

EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA
COMMITTEE

High Level Group for
Joint Programming

Secretariat

ERAC-GPC 1304/11

NOTE

Subject: **Summary conclusions of the 17th meeting of the High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC), held in Brussels on 10 October 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. 4597/11.

2. Outcome of the Council "Competitiveness" of 29-30 September 2011

- Information by the Presidency

The representative of the Polish Presidency provided the following information concerning the outcome of the research day of the Council "Competitiveness" of 29-30 September 2011 was presented:

- The Council reached General Approach for the three proposals of the Euratom package (Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the specific programme, to be carried out by means of indirect actions, implementing the Framework Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for nuclear research and training activities (2012 - 2013); Proposal for a Council Decision on the specific programme, to be carried out by means of direct actions by the Joint Research Centre, implementing the Framework Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for nuclear research and training activities (2012 - 2013); Proposal for a Council Regulation (Euratom) laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in indirect actions under the Framework Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community and for the dissemination of research results (2012 - 2013)).
- The Council reached a political agreement on the Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 521/2008 setting up the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking.
- The Council adopted the conclusions on the research joint programming initiative "More Years, Better Lives". The Presidency aims at adopting another set of conclusions concerning the other second wave joint programming initiatives at the next meeting of the Council "Competitiveness" in December.

- The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission on European Innovation Partnerships, including the assessment of the Pilot on Active and Healthy Ageing as well as the information on Partnering in Research and Innovation. The ministers had an exchange of views on Partnering in Research and Innovation, which provided useful basis to pursuing discussions in the Council preparatory bodies.
- During lunch the ministers had a debate on the European Research Council with Prof. Helga Nowotny.

3. Information on the workshop on "Cross-border operation for Joint Programming - The potential of the ERA Framework", held in Brussels (Covent Garden) on 26 September 2011

- Information by the Chair

The Chair presented the main conclusions from the workshop:

- a) Opening up national programmes
 - Encourage funding of foreign research teams, domestic teams or mixed consortia working abroad (not necessarily money crosses borders).
 - Promote progressive "convergence" of national rules and procedures related to R&D funding (Framework Conditions Guidelines).
 - Improve information on existing programmes to reduce fragmentation.
- b) Partnership between Member States
 - Encourage brain circulation, not brain drain (provide incentives).
 - Also involve small and less RD&I intensive countries in defining SRAs.

- Use EU level funds (e.g. Str. Funds) to compensate opening-up of national programmes by capacity building.
 - Knowledge generated should be accessible to all countries (respecting intellectual property).
- c) Cross-border operations
- Promote an adaptable formulation of national programmes (i.e. take into account SRAs).
 - Encourage coordination of existing national programmes and investments in research, based on already available measures.
 - Recognise justifiable obstacles and legitimate barriers to unregulated cross-border research.
- d) Cooperation and operation at programme level
- Define the nature of contributions to JPIs and of tools used, encourage inclusion of national institutional investment (e.g. as done in SET plan) and private foundations (e.g. as done in ERA Instruments) in joint actions implementing SRAs.
 - Support the principle of minimal level of contribution for decision making power in the JPIs.
 - Encourage dialogue and potential cooperation between MS/AC involved in JPIs and the Commission formulating EU research policy and implementing Horizon 2020.

- Stimulate cooperation between ERA partnerships and synergy between ERA groups.
- e) Establish efficient JPI governance
 - Encourage involvement of all relevant ministries at national level in JPIs.

4. Finalisation of the GPC's contribution on the ERA Framework

- **Discussion**
- **Approval**

As a result of the discussion it was decided that the GPC contribution needs further drafting. The executive summary of the text will be adapted and tried to be adopted in the written procedure by the end of October with a view to provide a timely contribution to ERAC. The whole GPC contribution will be adopted during the next GPC meeting.

The Chair gave the preliminary planning on how to proceed and asked the delegations to provide written comments on the text of the GPC contribution.

5. Finalisation of the GPC Rules of Procedure

- **Discussion**
- **Approval**

The Chair opened the floor for discussion on the new draft GPC rules of Procedure. The main issues under discussion were the following:

- The Programming Committee (the majority of the delegations found this structure not necessary).
- The role of the Chair and the Vice-Chair.
- The role and involvement of the associated countries.

- Voting arrangements and quorum.
- The duration of the work programme.
- The number of the GPC meetings per year.

Taking into account the comments of the delegates a new version will be prepared with a view to its approval during the next GPC meeting.

6. Discussion on the possible specific items of the work programme as well as the working methods:

- a) monitoring of JPIs (potential usage of Netwatch and ERA-Learn)**
- b) involvement of industry**
- c) harmonisation with other EU initiatives (eg. EIP)**
- d) preparatory work for updating of the Framework Conditions**
- e) challenges to joint programming**
- f) Member States with low intensity R&D in the joint programming process**

Under this item three presentations were provided:

- Ways to involve industry in Joint Programming Initiatives (ES delegation)
- Communication on “Partnering in Research and Innovation” (Commission)
- Monitoring Joint Programming Initiatives in the ERA (Commission).

The discussion on these as well as the other items will continue during the next GPC meeting.

7. AOB

The Chair recalled the delegations about the date of the next meeting: 11 November 2011.

The Austrian delegate provided information about the joint programming event which took place in Vienna on 28 September.

The Commission representative reminded the delegations about the Annual Joint Programming event which will take place on 9-10 November in Brussels.
