

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL  
RESEARCH COMMITTEE

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Crest  
Secretariat

CREST 1202/10

**NOTE**

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To:	Crest delegations
Subject:	Draft Summary conclusions of the 330th meeting of Crest held in Brussels, on 21 and 22 January 2010

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The meeting was chaired by the Director General of the Research Directorate-General of the Commission, Mr. José Manuel SILVA RODRIGUEZ (items 1-5) and the deputy Director-General, Ms. Anneli PAULI (items 6-8).

**1. ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

The Committee adopted the provisional agenda as set out in doc. CM 5396/09.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS OF THE  
329<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

The Committee approved the summary conclusions of the 329th meeting held in Brussels on 19 and 20 November 2009, set out in doc. CREST 1216/1/09, as amended.

### 3. STANDING INFORMATION POINTS

#### 3.1. PRESIDENCY

The Presidency presented its Work Programme for the first semester of 2010, and underlined in particular the following priorities:

- approval of a European Strategy 2020 on the basis of Commission Communication;
- Science and innovation agenda will be built around "three Is": INTEGRATION (bringing R&D&I policies, including the European Innovation Plan, to the forefront of the European Strategy 2020), INVOLVEMENT (better coordination of national, intergovernmental and European policies in order to better face the grand challenges) and INCLUSION (new pillar of the ERA, science and innovation to be key elements for the promotion of social cohesion and fight against poverty);

#### 3.2. COMMISSION

The Commission informed the Committee on the following policy initiatives:

- Interim evaluation of FP7: the first meeting of the panel is scheduled for end February/beginning of March, with a view to finalising a report in September. A response from the Commission is expected for November.
- JPIs: CION is preparing proposals for three JPIs, selected by the GPC on 10 November 2009 and endorsed by the Council on 4 December 2010, notably Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change; Health, food and prevention of diet-related diseases; and Cultural heritage, Climate Change and Security.
- proposal for the Euratom Framework Programme 2012-2013 is under preparation;
- Communication on simplification is scheduled for early spring.

As regards the implementation of FP7, the Commission informed the Committee that Work Programmes for 2011 are being prepared with a view to their adoption in July and subsequent publication of calls.

In addition, the Commission informed the Committee that the hearing of the Commissioner designate for research, innovation and science, Ms. Maire Geoghegan-Quinn had been held in the ITRE Committee of the EP.

### **3.3. ERA INITIATIVES:**

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

The ES delegation presented its preliminary work programme for the first semester in 2010. The main focus will be on the work on voluntary guidelines with regard to the Framework conditions, and to continue with the identification and substantiation of JPI themes. According to the tentative time schedule, the second wave of JPI themes could be selected on 4 May 2010.

As regards the time frame of the GPC's work, as raised by the UK delegation, the ES Presidency reiterated that selection of JPI themes was an ongoing process and that decision on the number of themes still to be selected remains within GPC.

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

The DE delegation informed the Committee that at the meeting on 18 December 2009 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 Forum continued with the discussion on the prototype joint secure IT tool in the form of an Internet "Sharepoint" and concluded that operational aspects of the information sharing should be further examined, including the human resources aspects, with a view to achieving a slim operation and taking also into account the possibilities to carry out the work in a decentralised manner to the extent possible.

With regard to the second task force, SFIC continued discussing the preparation of the 'India Pilot Initiative', in the framework of which a more specific overarching theme on “Water related challenges” had been put forward. SFIC endorsed the pilot activities proposed by task force 'priority setting' and decided to give the task force a mandate to set up an “India Pilot Steering Group” to start setting out the activities in a more concrete way. The Commission offered to provide the secretariat.

As regards the “Energy” pilot initiative, SFIC endorsed the pilot activities proposed by the task force 'priority setting', but recognised that due to the broad and partly sensitive and strategic nature of the topic, further work is needed to make this SFIC pilot initiative more concrete.

Regarding possible future activities, the Forum considered that in 2010 priority could be given to work towards a more coherent European approach vis-à-vis developing countries, in particular with Africa; to operationalise the approach used in the case of the 'India Pilot initiative' for other BRIC countries considering the lessons learnt; and to work towards a more coherent European strategy towards the US and other industrialised countries.

Further pilots with developing and industrialised countries as well as with emerging economies, for example the BRIC countries as well as cooperation with Africa, possibly on the “health” theme, could be considered.

In addition, SFIC discussed its potential role in upcoming summits/ministerial meetings, notably the EU-LAC Summit on 18-19 May 2010. The Forum took note of a DE/FR initiative to develop a management structure for the implementation of Joint Programmes in Europe (“Joint Project Management Association”).

- **CREST Working Group on Knowledge Transfer (KT)**

The Chairman of the Working Group (Mr. Klaus Uckel/DE) informed the Committee that the Working Group is currently working on the definition and use of indicators to monitor the implementation and impact of the Recommendation on management of IP and the Code of Practice.

Mr. Uckel also emphasised that in the framework of the discussions on the future ERA governance some important aspects of knowledge transfer should be looked at. To emphasize only the Community Patent is not enough. The implementation of the Council Conclusion of 30 May 2008 including the Recommendation and the Code of Practice is very important. IPR and research-based innovations, to which the KT Group could provide its input, should also be mentioned.

#### **4. IMPACT OF THE LISBON TREATY: CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ERA AND RESEARCH POLICY-MAKING**

The Commission gave a presentation on the major changes as regards the research area introduced by the Lisbon Treaty in the Treaty on the European Union and in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

During the discussion in particular the following issues were raised with regard to the use of research-related Treaty articles:

- to what extent will the Commission use new Article 182(5) and Article 179(2);
- the possibility to use Article 292 as legal basis for JPIs;
- impact on the countries associated to FPs;
- shared competence between the EU and Member States;
- impact on FPs, including comitology;
- impact on voluntary character of OMC;
- the possibility to amend the ERIC Regulation.

The Commission stressed that at this stage it was not in a position to provide a detailed and accurate reply to all outstanding questions raised, in particular as regards the use of new Treaty articles, as the extent to which these will be used depends very much on political choices that will be made in the field of research. In this context, delegations emphasised the new more strategic role of CREST whose main mission will be to provide timely strategic advice on research and innovation issues relevant to the development of the ERA.

Nevertheless, the Commission underlined that according to its understanding the Treaty changes would have no direct influence on the FPs. As regards the associated countries, their role will depend on the aims and definition of the ERA.

An important new element was explained, namely the shared competence enshrined in Article 4(2) of the TFEU applicable for the areas of research, technological development and space: the exercise of the Union competence cannot prevent Member States from exercising their powers.

This contrasts with art 4(3) of the TFEU where in other specific areas Member States can exercise their powers only insofar as the Union has not exercised its competence or decided to stop exercising it.

## **5. SIMPLIFICATION IN THE EU FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES**

The aim of the discussion was to provide a CREST input on some key issues regarding the simplification of the implementation of the EU Framework Programmes, on the basis of a questionnaire prepared by the Commission, in view of a Commission Communication on simplification scheduled for spring 2010. Discussions focused in particular on the following issues:

- the need to streamline the portfolio of policy objectives and related mechanisms;
- the usefulness to return to a "one-size-fits-all" approach with a view to avoiding increasing complexity of the system due to ever increasing number of special situations and types of participants with specific conditions and provisions;

- on the extension of lump sums, flat rates or scales of unit costs to other cost categories, such as personnel, travel costs, etc.
- the possibility for a fundamental change from an input-based EU research funding to a result-based funding which would shift the control focus from the financial side to the scientific-technical side.

A wide diversity of opinions were expressed. However, the Commission emphasised that views expressed by the delegations were a very useful input for their work on the Communication, on the basis of which it would also consider the need to amend the Regulation concerning the rules for participation in FPs.

**6. COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON ENHANCED GOVERNANCE OF THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA (ERA) AND THE COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON GUIDANCE ON FUTURE PRIORITIES FOR EUROPEAN RESEARCH AND RESEARCH BASED INNOVATION IN POST-2010 LISBON STRATEGY (Consequences for CREST), and**

**7. CREST 2010 PROVISIONAL WORK PROGRAMME**

Points 6 and 7 were taken together, as the provisional 2010 CREST work programme included the issues that the Council Resolution and Conclusions invited the Commission and the Member States to work on.

CREST discussed the provisional work programme that had been prepared in collaboration with the outgoing, sitting, and three incoming Presidencies (the so-called “Quintet”) and suggested one additional item to the agenda of the meeting on 22/23 April (the European Innovation Plan). The provisional CREST work programme for 2010 (doc. 1201/10) was agreed without prejudice to the outcome of the Council deliberations on the revised CREST mandate, which should be drawn up by mid 2010. The provisional 2010 work programme will be revised, if necessary, in the course of the year.

Concerning the method of work, the Chairperson invited delegations to discuss how best to prepare in particular two of the planned agenda items for later in 2010:

- (a) the review of ERA-related instruments (including those at national level and those on innovation); and
- (b) synergies between the research, innovation, education and cohesion policies and programmes.

The Chairperson stressed the importance of adequate preparation with strong involvement and ownership by Member States and Associated Countries. Referring to a discussion in a meeting with the informal "Quintet" on this, the Commission indicated that an appropriate working method could be to create for each topic a working group involving interested delegations to prepare appropriate input for the CREST discussion.

The Chairperson concluded that all CREST delegations would be invited to express their interest to lead/contribute to work on the two above-mentioned issues. CREST would be informed about the interest expressed by delegations, working arrangements and progress of work at the next meeting-in April.

## **8. AGENDA FOR THE NEXT CREST MEETING (BRUSSELS, 22-23 APRIL 2010)**

The Chairperson informed delegations of the following provisional agenda of the CREST meeting of 22-23 April:

- CREST working methods (provided that CREST mandate is adopted at the Council on 1-2 March)
- Review of ERA related instruments
- Synergies between policies and programmes
- European Innovation Plan
- ERAWATCH
- Policy mix peer reviews on Cyprus and Latvia

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Presidency informed CREST of its intention to find agreement on the revised CREST mandate at the Competitiveness Council of 1 and 2 March 2010.

The Commission informed CREST of its intention to launch a second survey on the impact of the economic crisis on R&D public spending and policy measures, with a view to presenting its outcome at the CREST meeting on 10 and 11 June in Santiago de Compostela (Spain).

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