africa was agreed to be possibly a relevant topic for 2010 within the above mentioned selection context.

The next SFIC meeting will be held on 18 December.

- **CREST Working Group on Knowledge Transfer**

The Chair (Mr Klaus Uckel/DE) presented to the Committee a short update of the Working Group activities, in particular the following:

- Chair presented the activities and priorities as well as the progress made to SFIC, GPC and EUREKA HLG;
- The Group will liaise/coordinate with groups established under the governance of the five ERA initiatives also in the future.
- Written guidelines for international cooperation are in preparation;
- The Group will consider and discuss outcomes of the University-Business Knowledge Transfer Forum for stakeholders, to be held in February 2010.

- **European Framework for Research Infrastructures (ERIC)**

The Commission informed that:

- The first management committee was held on 9 October, at which rules for procedure were adopted;
- The work has started on the guidelines which should be ready for adoption in January 2010;
- With a view to facilitating the work of the committee, the Commission created an inter-service group;
- At one of the next meetings of the committee, the possibilities for cooperation with SHARE will be looked at.

The question concerning the participation of the associated countries in the management committee was raised. The Commission replied it was still examining the issue and that it would come back to it in due time.

- **Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility (SGHRM)**

The Commission informed that the 4th meeting SGHRM was held in October, at which Member States were reporting on the implementation of the partnership established by Council conclusions in September 2008. A considerable progress has been noted, as 13 countries approved an Action Plan for the implementation of the partnership; other countries are in the process of its approval.

At the meeting it was also decided to create four working groups, each one with its own chair and a secretariat. These working groups are the following:

1. Working conditions
2. Social security and social rights
3. Training skills and relationship between ministries and academia
4. Development of indicators and methodology.

The 5th SGHRM meeting will be held on 1 December.

4. THE ROLE OF THE FORWARD-LOOKING ACTIVITIES (FLAs) FOR ERA POLICIES

The Commission gave a presentation on the current state of play in developing FLAs in particular in the context of Council conclusions concerning guidance on future priorities for European research and research based innovation in post-2010 Lisbon strategy, to be adopted by the Competitiveness Council on 3 December.

While the delegations supported the process of development of FLAs and in general agreed with the principles, as presented by the Commission, in particular the following issues were raised:

- What will be the governance for FLAs (role of MS, associated countries, Commission, experts) in particular in relation to the needs of potential users of the outcome?
- What will be the role of CREST?
- The time-frame is extremely important. There is a need for stock-taking of previous FLAs in order to start the process of developing new ones. There is a need to start with the process as soon as possible.
- It is crucial that all relevant stakeholders are involved in the process.
- What will be the relation with the work of GPC?
- The main aim should be that it's a continuous and forward-looking process.
- An input should be prepared already for FP8.
- Duplication with existing instruments should be avoided.

The Chair called upon the delegations to actively participate in the development of the process together with the Commission. In line with the suggestion of several delegations, the Chair supported the idea to organise a seminar on the matter, in particular with a view to discussing the purpose, goals and the governance of the process. On the basis of this seminar CREST could then provide its input. Some delegations stressed that the role of CREST in this process should be decided in the framework of the discussions on the new CREST mandate.

5. LJUBLJANA PROCESS - IMPLEMENTING THE ERA VISION 2020

5.1 ERA strategic objectives, targets and indicators

CREST held the first discussion on this topic, on the basis of a Commission note which proposed a set of strategic objectives for the development of EU and national research policies, a set of indicators and a tentative set of key research policy political targets, with a view to facilitating the realisation of the ERA Vision 2020.

A large majority of delegations considered the Commission's note as a good starting point for the discussion, in particular because they are of the view that there is a need to agree on indicators and targets in due time if the objectives set in the ERA Vision 2020 are to be achieved. Some delegations, however, considered that the time was not ripe yet to make decisions on indicators and targets. According to their views there is a need to first decide on the procedure and also to look what kind of indicators and targets exist at national level in order to be in a position to establish them at European level.

On the basis of this discussion the decision was made to organise a seminar/workshop on indicators and targets on 20 January, a day before the CREST meeting. The Chair asked all delegations to provide written comments on the Commission's note in due time in order to prepare for the seminar/workshop.

5.2 ERA Conference: "working together to strengthen research in Europe", Brussels, 21-23 October

The Commission presented the outcome of the conference, organised by the Commission. The Chair expressed hope that the outcome of this conference would be successfully used by the Commission and Member States for the development of the ERA, as well as stressed the importance of involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the process.

6. FOURTH MUTUAL LEARNING EXERCISE ON LISBON NATIONAL REFORM PROGRAMMES

Rapporteurs presented the outcome of both plenary sessions (session 1: Changes in R&D policy mix and orientations, session 2: Integrating better ERA objectives in national policies and improving articulation between Community and national objectives and actions) of the 4th Mutual Learning Exercise, held on 19 November 2009.

The Chair invited the rapporteurs (Mr. Ward Ziarko for session 1 and Mr. Arie van der Zwan for session 2) to prepare a final report by 27 November. On the basis of this report delegations will be invited to provide eventual written comments by 4 December, with a view to the adoption of the report by CREST via the written procedure by the end of 2009.

7. AGENDA FOR THE NEXT CREST MEETING AT DIRECTORS GENERAL LEVEL (BRUSSELS, 21-22 JANUARY 2010)

The Chair informed the delegation of the following provisional agenda of the CREST meeting of 21-22 January 2010, as agreed by the quintet:

- Impact of the Lisbon treaty
- Simplification (in view of the Commission Communication in Spring 2010)
- Impact of the Council resolution on the enhanced governance of the ERA

CRERST also agreed to include on the agenda the first draft of the CREST Work Programme for 2010, as suggested by the Chair.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Delegations called upon the Commission to prepare a background document on the impact of the Lisbon Treaty sufficiently in advance of the CREST meeting on 21-22 January 2010, with a view adequately preparing their national positions on the matter.