

**SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
RESEARCH COMMITTEE
High Level Group for
Joint Programming**

Secretariat

**CREST-GPC 1301/1/09
REV 1**

NOTE

Subject : Summary conclusions of the 1st meeting of the High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC), held in Brussels on 13 February 2009

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Josef SYKA, representative of the Czech Presidency of the EU.

At its constitutive meeting, the High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC) drew the following conclusions:

1. GPC working methods

As set out by the Chair, GPC reconfirmed that as a basic principle the CREST rules of procedure apply unless otherwise decided by the group.

- a. GPC minutes: The group decided to deviate from the CREST rules and agreed that GPC minutes would be produced within 10 working days after each meeting and be put to delegation for approval electronically, via e-mail.

- b. Number of representatives: The group confirmed that Article 1 of the CREST rules applies; therefore, in principle two representatives from each Member States and two representatives from the Commission could participate in GPC. Each delegation can be assisted by advisers when examining certain items on the agenda.
- c. Secretariat: Secretariat will be provided by the Council Secretariat which will provide the usual support, such as organisation of meetings, reimbursement of costs for delegates, minutes for each meeting, assistance to the Presidency, etc.
- d. Information policy: The group decided to follow the CREST practice in accordance to which only documents with a CREST/GPC number will be published unless otherwise decided by GPC. A sub-section on the CREST website will be established for GPC as well as a new e-mail address which will serve as the main channel of communication (crest.gpc@consilium.europa.eu).
- e. Voting: The group decided, for the time being, to stick to Article 9 of the CREST rules of procedure, according to which opinions and reports of GPC must be submitted for the approval of all its members. Mention must also be made of any possible minority views. However, if it arises that this voting system will have difficulties to be applied the GPC could come back and decide on a different voting system.
- f. Consultation of stakeholders: The majority view was that it should be left to each Member State as much as possible to decide on the modalities of this consultation in particular due to the fact that the joint programming (JP) is primarily a process driven by Member States. With a view to ensuring a certain level of uniformity GPC supported the suggestion of the Presidency to draft a set of guidelines for the consultation.

However, these guidelines should not be over prescriptive as the stakeholders who need to be consulted are primarily the funding bodies, and these stakeholders have their own consultation channels which need to be respected. It was suggested that certain

European stakeholders could also be consulted, while noting that these organisations often consist of national member organisations.

- g. Framework conditions: It was also agreed that the Presidency would start working with the Commission on a proposal how to proceed on the framework conditions, as set out in paragraph 8 of the Council conclusions. The first draft approach will be presented to the group at its next meeting.

- h. Process for presenting proposals for JP themes: GPC supported the suggestion of the Presidency to create an informal ad hoc working group of delegations (working by preference by correspondence), established on a voluntary basis, the task of which would be to prepare a draft template for submitting thematic proposals to be used by stakeholders when putting forward proposals for themes for JP. This informal group will prepare its proposal for the next GPC meeting on the basis of a draft prepared by the Presidency, assisted by the Secretariat and the Commission.
The following Member States expressed the wish to participate in this group, in addition to the Commission: DE/ES/FI/FR/IT/NL/SE/UK.

- i. Role of the associated countries to FP7: Upon request from several delegations to discuss the role of the associated countries in GPC, the group decided to follow the CREST practice (necessary consensus of GPC with subsequent consultation of COREPER) with the intention that the current FP7 associated countries become observers already at the next GPC meeting, scheduled for 15 April 2009.

Hence, GPC mandated the Chair to prepare a note for COREPER containing the intention of the GPC to invite all current associated countries to FP7 which are observers in CREST to participate as observers also in GPC.

Delegations were invited to provide possible additional comments or suggestions to the GPC on possible other aspects of working methods by 2 March 2009. The new Working Methods will then be submitted to GPC at its next meeting for endorsement.

2. Timetable

The Chair informed the group that during the Czech Presidency two more GPC meetings would be organised on 15 April and in June.

For the meeting of 15 April, the following provisional draft agenda was suggested:

1. Draft template for submitting thematic proposals to GPC
2. Presentation by the Commission on the possible approach concerning the conditions as set out in paragraph 8 of Council conclusions
3. State of play of the Alzheimer pilot JP initiative
4. Recommendation for the consultation of relevant stakeholders.

The Commission informed the group of their intention to propose a Council recommendation on the pilot JP initiative concerning the neurodegenerative diseases, in particular Alzheimer's, during the summer 2009. In the same timeframe, the Commission is also planning to prepare a communication on Alzheimer's disease.