

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

Secretariat

ERAC-GPC 1306/10

NOTE

Subject : **Summary conclusions of the 11th meeting of the High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC), held in Brussels on 2 July 2010**

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Pieter DE PAUW, representative of the Belgian 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 3664/10.

2. Approval of the draft summary conclusions of the 10th GPC meeting

The summary conclusions were approved as set out in doc. ERAC-GPC 1305/10.

3. Council Conclusions of 26 May 2010 on various issues related to the development of ERA

Mr. José GARCÍA LOPÉZ (ES) presented the outcome of the Spanish Presidency, highlighting the aspects relevant to the Joint Programming (JP) in the Council conclusions of 26 May 2010 on "Various issues related to the development of the ERA".¹ It was also recalled that Council conclusions are being examined on the launching of joint programming initiatives on "Agriculture, food security and climate change", "Cultural Heritage and Global Change: a new challenge for Europe", and "A healthy diet for a healthy life", and which could be adopted in September/October 2010.²

4. JPI themes

The Chair indicated that the current Joint Programming Initiatives (JPI), notably the "first four", would be invited to present their state-of-play at the next meeting of the GPC on 16 September 2010.

In this context, certain delegations suggested that the question of the future update of GPC mandate should be discussed in due course and possibly started already at the next GPC meeting. It was recalled that, while the GPC mandate is not limited in time, Council resolution of 3 December 2009 on the Enhanced governance of the European Research Area invited "Member States and the Commission to initiate a review of the ERA related groups before the end of 2010"³, which could be an opportune context to review GPC as well. It was also suggested that the biannual report to the Council on Joint Programming could touch upon this question.

¹ 10246/10.

² 11761/10.

³ 17159/09.

5. Framework Conditions

Mr. José GARCÍA LOPÉZ (ES) presented a first draft for a document "Developing voluntary guidelines on framework conditions for Joint Programming in research" drawn up following, notably, the Joint GPC EuroHORCs/ESF Workshop of 27-28 May 2010 in Madrid.¹ He suggested that the document should be finalised by end of 2010.

Delegations welcomed the progress in the work. Broad issues raised in the discussion included the following:

- the voluntary nature of guidelines, which could be further highlighted in the text;
- the links between JP and innovation;
- the role of industry and other stakeholders in JP;
- the appropriate role of the suggested "Forward looking Platform" vis-à-vis Member States, such as regarding "phase 1" (general) and "phase 2" (more specific) foresight activities;
- the right combination foresight activities and national priorities in the identification of JPIs;
- combining excellence with other criteria such as European competitiveness and societal aspects in the peer review processes;
- knowledge transfer activities;
- the need to avoid prejudging issues around the options "virtual pot" versus "common pot" concept;
- the possible EU co-funding and use of Framework Programme (FP) instruments within JPIs.

As to the coherence between JPIs and FP, the question was raised as to how the existence of JPIs in certain fields could influence the FP. Whilst the need for coherence was stressed, it was also noted that discussion would be needed on interrelations between MS financing of joint programming activities and FP7 financing which according to the opinion of several MS should stay available.

¹ The presentation has been transmitted separately to the GPC.

In this respect, the Commission representative indicated that, as regards the pilot JPI on neurodegenerative diseases, the Commission is awaiting the Strategic Research Agenda of this JPI with a view to aligning forthcoming relevant FP7 calls as much as possible.

It was also noted that certain FP7 tools in principle can contribute to JPIs. The forthcoming Commission communication on "Innovation Union" in the context of Europe 2020 strategy will also be an occasion for a discussion amongst Member States and the Commission on how best to achieve convergence of activities and avoid duplication.

As to the way forward, the Chair invited delegations to transmit their observation on the draft document in writing to the Secretariat by 14 July 2010.

6. Biannual report to the Council on Joint programming

The Group discussed the draft Terms of Reference of the Drafting Group for the first biannual report on Joint Programming in research as put forward by the Presidency. The Chair called for comments on the document by 14 July 2010.

7. Work Programme of the Belgian Presidency

The Chair presented the BE Presidency programme as relevant for Joint Programming.¹ He also highlighted the need to consider how JP would fit in the context of the Europe 2020 "Innovation Union" initiative and contribute in terms of any political messages to the Council.

8. The Walloon initiative "Conference on Joint Programming", to be held on 18 and 19 October 2010 in La Hulpe

Further information on this event will be provided at a later stage.

¹ The presentation has been transmitted separately to the GPC.

9. Any other business

The Group agreed that a brief document should be compiled by the GPC secretariat indicating the contact details of the coordinators of the present JPIs.
