

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

Secretariat

CREST-GPC 1307/09

NOTE

Subject : Summary conclusions of the 3rd meeting of the High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC), held in Brussels on 23 June 2009¹

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

The High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC) drew the following conclusions:

1. Approval of the template for the submission of themes proposals for JPIs

GPC adopted the template for the submission of a proposal for a theme for Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) by one or more of GPC members, as set out in doc. CREST-GPC 1306/09.

¹ Changes made to the version dated 8 July are marked as bold underlined.

2. Consultation of the relevant stakeholders

After the presentation of the state of play of national consultations in Italy, Sweden and the UK, the majority of other delegations informed the Group of the progress made in their consultations. One particular issue was raised, namely how focused should be the proposed themes for JPIs. This remains to be agreed by the Group and will, therefore, be further discussed at the next GPC meeting on 15 September.

The Austrian delegation distributed two documents with first ideas reflecting the current Austrian state of the debate.

The Irish delegations suggested creating a web-site, on which members and observers could discuss issues concerning the themes for JPIs and exchange their views. The Group welcomed the idea. The Chair agreed that the possibilities for such a web-site would be explored, together with the Secretariat.

3. Framework conditions concerning the development and implementation of JP as set out in paragraph 8 of Council Conclusions concerning the Joint Programming

On the basis of the revised draft approach, prepared by a dedicated working group of delegations and the Commission and generally welcomed by the delegations, the main focus of the discussion was on the ways how to move the individual framework conditions forward and in particular which lead organisations or delegations should be mandated to work on them. Mr. Dieter Imboden (CH), acting as a chair of EUROHORCs, gave a presentation on the projects EUROHORCs and ESF have initiated and which are related to the framework conditions, in particular as regards the peer review procedures, forward looking (foresight) activities, evaluation of joint programmes and cross-border financing.

In order that the pilot JPI on neurodegenerative diseases, notably Alzheimer's, and future JPIs will be able to fully benefit from the parallel development of these framework conditions, the following conclusions were made with a view to the decision on the approach at the next GPC meeting on 15 September:

- EUROHORCs was invited to present their input on the aforementioned four framework conditions;
- the newly established CREST Working Group on Knowledge Transfer will be requested to provide their views on the framework conditions concerning the optimum dissemination and use of research findings, and the management and sharing of intellectual property right;
- Members and observers will consider whether they would like to establish temporary Task Forces to work on individual framework conditions and whether they would take part in such Task Forces;
- Members and observers will consider which other organisations, in addition to EUROHORCs, such as TAFTIE, EARTO and European Technology Platforms, could work on the framework conditions with a view to broadening the consultation.

4. The pilot Joint Programming Initiative on combating neurodegenerative diseases, in particular Alzheimer's

Prof. Philippe Amouyel (FR) presented the state of play of the pilot JPI on neurodegenerative diseases, notably Alzheimer's. Notable progress since his last presentation was the successful meeting of the Management Board on 18 June, attended by 16 countries, and the finalisation of the terms of reference which received consensus support. The summer period will make it possible to prepare for the election of the chair and vice-chair, the establishment of the Executive Board and the nominations for the Scientific Advisory Board. The next meeting of the Management Board has been scheduled for the 6 October.

The Commission informed the Group that the proposal for a Council Recommendation concerning the launch of this pilot JPI is scheduled for 22 July 2009. At the same time, a Communication concerning neurodegenerative diseases, prepared under the auspices of DG SANCO of the Commission, will be adopted.

5. Update of Roadmap of GPC activities in 2009/2010

The incoming Swedish Presidency presented the work programme for the remainder of 2009. Although there was general support from GPC, some delegations expressed hesitations towards the proposed timetable, in particular as regards the GPC's capacity to prepare and substantiate a first set of mature JPI themes already by the end of 2009. The incoming Presidency explained that, in line with the Council conclusions, the process of identification of JPI themes should be considered as a continuous process in the sense that there might be more themes proposed by GPC in the course of 2010. This is in particular due to the fact that at the identification level there already seems to be a lot of work in progress, as reported under point 2. At the same time there was a general agreement that particular importance should be attributed also to a well structured and transparent process for the identification of themes and their substantiation thus facilitating the decisions of the GPC and offering a clear strategic guidance for the subsequent drafting of proposals for Council recommendations by the Commission. If necessary, the suggested timing will be adapted to these needs.

According to the schedule proposed by the incoming Swedish Presidency, a workshop for the presentation of early suggestions for JPI themes will be organised on 14 September, a day before next GPC meeting (15 September) when the discussion on these early suggestions will be held. The first discussion and inventory of national support for specific themes is scheduled for the GPC meeting of 15 October, with a view to the identification and substantiation of a first set of mature themes at the GPC meeting of 10 November.

6. Envisaged agenda of the next GPC meeting on 15 September 2009

- a) Consultation of the relevant stakeholders
- b) JP framework conditions
- c) Suggestions for JPI themes
- d) Roadmap update

7. AOB

At the end of the meeting the Chair, Prof. Syka, expressed his thanks to members and observers for their active and constructive approach in tackling problems related to the Joint Programming as well as for the lively discussions during the Czech Presidency. Prof. Syka, also officially handed the chairmanship of the GPC over to M. Rolf Annerberg, representative of the incoming Swedish Presidency.
