

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

Secretariat

CREST-GPC 1304/10

NOTE

Subject : **Summary conclusions of the 9th meeting of the High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC), held in Brussels on 19 March 2010**

The meeting was chaired by Mr. José Luis GARCÍA LÓPEZ, representative of the Spanish Presidency of the EU.

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

1. Proposal(s) for a theme for JPI submitted by one or more GPC Members

The Group was informed on the state of play of preparations to submit final templates for the following preliminary suggestions for JPI themes:

- (a) Antimicrobial resistance (SE)
- (b) More Years, Better lives (DE)¹
- (c) Urban Europe (AT)²
- (d) Climate Knowledge for Europe (DE)
- (e) Healthy and productive Seas and Oceans (NO)
- (f) Water challenges for the changing world (ES/NL)

¹ This theme used to be entitled "Ageing Society".

² This theme used to be entitled "Future of cities and transport (FoCiT)".
For themes (a)-(c) draft templates have been submitted.

In accordance with the timetable for the second wave of JPI themes which are to be identified and substantiated by GPC on 4 May, the deadline for the submission of final templates of JPI themes proposals has been set for 21 April 2010.

Themes that will not be considered mature enough for the second wave will be left for further scrutiny under the future Presidencies.

The Slovenian delegation raised a concern that continuous selection of JPIs might lead to disappointment of researchers, in particular in small countries. This is due to the fact that small countries are very reluctant to decide to participate in a JPI as they are not aware of the costs and human resources needs their potential participation would bear. This concern was taken note of by the incoming Belgian Presidency which stressed the importance of having a better insight on how JPIs work in practice as well as FC in place in order to be in the position to continue selecting new themes.

2. Draft template for the guidelines on Framework Conditions for Joint Programming

The Presidency presented the state of play of the work carried out by the FC Team on the FC template since the last GPC meeting on 20 January 2010. Once the FC template is ready, other relevant European organisations will be invited to contribute to the FC document.

The Presidency also informed the Group that a joint meeting will be held with Eurohorcs/ESF on 27 and 28 May in Madrid, with a view to discussing the work done by the FC Team and EUROHORCS/ESF Working groups on FC and to possibly agreeing on a common FC document. To this end an additional GPC meeting will be held in June, if necessary.

3. JPIs' governance structures

The Presidency presented a proposal for common basic principles for a governance structure of JPIs in the light of ongoing discussions concerning the establishment and setting-up of recently selected JPIs. The aim of this paper was to launch a debate on the simplification of JPIs governance structures in a way to make them most cost efficient and enough flexible to cater for the needs of each selected theme. Delegations in general agreed that it is up to each JPI consortia to decide on the governance structure, in particular due to the specific nature of each JPI, and that no binding structures should be, therefore, imposed on them. However, a large majority could support some kind of recommendations on this issue which would serve as an orientation for JPIs to be identified and substantiated in the future. The Presidency will reflect on the steps to be taken.

4. Any Other Business

The Council Legal Service intervened to explain the legal basis for JP and to provide information on different possibilities for approval of JPIs by the Council on the basis of Commission's input. The Presidency informed the delegations that the decision to propose to the Council to adopt Council recommendations on JPIs or to continue with approval of JPIs in the form of Council conclusions would be taken at a later stage, subject to input from the Commission on the selected JPIs. It was recalled by the Presidency that this decision is of purely political nature which will be resolved in consultation with the Commission.

Upon proposal by the Czech delegation, all selected JPIs (i.e. pilot JPI on combating neurodegenerative diseases, in particular Alzheimer's and the three JPIs endorsed by the Council on 3 December 2009) will be invited to present their state of play at the next GPC meeting on 4 May.

The Finnish delegation requested the possibility for each selected JPIs to put in place a web page which would facilitate to gather information of their establishment and implementation. The Chair agreed to explore the possibilities for this request.