

**EUROPEAN RESEARCH
AREA COMMITTEE
High Level Group for
Joint Programming**

Secretariat

ERAC-GPC 1305/10

NOTE

Subject : **Summary conclusions of the 10th meeting of the High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC), held in Brussels on 4 May 2010**

The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Angeles RODRIGUEZ-PEÑA, representative of the Spanish Presidency of the EU.

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

1. Adoption of provisional agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in doc. CM 2566/10.

2. Identification and substantiation of JPI theme(s)

On the basis of templates, submitted to the GPC by one or more of its members by 21 April 2010, the Group identified and substantiated the following 6 themes:

- Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe (Clik'EU);
- Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans;
- More Years, Better Lives - The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change;
- The microbial challenge - An emerging threat to human health;
- Urban Europe - Global Challenges, Local Solutions;
- Water Challenges for a Changing World.

Following this selection, the Commission should, within the remit of its competence, contribute to the preparation of JPIs which correspond to these themes, together with the state of play of research in the field of each of these themes, on the basis of which the Council will agree on JPIs;

In the context of this second selection of themes for JPIs, a number of important issues were raised by several delegations with a view to the future work of GPC and the preparation for JPIs, in particular the following:

- the work of GPC will not stop at the end of 2010 as its mandate (doc. 16775/08) clearly indicates that the identification and substantiation of possible themes for JPIs is an ongoing process, however, it was reiterated that no new selection of themes should be made before the voluntary guidelines on the framework conditions are in place;
- it is vital for the success of the JPIs which are going to be prepared on the basis of the selected themes, that a due account is taken of the level of commitment of the participating countries as well as of the benefits of a lean governance structure. This should be done on the basis of a stock taking exercise of the development of current JPIs;
- enough flexibility should be ensured in the selected themes in order that the preparation for the launch of new JPIs on this basis, in particular as regards their Strategic Research Agendas, will be related to the Europe 2020 strategy where joint programming has been considered as an important process in facing Europe's grand socio-economic challenges.

Before the decision on the selection of new themes the Commission underlined that the four JPIs already launched correspond to the Council request to identify a limited number of JPIs; that the GPC should now focus on defining Framework Conditions to allow these JPIs to progress and assess their progress; that, in the opinion of the Commission, appropriate commitment of Member States to several recent joint initiatives was still lacking and that new JPIs would need to be seen in the context of the new Research and Innovation Plan, as part of the "Innovation Union" of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

3. State of play of selected JPIs

The state of play was presented for the proposed JPIs on "A healthy diet for a healthy life" as well as on "Cultural Heritage and Global Change – A new challenge for Europe".

4. Guidelines on Framework Conditions for Joint Programming

The Presidency presented the state of play of the work done so far by the FC Team on the voluntary guidelines on framework conditions for JP in research, as well as a tentative roadmap towards reaching agreement on these guidelines by the GPC. With a view to striving to reach a Europe-wide agreement on the voluntary guidelines, the Presidency will organise a joint meeting with EUROHORCs and ESF on 27 and 28 May in Madrid. GPC will come back to this issue at its next meeting.

5. EU 2020 Strategy: the future of Joint Programming Initiatives

The GPC Secretariat gave a short presentation on the roadmap for the agreement on the Europe 2020 Strategy, in particular in view of the European Council meeting dedicated to research and innovation issues in October.
