

News on EU Research Policy and Programmes

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EU POLICY

Prodi makes case for reform

EC President Romano Prodi told business leaders in Birmingham that wider majority voting in the Council of Ministers would ease the path of initiatives that the UK supports. Stressing the need for reforms that would enable the EU to enlarge successfully, Mr Prodi said that decision-making could be made more efficient by moving to majority voting in key - but not all - areas. Although the British media often saw the single market as a source of unnecessary rules and regulations, when it had removed barriers to trade - frequently at the UK's insistence. Nor was the EC calling for a European superstate, although it did want Europe to play an important international role and become the most competitive economy in the world. Prodi said he had long argued for decentralised policy- and decision-making, based on open government and the opportunity for everyone to have their say. The EU was not a case of Britain versus Europe, he said, but of Britain and Europe together. The EU wants and needs the UK to play a leading role.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Commission Press Release SPEECH/00/412 of 6/1100 available at <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh>

Commission Meeting Agendas

As a result of an additional measure to improve transparency at the EC, the agendas of the weekly meetings of the Commissioners will now be made publicly available on the EC web site. Meetings are generally held every Wednesday and agendas will be published on the previous day.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

The agendas will be published on the following web site:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/meeting/index_en.htm

Re-organising DG Research

The Director-General for Research at the EC, Achilleas Mitsos, has announced major revisions to the structure and organisation of DG Research. Although a majority of officials will continue to be dealing with the FP, this reorganisation aims to change the mission of the DG to make it more political, enabling it to advance the political objectives of the European Research Area.

In an effort to streamline current activities, the reshuffled DG will have six instead of nine directorates dealing with the thematic areas of the FPs. Two new directorates will be set up: one with responsibility for the structural aspects of the

ERA (such as research infrastructures, excellence, innovation), and another with a focus on 'science and society' issues (such as science and governance, ethics, the role of women in science).

As for the future of European research, Mr Mitsos believes it is an absolute necessity to raise expenditure on RTD in Europe to three per cent of GDP to close the gap with the USA and Japan and achieve the goals set by the Council of Ministers at the Lisbon summit. This must be achieved through collaboration in planning and formulating research policy in the Member States and the EC - both within and outside the Research DG. Mr Mitsos also believes research policy should not be overly prescriptive, and must be open to areas where priorities cannot be predetermined. This sentiment, shared by many other EC officials - including Mr Busquin - is reflected in the guidelines for the EC's next RTD FP. The EC's focus is already shifting from a project-centred approach to programme-based approach with funding going to larger-scale projects with broader goals.

At the same time, Mr Mitsos explains, the ERA aims to define not just how to conduct publicly funded research but also how to mobilise private funding for research better. The EC is therefore looking at ways to promote research for and by small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to bring them fully into the picture, and bring more private potential into science.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

CORDIS Press Release No. 15904 of 27/11/2000, available from <http://dbs.cordis.lu/news/en/home.html>

A European Innovation Area

Organised by the French Presidency, a recent conference in Lyon brought together high level representatives from the EU Member States and innovators, entrepreneurs and researchers to discuss the future of innovation in Europe. During the conference, French Minister of economy, finance and industry, Laurent Fabius, called for coordination of national innovation policies to achieve a 'European innovation area'.

Injecting a note of caution, Commissioner for Research Philippe Busquin pronounced the EU's overall performance in the field of innovation 'far too weak', but welcomed the proposed European innovation area as a useful complement to the proposed European Research Area. The key to improving innovation, Busquin argued, is through better organisation of research in Europe.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.cordis.lu/france/en/inno-prog.htm>

ESC Opinion on FP6

The Economic and Social Committee has published an opinion on the economic and social impact of research and technological development in the EU. The document on 'New knowledge, new jobs', suggests that the next FP should favour large clusters of projects in a small number of key actions, ensuring the participation of end-users and SMEs in particular.

The ESC also recommends a decentralisation of Community research initiatives, with a devolved management structure at national and local level of small-scale projects, and suggests setting up a new RTD initiative at regional level to boost innovation.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

'New knowledge, new jobs" Opinion

http://www.esc.eu.int/en/docs/docs_opinions/CES1194-2000_AC_en.DOC

Creation of a European Food Authority

The EC has adopted a proposal laying down the fundamental principles and requirements of food law and establishing a European Food Authority (EFA). This proposal is the centrepiece of the EC's strategy for a proactive food policy. Its primary objective is to provide the basis for the assurance of a high level of protection of human life whilst ensuring the effective functioning of the internal market.

Within three years the EFA is expected to have about 250 staff and a budget of some 40 million Euro. A review of ultimate staffing and budgetary requirements will be made at this time, to ensure that the Authority has the resources necessary for its full operation. Preliminary figures would indicate a staff size of around 330. The EC will subsequently come forward with its proposal for the location of the EFA.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Commission Press Release IP/00/1270 of 8/11/00 available at

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh>

Consultation on Biodegradable Waste Management

The recent Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) introduces targets for the reduction of biodegradable municipal waste to landfill, aiming for a 65% reduction of total biodegradable municipal waste (weight) produced in 1995 by 2016. Although the Directive does not fix the way in which these reductions are to be obtained, it gives a clear indication that biodegradable waste should be preferably treated via biological treatment processes such as composting and anaerobic digestion.

Both the European Council and EP have invited the EC to evaluate whether there is a need for a Community initiative for the promotion of composting. The Environment DG has elaborated a working document on Biodegradable waste management in order to consult governmental experts from Member States, environmental NGOs, industry and stakeholders in general on these issues. This is not a legal text and should only be used for consultation purposes.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

The working document on Biodegradable waste management is available at:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/waste/report11.htm>

New Proposals to Safeguard Hedgerows

The EC has announced a proposal, which would establish a legislative basis for considering hedgerows and other traditional land features such as ditches and walls as part of the agriculture area eligible for farm aid. The Commissioner Franz Fischler commented "Hedgerows often play an important environmental role and are part of a longstanding farming tradition, in particular in the UK...In short, British hedgerows are safe – no farmer should feel motivated to cut them down"

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Commission Press Release IP/00/1324 of 20/11/00 available at <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh>

European Group on Ethics – Report on Human Stem Cells Research

As expected (See European Insight, EI 00:03 1 October 2000), the European Group on Ethics (EGE) in its report on human stem cells research, has advised a precautionary approach to the use of human stem cells for research. The report recognises the interest in research into human stem cells, but urges caution. In the report, the EGE examines the ethical acceptability of embryo research, the control of research activities, the creation of embryos for research purposes, embryonic research in the context of the EC's research programmes, anonymity, confidentiality, traceability and commercialisation.

EC President Romano Prodi has also asked the Group to prepare a further opinion regarding the patenting of inventions involving human stem cells. This will be made public at a later date.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

A copy of the report 'Ethical Aspects of Human Stem Cell Research and Use' can be downloaded from http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgc/ethics/en/opinions.htm

Commission Press Release IP/00/1293 of 14/11/00 available at <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh>

RESEARCH NEWS

Human Cloning and Framework Funding

Following the furore in the UK press about a recent EP Resolution asking the EC to "ensure that no research institution that is in any way involved in the cloning of human embryos gets money from the EU budget for any of their work", Commissioner Busquin has made a clear statement that this was a subsidiarity issue: i.e. should be primarily subject to national laws and guidelines. Quality of Life officials have confirmed this, saying that while the Resolution represents the opinion of the majority of the members of the EP, it has no legal force and is not amending existing legislation, which the EC must implement. The consequence of this is that if research institutions are conducting their research activities in a

manner that is legal within their own national jurisdictions then they cannot be excluded from FP5 nor from calls for proposals organised on a regular basis.

The EC has also reassured the Quality of Life Programme Committee at its last session that it does not intend to take any action in light of the EP's motion.

In contrast to the EP, the European Group on Ethics (EGE), in their recent report on ethical aspects of human stem cell research and use, (see article above), recommended that the EC should provide a specific research budget, directed at testing the validity of recent discoveries about the potential of differentiation of adult stem cells. The EGE also viewed that the EU as part of its responsibility for providing funding for cell research should also monitor its implementation and ensure that research results are published and not hidden for reasons of commercial interest.

FURTHER INFORMATION: None available

Commission Reinforces Genomics Research

The EC has announced details of an initiative to strengthen European research in genomics. The development of new genome-based technologies, as well as new bioinformatics tools is of primary importance for competitive genome research and for the development of new diagnostic tools and new therapeutic approaches. There are two main features of the new initiative – support for research infrastructures and support for integrated projects. Integrated projects will cluster a number of research projects, together with training fellowships and measures to develop synergies between research funded at the European and Member State level. It is expected that over 100 million Euro will be available for this initiative in 2001.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Commission Press Release IP/00/1318 of 16/11/00 available at

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh>

Southern Europe Worse off From Climate Change

A new report assessing 'the potential effects and adaptations for climate change in Europe' concludes that adverse effects of climate change are likely to be greater in southern than northern Europe. The report also indicates that poor peripheral regions will be more negatively affected than wealthy ones and that primary industrial sectors such as agriculture and forestry may face major changes.

The EC funded work on the report through the Research Directorate-General's environment programme. Some thirty scientific experts collaborated to produce the report, many of whom have led major EU research projects and all of whom have contributed to the current assessment of the Intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC). The new report provides the basis for the chapter on Europe.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

EC, Anver Ghazi Head of Unit, Research DG, Tel. +32 2 295 8445, E-mail: anver.ghazi@cec.eu.int

(The full title of the report is: Assessment of the Potential Effects and Adaptations for Climate Change in Europe, Jackson Environment Institute, University of East Anglia, UK)

Research Supports EU Position on Climate Change

A new report resulting from EU-sponsored research into the Earth's carbon cycle questions the utility of new forests as effective tools against growing CO2 emissions. The report appeared before recent clashes between the EU and the US in climate change talks at The Hague over US insistence in using new forests as 'carbon sinks' in order to avoid making significant cuts in domestic emissions. The new research concludes that it is more important to conserve existing forests than to plant new ones, and that 'new forest' would only buy a period of time between 15 and 100 years before emission cuts became an even greater necessity.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Commission Press Release IP/00/1339 of 22/11/00, available from

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cqi/guesten.ksh>

New Map of Siberian Forests

The SIBERIA project, funded by the EC under the Fourth FP, has used Earth observation radar satellites to create a new map of the Siberian forest. The map covers 1.2 million sq. km and will help the Russian forestry authorities to update obsolete forest inventory data, and to monitor reforestation, for example, after forest fires.

Maps from the SIBERIA project are available at:

<http://pipeline.swan.ac.uk/siberia>

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Available from: Henri Laur, ESA, Tel: +39 6 941 80557,

E-mail: henri.laur@esa.int

Continuation of the GALILEO Project

The Galileo Programme is the EC's programme for satellite navigation. Although there already are existing radio-navigation systems, such as the US' GPS and Russian GLONASS, the military authorities in both countries finance and control these systems. In contrast, the EC Galileo Programme will be operated and controlled by civilians.

The EC has published the results of the definition phase of GALILEO and announced its intention to continue to support the full development and implementation of the programme. This will be in three stages: development and validation by 2005, deployment by 2007 and operation and use thereafter.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Commission Press Release IP/00/1336 of 22/11/00 available at <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh>

Co-operation in Nanotechnology

The EU and US have called for greater co-operation in the area of nanotechnology at a recent workshop in Toulouse. Representatives from the EC and from the US National Science Foundation urged participants at the workshop to work together to fully exploit and further each other's knowledge of the field.

DG Research has also launched a new web site outlining all of its activities in the field of nanotechnology.

FURTHER INFORMATION: CORDIS press release 15710 of 30/10/00 and from the new web site at <http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/growth/gcc/in-action-nanotechnology.html>

LEP to Be Dismantled

The CERN laboratory in Switzerland has decided to continue with the planned dismantling of the existing Large Electron-Positron (LEP) Collider and to build the next-generation Large Hadron Collider. Although experiments on the existing LEP had provided tantalising indications of the Higgs Boson – a particle whose predicted existence functions as the cornerstone of the standard model of quantum physics – the consortium believes that the new data is not sufficient to justify the continued operation of LEP.

FURTHER INFORMATION:
CORDIS Press Release No. 15871 of 21/11/2000, available from http://dbs.cordis.lu/EN_NEWSI_search.html

New Virtual Theatre Tools

A consortium led by researchers at the University of Warwick, UK, has unveiled the latest tool for teaching and research in theatre studies. The THEATRON consortium, which is partly funded by the EU's 4th FP. The THEATRON computer software makes it possible for researchers and students to model theatres and performance sites to study the perspective and acoustics afforded by different seats and locations in the virtual venue.

FURTHER INFORMATION:
CORDIS Press Release No. 15885 of 23/11/2000, available from

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E-mail: r.beacham@warwick.ac.uk
<http://www.theatron.org/>

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CULTURE

MEDIA-Plus Budget Approved

The Council of Culture ministers has approved a budget of 400 million Euro (£240 million) for the five-year Media Plus audiovisual programme, due to start in 2001. Despite objections from the UK, Germany and the Netherlands, the agreement represents a substantial increase over the 310 million Euro budget of the preceding Media II programme.

Currently, more than 60% of EU films showing outside of their country of origin have received support from the Media II programme. The EC has also suggested that the latter programme has increased the number of European films showing outside their country of origin from 14 to 22% in three years.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Council Press Release 442 - No. 13437/00 of 23/11/2000, available from <http://ue.eu.int/newsroom/news.cfm>

New Audiovisual Venture Capital Mechanisms

The Commissioner for Education and Culture, Viviane Reding announced the creation of a new venture capital mechanism to support the production of European films. This new mechanism, set up in conjunction with the European Investment Bank, will be accompanied by a new EC Communication on the European film industry, which is intended to open a debate on legal and statutory issues affecting the audiovisual sector.

FURTHER INFORMATION: None available

Endangered Languages

The Volkswagen Foundation has announced their intention to establish a new funding programme for the documentation of endangered languages. Full information on the programme will be available in mid-April 2001. Applications from countries outside Germany will be accepted, but will be expected to provide evidence of collaboration with academic institutions or academics in Germany.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Background information is available from:

<http://www.volkswagen-stiftung.de/english/merkblatt/merkdoku.htm>

or from Dr Vera Szöllösi-Brenig, e-mail szoelloesi@volkswagenstiftung.de
Tel +49 511 8381 218

EXTERNAL COLLABORATION

RTD Expenditure in Candidate Countries

According to an Eurostat report, the level of expenditure on research and development in the accession candidate countries is generally lower than in Member States, both in absolute and relative terms.

As a proportion of GDP, Slovenia is shown as the country with the largest level of RTD Investment, with 1.42% of its GDP, followed by the Czech Republic, with 1.27%. This compares well with the lowest investors in RTD within the Member States: Greece (0.51% of GDP) and Portugal (0.63%). More worryingly, only three countries reported an upward trend in RTD spending: Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic, the latter with an impressive 21.1% increase (compared with an EU average increase of 3.7%).

FURTHER INFORMATION:

CORDIS Press Release

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/>

Enlargement strategy seeks to accelerate pace of talks

The EU could welcome new Member States from the end of 2002, according to a strategy proposed by the EC. The enlargement paper aims to step up the momentum of negotiations with the 13 candidate countries, which could end in 2002 for those at the most advanced stage. The candidates are generally making encouraging economic progress, according to the regular reviews of each country against the EU criteria for accession. However, more needs to be done to strengthen the institutions needed to implement legislation, partly because of weak administrative capacity. Progress on the political criteria, including judicial reforms and action against corruption, is also uneven.

An Accession Partnership with Turkey has been proposed, as requested by the European Council. An accompanying report details the priorities for meeting the political, economic and institutional criteria for this closer relationship with the EU.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Commission Press Release IP/00/1264 of 8/11/00 available at

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh>

New Countries Join INTAS

Estonia, Hungary and the Slovak Republic have become the Association's newest members. Therefore, research teams from these three countries will be eligible to participate in all INTAS Calls 2000 and 2001 on the same terms and conditions as scientists from other INTAS Member States. It also means that institutes of these countries can host young NIS researchers who wish to spend the training period or visit of their INTAS fellowship in Estonia, Hungary or Slovakia.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

www.intas.be

Humanitarian Aid to Fight Ebola Outbreak

The EC has provided humanitarian assistance worth 250,000Euro to the northern Gulu district off Uganda in response to the outbreak of Ebola haemorrhagic fever there. A further 560,000Euro of humanitarian assistance has also been set aside for vulnerable, displaced populations in the north and west of the Uganda.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Commission Press Release IP/00/1320 of 17/11/00 available at

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh>

EVENTS and AWARDS

UK-led Teams win the 660,000 Euro Descartes Science Prize

Two of the first three Descartes prizes were awarded to UK led teams in recognition of their scientific excellence and international teamwork. The three winners are teams led by Professor Ian Smith (University of Birmingham, Chemistry), Professor Alan Lehmann (University of Sussex, MRC Cell Mutation Unit) and Dr. de Leeuw (Phillips, Eindhoven, The Netherlands, Electronics).

The Descartes Prize is a new award created by the EC to recognise scientific excellence and international teamwork. It is funded by the EU research budget and will henceforth be an annual award. The call for the 2001 prize will be announced on 4 December 2000 with a deadline of 6 April 2001. The project submission forms are available from the Internet (see Further Information below).

Candidates must have obtained outstanding scientific or technological results from European collaborative research and be nationals of a Member State or an Associated State. (The prize is not restricted to projects financed by the European Community RTD programmes). Applications for the Descartes prize may be submitted by project team members themselves or nominations may be proposed by any third party on behalf of the project teams.

The Descartes Prize is not a financial tool to support research project proposals. It aims to be the highest European Scientific distinction and honours top European scientific achievement that has been attained through European collaborative research.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Graham Blythe, Research DG, Fax: +32 2 296 7024, Email:

Graham.blythe@cec.eu.int

http://www.cordis.lu/improving/src/hp_awa.htm

Latsis Prize 2000

The ESF has announced that Professor Kenneth Charles Holmes, Director of the Max Planck Institute for Medical Research is the winner of the Latsis Prize 2000. The Prize of 100,000 Swiss Francs (65,000 Euro) is awarded by the ESF to an individual or research group, who in the opinion of their peers, has made the greatest contribution to a field of European research. The field chosen this year was molecular structure. Professor Holmes main area of interest has been the mechanism of muscle contraction – he is a world leader in interpreting structural information on actin and myosin, the basic contractile proteins of muscle.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

ESF Press Release of 20/11/2000, available from:
<http://www.esf.org/update/news/00/latsis.award.htm>

NEW PUBLICATIONS and ON-LINE RESOURCES

The 2000 Edition of 'Key Figures' in Science, Technology and Innovation

This booklet addresses five major areas of quantitative and statistical analysis comparing the European Union and its Member States, the US and Japan, their research and development efforts and performance in the short and long term.

Commissioner Busquin underlined that the availability of reliable data and statistical information are an important contribution to the creation of the European Research Area which is the centrepiece of the EC's vision for the future of research in Europe. The 2000 edition of "Key Figures" is published at an important moment for science and technology in Europe. The availability and use of pertinent and comparable indicators are a prerequisite to guide strategic research policy issues and monitor progress in implementation.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/pdf/keyfiguresihp.pdf>

or from Jean Bourlès, Competitiveness, Economic Analysis and Indicator Unit, Research DG, Fax: +32 2 295 6464, E-mail: Jean.Bourles@cec.eu.int

Trend Chart on Innovation

The Innovation and SMEs directorate of DG Enterprise has published a 'European Trend Chart on Innovation', monitoring the various initiatives of the Member States in a number of key sectors:

- The science-industry interface
- Creation and growth of innovative enterprises
- Framework conditions for innovation
- Role of innovation policy

The chart also provides a breakdown giving relative positions. The chart is available in printed form or from the Web, the latter version being updated every six months.

FURTHER INFORMATION

CORDIS Press Release No. 15887 of 23/11/2000, available from http://dbs.cordis.lu/EN_NEWSI_search.html

Spin-offs From EU Research

A new publication from DG Enterprise looks at the ways in which the technology sector has benefited from Community research. The analysis focuses on the impact of Competitive Support Actions (CSA) under the 4th FP.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Mr. P. Tomaszewski, Commission of the European Union, EUFO 2176, Rue Alcide de Gasperi, L-2920 Luxembourg

New Internet Site – The European Union in the World

The EC has launched a new web site “The European Union in the World”, which provides access to a wide variety of information on the EU’s external relations policies and programmes.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Available at: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/world>

New Sustainability Assessment Service

Following two-years of EC funding through the IST Programme, the Information Society Impact Assessment for Sustainability (ISIAS) service has been officially launched. ISIAS is aimed at local and regional development agencies wanting to develop effective strategies for a sustainable information society. It helps to develop a structured view of long-term futures and to evaluate the impact of possible concrete actions, whilst decreasing uncertainty through scenario-building techniques.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

CORDIS Press Release No 15897 of 24/11/00 available at: http://dbs.cordis.lu/EN_NEWSI_search.html

Handbook of EU Environmental Legislation

The EC has published a new Handbook for Implementation of EU Environmental Legislation, which provides step-by-step guidance on the approaches and specific activities required to implement EC environmental legislation. The Handbook provides a series of overview chapters setting out a framework for planning the implementation of the legislation contained within that particular environmental sector; a series of fiches containing information and guidance about each legal act and a reference source.

The topics covered in this new handbook include: Air quality, waste management, water protection, nature protection, industrial pollution control and risk

management, chemicals and genetically modified organisms, noise from vehicles and machinery, nuclear safety and radiation protection, and civil protection.

FURTHER INFORMATION: The handbook can be downloaded from <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/enlarg/handbook/handbook.htm>

Scientific opinions on dioxin in feed and food

The Scientific Committee on Food (SCF) and the Scientific Committee on Animal Nutrition (SCAN) have published opinions on the contamination of food products and animal feed by dioxins and closely related Polychlorinatedbiphenyls (PCBs). The EC has been actively working towards a comprehensive strategy to deal with dioxin contamination in food and has asked for both scientific opinions as part of that process.

The Feira European Council of June this year asked the EC to propose harmonised rules on contaminants. These scientific opinions form the key scientific input to the development of this strategy. Based on these scientific opinions the EC will be consulting with Member States in the near future with a view to bringing forward legislative proposals early in 2001.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

The full texts of the opinions are available at :

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/scan/outcome_en.html

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/scf/outcome_en.html

New ESF Publications

The ESF has published a series of new reports from the programmes its supports. These include: Experimental and theoretical investigation of complex polymer structures (the SUPERNET Programme); non-linear chemistry in complex reactors: models and experiments (the REACTOR Programme); Optimisation of solid-state electrochemical processes for hydrocarbon oxidation (the Ossep Programme) and Interaction of superintense femtosecond laser fields with atoms, solids and plasmas (the FEMTO Programme). Also available on the same web page is the report of the results of the joint European Space Science Committee (ESSC)-ESF study in the future of international space collaboration.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

The publications can be downloaded from:

<http://www.esf.org/update/update.htm#Perspectives>

Cordis

Cordis is the Community Research and Development Information Service. It is a web-based service which provides information on EU R&D programmes and related issues. Web site: <http://www.cordis.lu>

EUR-Lex (Official Journal C and L Series)

This web site provides information on European Union Law. It includes electronic copies of the Treaties and recent copies of the Official Journal of the European Communities (OJ). The OJ, published daily in eleven languages, consists of two related series, the L series (Legislation) and the C series (Information, notices and preparatory EU legislation), a supplement and an annex. EUR-Lex provides free access to the C and L series of the Official Journal for a period of 45 days following publication. (The OJ issue with the Euro exchange rates (L 359, 31/12/1998) is permanently available in PDF format in EUR-Lex).

Web site: EUR-Lex <http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/index.html>

Official Journal C & L <http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/oj/index.html>

Treaty of Amsterdam <http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/treaties/index.html>

Europa

Europa is the European Union's official Server. It contains links to the European Parliament, the European Council, the EC and other EU institutions, and contains information on EU policies listed by subject area.

Web site: <http://www.europa.eu.int/index-en.htm>

Rapid

RAPID is a database giving a daily view of the activities of the European Union as presented by the Institutions in their press releases.

Commission Press Release are available at:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh>

GLOSSARY

COST	European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research is a framework for scientific and technical cooperation, allowing the coordination of national research on a European level. http://www.netmaniacs.com/cost/
'Council'	'Council' refers to the 'Council of Ministers', the principle decision-making body within the European Union. It has both executive and legislative powers, the latter in some cases exercised jointly with the European Parliament (co-decision procedure). The Council is composed of one representative at ministerial level from each Member State. Which Ministers attend each Council meeting varies according to the subject discussed, e.g. The Minister of Science in the UK attends the Research Council. http://ue.eu.int/en/summ.htm
Culture 2000	First European Community Framework Programme in support of culture, which runs from 2000-2004 (inclusive). http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/culture/index_en.html

CVCP	Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals (UK) http://www.cvcp.ac.uk/
EC	The European Commission - made up of 20 Commissioners nominated by the Member States - both initiates proposals for EU legislation and executes EU policies and actions. http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm
EESD	Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development (FP5) http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/
eEurope	eEurope A political initiative of the EC to allow Europe to benefit fully from the Information Society. http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/information_society/eeurope/documentation/index_en.htm
EP	The European Parliament - which is made up of elected representatives (MEPs) from all the Member States. It shares decision-making power with the Council in a number of areas including research and education. http://www.europarl.eu.int/sg/tree/en/default.htm
ERA	European Research Area. On 18 January 2000, the EC issued a Communication entitled "Towards a European Research Area" which proposed ways in which research in Europe could be more effectively organised and coordinated. http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/area.html
ESC	European Economic and Social Committee is a consultative body made up of representatives of Europe's employers' organisations, trade unions, farmers, consumer groups and professional associations. http://www.ces.eu.int/ Press Releases: http://www.ces.eu.int/en/acs/fr_acs_press_rels.htm
ESF	European Science Foundation. http://www.esf.org/
ESF	The European Social Fund http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg05/esf/en/index.htm
Eureka	Eureka is a Europe-wide network for Industrial Research and Development. http://www3.eureka.be/Home/
FP (FP5, FP6)	The EU's Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. The Fifth Framework Programme (FP5) was adopted in 1998 and will run until 2002, when the next framework programme (FP6) is expected to supersede it. FP5 is composed of four thematic programmes (see QoL, IST, Growth, EESD) and three horizontal programmes (see INCO II,

	Innovation and SMEs, and IHP). http://www.cordis.lu/fp5
Green Paper	Green Papers are communications published by the European Commission on a specific policy area. Primarily they are documents addressed to interested parties who are invited to participate in a process of consultation and debate. In some cases they provide an impetus for subsequent legislation.
Growth	Competitive and Sustainable Growth (FP5) http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/
IHP	Improving Human Potential Programme (FP5) http://www.cordis.lu/improving/home.html
INCO II	Confirming the International Role of Community Research (FP5) http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/
INDU	The European Parliament Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy (FP5) http://www.europarl.eu.int/committees/en/default.htm
INNOVATION and SME	Promoting of Innovation and Encouragement of SME Participation (FP5) http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/
INTAS	International Association for the promotion of cooperation with scientists from the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union. http://www.intas.be/mainfs.htm
IST	Information Society Technologies Programme (FP5) http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/
MEDIA	The MEDIA Plus Programme (2001 - 2005) is to be introduced as a follow-up to the Media II programme which ends in December 2000. The programme aims to strengthen the competitiveness of the European audiovisual industry. Http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/dg10/avpolicy/media/index_en.html
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation http://www.nato.int/
PHARE	The Phare Programme is the European Union's instrument for financial and technical cooperation with the countries of central and eastern Europe. http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/pas/phare/index.htm
QoL	Quality of Life Programme (FP5) http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/
RTD	Research and Technological Development

- TACIS The Tacis Programme aims to forge closer economic and political links with the former republics of the Soviet Union and Mongolia (also known as New Independent States (NIS))
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg1a/tacis/index.htm>
- Treaty of Amsterdam The Treaty of Amsterdam was signed in October 1997 and entered into force on 1 May 1999.
<http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/treaties/index.html>
- White Paper White Papers are documents containing proposals for Community action in a specific area. They often follow a Green Paper.

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