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NOTE

From : The Commission
To : Delegations
Subject : Better careers and more mobility : A European partnership for researchers
- Information note

Delegations will find, in annex, an information note from the Commission services on the above-mentioned topic.

Better careers and more mobility : A European partnership for researchers
Information note from the Commission (Competitiveness Council, 29 May 2009)

Researchers are indispensable for a competitive, knowledge-based EU economy as they are the core producers of new knowledge and the main agents in its transfer and exploitation. Not enough people choose a research career and some of the best choose to go elsewhere. Action is needed in order to retain and attract the best research talents and to ensure that researchers across the EU benefit from the right training, attractive careers and easy access to mobility.

In 2005 the Commission adopted the European Charter for Researchers and a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers setting out the roles and responsibilities of researchers and their employers and funders, and ways to make recruitment fairer and more transparent. The "scientific visa" package adopted in 2005 aimed to allow fast-track admission and residence of third country researchers. Researchers' mobility and careers are supported through national schemes and by funding from the Research Framework Programmes. The Commission is supporting individual researchers through the EURAXESS portal and services network providing information and support as regards jobs, right, services and international links.

On 23 May 2008, the Commission adopted the Communication "Better Careers and more mobility: A European partnership for researchers", focussing on four action lines:

- systematically open recruitment;
- meet the social security and supplementary pensions needs of mobile researchers;
- provide attractive employment and working conditions; and
- enhance the training, skills and experience of researchers.

Council Conclusions were adopted on 26 September 2008, endorsing the partnership and inviting the Member States and the Commission to take action. Member States were invited to implement the objectives of the partnership, define specific actions in consultation with stakeholders and report for the first time by the end of 2009. Member States and Commission together should define indicators for monitoring progress, involve stakeholders, strengthen mutual learning etc. The Commission was invited, in consultation with Member States to report annually on progress, undertake a global assessment in 2010. The Council Conclusions were underlined and reinforced in a report to Council produced by Ministers Gago and Biltgen from Portugal and Luxembourg and Member States are currently working on National Action Plans.

The ERA Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility will monitor the practical follow-up. Working Groups of the Steering Group will facilitate delivery on concrete action points and monitoring of the implementation of the researchers' partnership.

In May 2009, the Commission has launched a study into the feasibility of a pan-European pension fund for EU researchers. The objective of this study is to analyse the legal, technical, and financial requirements for setting up a pan-European pension fund for EU researchers within existing single market legislation. Results are expected in mid 2010.