

EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA
COMMITTEE

High Level Group for
Joint Programming

Secretariat

ERAC-GPC 1303/11

NOTE

Subject: **Summary conclusions of the 16th meeting of the High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC), held in Brussels on 7 September 2011**

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jacek GIERLIŃSKI, representative of the Polish 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. 4174/11.

2. GPC Work Programme during the Polish Presidency

- Discussion

The Chair presented the planned GPC Work Programme during the Polish Presidency.

3. Preparation of the draft GPC's contribution on the ERA Framework

- Discussion

The Chair informed the delegations that the Task Force had met already once and recalled the planning of the work in the future. The Chair introduced the first draft of the contribution and opened the floor for discussion.

Many general comments concerning the text were presented:

- Some delegations suggested having a detailed general overview while others proposed concentrating on the GPC-specific issues.
- Some delegations wanted to add innovation aspects and to keep a clear distinction between R&I policy and cohesion policy.
- Some delegations would appreciate the shift from the obstacles-oriented to a more positive language.
- Some delegations gave input on what they would like to add, give more emphasis or more clarification to in the text, e.g. relation to Horizon 2020, relation to the European Partnerships, difficulty in obtaining long-term financial commitments from some Member States, the existing parallel mechanisms, the question of less research intensive Member States, 'seed' funding.

The Chair asked the delegations to provide written comments on the text of the GPC contribution.

4. Commission Recommendation on the research joint programming initiative "More Years, Better Lives - The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change"

- Presentation by the Commission

The Chair informed the delegations that on 11 July 2011, the Commission adopted its Recommendation on the JPI "More Years, Better Lives" and that the Polish Presidency had proposed draft Council conclusions launching that JPI to be adopted at the Competitiveness Council on 29-30 September 2011.

The Commission representative made a presentation on the above mentioned subject.

Answering the question concerning the timetable of the Recommendations relating to the other second wave JPIs, the Commission representative indicated that all would be adopted by the end of the year with the possibility for the Polish Presidency to prepare and adopt Council Conclusions for at least four of them.

5. Updating of the GPC's rules of procedure following the Council conclusions of 31 May 2011

- Information from the Chair

The Chair recalled that when ERAC was established replacing CREST, also the rules of procedure of old CREST were up-dated. The current rules of procedure of the GPC are based on the old CREST rules. Moreover, ERAC advice on the review of ERA-related groups was adopted on 5 May 2011 and the Council adopted conclusions on 31 May 2011 on the development of the European Research Area (ERA) through ERA-related Groups, addressing among other things the question of Chair and Vice-Chair positions within the ERA-related Groups.

The Chair presented the draft document and the main changes which it provides. The Chair informed the delegations that the up-dated rules might be discussed during the following meeting and that the delegations were welcome to send their written comments.

6. AOB

The Chair recalled the delegations about the date of the next meeting: 10 October 2011.

The Commission representative gave the following pieces of information:

- A workshop was organised on 23 June 2011 concerning developing synergies between Joint Programming Initiatives and ESFRI project in the field of Life Sciences.
- A workshop will be organised in Brussels on 17 October 2011 concerning developing synergies between RIs and Joint Programming Initiatives in the field of Environment.

- The Forum on Forward Looking Activities has been set up. Its second meeting will be held in November in Warsaw. The Chair will represent the GPC.
 - A workshop on "Cross-border operation for Joint Programming - The potential of the ERA Framework" for Research Performing Organisations (RPOs) and Research Funding Agencies and will be co-organised by the GPC and the Commission. It will take place in Brussels (Covent Garden) on 26 September 2011.
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