

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

Secretariat

ERAC-GPC 1301/11

NOTE

Subject: **Summary conclusions of the 14th meeting of the High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC), held in Brussels on 15 March 2011**

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Sándor ERDŐ, representative of the Hungarian Presidency of the EU.

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

1. Approval of the provisional agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in doc. CM 1958/11 rev 1.

2. Outcome of the Competitiveness Council of 26 November 2010

- Information by the Belgian delegation

The Belgian delegation presented the outcome of the Competitiveness Council of 26 November 2010. During that meeting the Council adopted its conclusions on the Progress in the Joint Programming process as set out in doc. 17166/10.

3. Outcome of the European Council of 4 February 2011

- Information by the Presidency

The Presidency presented the outcome of the European Council of 4 February 2011. The Chair made reference to point 18 of the European Council conclusions:

*"Innovation contributes to tackling the most critical **societal challenges** we are facing. Europe's expertise and resources must be mobilized in a coherent manner and synergies between the EU and the Member States must be fostered in order to ensure that innovations with a societal benefit get to the market quicker. Joint programming should be developed. The launch of the pilot Innovation Partnership on active and healthy ageing is an important step in that context. Regular monitoring by the Council will be necessary in order to reach long term objectives as well as concrete goals to be fixed year by year. The Council will take the necessary political decisions on future Innovation Partnerships before they are launched."*¹

4. Outcome of the Competitiveness Council of 9 March 2011

- Information by the Presidency

The Presidency presented the outcome of the Competitiveness Council of 9 March 2011. The Chair recalled that the European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs) are at the core of Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative: "Innovation Union" (as stated in the Council conclusions on Europe 2020 *Flagship Initiative: "Innovation Union": Accelerating the transformation of Europe through innovation in a fast changing world*² as adopted by the Council ("Competitiveness") at its meeting on 25-26 November 2010).

The Chair recalled also that EIPs are a new approach to EU research and innovation. They are intended to tackle specific societal challenges that are shared across the EU. It was decided that they should be first tested through a pilot partnership. In this context Active and Healthy Ageing was chosen as a pilot case.

¹ Doc. 2/1/11 REV 1.

² Doc. 17165/10.

The Chair informed the Group that on 9 March 2011 the Competitiveness Council adopted its conclusions on preparatory work for the pilot European Innovation Partnership "Active and Healthy Ageing"¹. The very specific aspect of the conclusions was the representation in the Steering Group of the AHA pilot and the Council agreed on the Ministers who would be participating in the Steering Group of the pilot Innovation Partnership: Mr. Zoltán CSÉFALVAY (HU), Mr Benoît CEREXHE (BE), Ms Cristina GARMENDIA MENDIZÁBAL (ES) and Mr Maciej BANACH (PL). The Council also confirmed that it would take the necessary political decisions on future Innovation Partnerships before they are launched.

The Chair underlined also the fact that the Competitiveness Council stresses in the conclusions "*the essential role of Joint Programming, the implementation of which should be actively pursued, and looks forward to the Commission's timely contribution to the preparation of the six "second wave" JPIs*".

5. Review of the GPC as part of the review of ERA-related Groups

- **Information by the Chair**
- **Discussion**

The Chair recalled that:

- The Council, in its conclusions of December 2009, agreed that a review of ERA related groups should be started by the end of 2010.
- The ERA Groups to be reviewed include the GPC, Strategic Forum for International Cooperation (SFIC), ERA Working Group for Knowledge Transfer (WG KT), Steering Group for Human Resources and Mobility (SGHRM).
- European Research Area Committee (ERAC) is presently working on this issue.
- Ms Jane Peters (UK delegation in ERAC) has been appointed as Rapporteur to this review.
- ERAC, at its meeting on 23 February 2011, agreed to invite comments from the Groups concerned to the report by the Rapporteur with a view to ERAC meeting of 27-28 April 2011 in Budapest.

¹ Doc. 6934/11.

- Following any advice or recommendations by ERAC, it would be for the Council to consider any changes to the mandates of the GPC (or the other groups) in due course.

The Group had an exchange of views, in particular focusing on the following aspects:

- underlining its successful delivery on its current mandate (consisting primarily of the identification and monitoring of the JPIs as well as developing framework conditions for the JPIs);
- encouraging the development of the ten JPIs; monitoring the existing ones and launching the ones under development as appropriate;
- in the area of foresight: some were of the opinion that it could be possibly outsourced or at least linked with the work of the recently-established group in this area; further discussions might be needed;
- reporting lines: some members preferred the Group to report directly to the Council, while others opted rather for reporting through ERAC;
- clarification of the relationship of the JPIs with other Research and Innovation related instruments and programmes (especially European Innovation Partnerships - the AHA pilot and the probable future partnerships - but also other instruments, and actions funded under the new Common Strategic Framework);
- continuation of the work on developing the framework conditions;
- reflecting upon the working methods (the plenary meeting should provide an opportunity for the exchange of views as a high-level strategic forum; more specific points should be raised under some other formations: e.g. working groups, reflection groups, workshops, seminars);
- reviewing the mandate within 3 years.

The Group decided to agree on the summary of the discussions held during the meeting in a written procedure. Once the agreement is reached, it would give the mandate to the Chair to report the summary of the discussion to Vice-Chair of European Research Area Committee (ERAC).

6. State of play of the pilot Joint Programming Initiative

- Presentations

The state of play of the *Joint Programming Initiative on Neurodegenerative Diseases* was presented to the Group. The presentation was sent to the Members and Observers after the meeting.

7. State of play of the first wave JPIs

- Presentations

The state of play of two first wave JPIs was presented:

- Agriculture, Food security and Climate Change (FR & UK)
- A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life (NL).

The presentations were sent to the Members and Observers after the meeting.

8. Seminar on the second wave JPIs

- Presentations

- Exchange of views

The representative of the Commission presented the roadmap towards launching the second wave JPIs. The main foreseen developments are as follows:

- The Commission sends very soon to the JPIs Coordinators a template to update their proposals from 2010. This template is the same as the one used to submit the proposals in 2010.
- 20 April 2011: the Coordinators send updated JPI proposals to the Commission. (i.e. to the e-mail addresses indicated in the annex to these summary conclusions).
- 3 May 2011: the Commission replies (to the Coordinator, copy to GPC) with comments.
- 6 May 2011: possible discussion during the GPC meeting.
- June - October 2011: possible Commission Recommendations.
- July - December 2011: possible Council Conclusions.
- 2012: possible Coordination and Support Actions.

The developments towards launching the following second wave JPIs were presented:

- Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe (Clik'EU) (DE)
- The microbial challenge - An emerging threat to human health (SE)
- Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (NO)
- More Years, Better Lives - The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change (DE)
- Urban Europe - Global Challenges, Local Solutions (AT&NL)
- Water Challenges for a Changing World (ES)

The presentations were sent to the Members and Observers after the meeting.

9. Any Other Business

The Chair informed the Group about the date of the next meeting: 6 May 2011. Some delegations pointed out the need to consider the following points:

1. Joint Programme Initiatives and European Innovation Partnerships
 - Presentation by the Commission
 - Information by the Presidency on the AHA Pilot Steering Group
 - Discussion
2. Ways to involve industry
 - Exchange of views

in the Agenda of the next GPC meeting to be held on 6 May.

Contacts in Lead Commission Units following JPIs

JPI	Lead Unit	Contact Persons
More Years, Better Lives (Demographic Change)	DG INFSO H3 – ICT for inclusion	Peter.Wintlev-Jensen@ec.europa.eu
Anti-Microbial resistance	DG Research & Innovation F3 – Infectious diseases & public health	Anna.Lonnroth@ec.europa.eu
Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe (Clik'EU)	DG Research & Innovation I4 – Climate change & Natural hazards	Andrea.Tilche@ec.europa.eu
Water Challenges for a Changing World	DG Research & Innovation I2 – Environmental technologies	Luisa.Prista@ec.europa.eu
Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans	DG Research & Innovation H2 – Surface transports	Waddah.Saab@ec.europa.eu
Urban Europe	DG Research & Innovation C5 – Regional dimension of innovation	Dimitri.Corpakis@ec.europa.eu