

*News on EU Research Policy and Programmes*

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## **EU POLICY**

### **Accession Treaty Signed**

Ten of the countries intending to become EU Member States signed an Accession Treaty with the EU in April. The ten countries – Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia – will officially join the EU in May 2004. The accession of these countries will increase the population of the EU by 105 million people, and will expand the area of Europe by 34 per cent.

The three remaining candidate countries – Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey – were also present at the ceremony to sign the Treaty. The Greek Foreign Minister and President-in-Office of the European Council, George Papandreou, expressed confidence that the first two of these countries would also be welcomed as Member States in 2007.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Greek Presidency Press Release of 16/04/03, available at:

<http://www.eu2003.gr/en/articles/2003/4/16/2533/>

### **Hungarians Vote in Favour of the EU**

More than 83 per cent of the voters in the Hungarian referendum on EU entry have said 'yes'. The Hungarian binding referendum was the third of nine in a series to enlarge the EU from 15 to 25 Member States.

The turnout of 45.6 per cent was well below what was expected. By staying home, many Hungarians seem to have indicated their lack of interest or their fears of their country's accession to the EU. The referendum will be followed by a ratification of Hungary's Accession Treaty with the EU in the Hungarian Parliament. Referenda will be held in Lithuania and Slovakia during May.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

[http://www.valasztas.hu/outroot/en/10\\_0.html](http://www.valasztas.hu/outroot/en/10_0.html)

### **EU Exit Clause Proposed**

European Convention President, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, has proposed an 'exit clause' that would allow EU Member States to leave the EU voluntarily. The exit clause (Article 46 of the future Treaty), proposed to 105 European Convention members in April, would allow Member States to leave the EU, providing they give two years' notice. Under the proposed clause, any request to leave the EU would have to be approved by the EP and the Council of Ministers, and the terms of a country's exit from the EU would have to be agreed by a qualified majority.

The proposal will be further debated by the Convention; however, it has already attracted comments from some Convention members. The British Government representative, Peter Hain, said that the proposal was excellent, and warned that its rejection would strengthen arguments against the EU. In contrast, the Eurosceptic Democracy Forum attacked the proposal, arguing that Member States which wish to leave the EU will be forced to wait for two years while other Member States decide the terms.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://european-convention.eu.int/amendemTrait.asp?lang=EN>

### **Access to EU Documents**

The EU Council of Ministers has released figures which show that the number of requests for access to meeting papers has doubled since the entry into force of the 'access to documents' Directive in 2001. 80 per cent of the 2,394 requests have resulted in full disclosure. Council members have passed a positive judgement on the effect of the rule in enhancing the transparency of the EU. However, journalists and Member State officials have voiced criticism of the regulation.

The regulation underlines the EU's commitment to openness, but the Council reserves the right to retain documents which it classifies as 'secret, top secret or confidential,' which, if published, could jeopardise a Member State's negotiating stance in the legislative process, or could otherwise breach the security of decision-making developments. 173 documents were kept off the register books for this reason between December 2001 and the end of 2002. These 'exceptions' to the rules of total openness were introduced by the so-called 'Solana coup' in 2000 and follow the practice on security provisions used within NATO.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2001/l\\_145/l\\_14520010531en00430048.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2001/l_145/l_14520010531en00430048.pdf)

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat\\_general/sgc/acc\\_doc/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgc/acc_doc/index_en.htm)

### **SSC Makes Way for EFSA**

The Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) of the EC's Health and Consumer Protection DG closed its final meeting in April by finalising opinions on nineteen pending BSE-related issues and on the harmonisation of risk assessment approaches.

The Committee was created in 1997 and mandated with the co-ordination of the EC's eight scientific advisory committees. In its lifetime, it adopted almost 270 opinions, consulted more than 200 experts from 25 countries and provided the scientific basis for more than 30 legislative proposals. In the future, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) will provide the scientific advice that the EC uses to manage food safety issues at EU level.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

EC Press Release number IP/03/551 of 16/04/03, available at:

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

A short document summarising the history of the SSC and its work is available at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/ssc/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/ssc/index_en.html)

The European Food Safety Authority website is available at:

<http://www.efsa.eu.int>

### **MEPs Told Biotech is Not New or Scary**

At the first annual lecture of the EP's Scientific and Technological Options Assessment (STOA) division, Nobel prize-winner Dr Kary Mullis suggested that genetic modification is

nothing new, citing the examples of corn and wheat, which have been modified for thousands of years, and more recent developments such as seedless watermelons. Speaking to an audience of journalists, scientists, researchers and MEPs, Dr Mullis' lecture on 'Risks and opportunities in the biotechnology era' aimed to put the 'hysteria' surrounding biotechnology into perspective. He blamed the negative perception of biotechnology on the use of inflammatory language, stating that 'The new vocabulary of bio-technology scares us. What was once called horticulture is now called genetic modification'. He added that even biological warfare was not a new phenomenon, pointing out that many of the American Indians had died due to white men handing out blankets containing the smallpox virus.

Further, he criticised MEPs who have demanded the toxicity testing of up to 35,000 chemicals, allowing companies to make money out of unnecessary testing when it is impossible to test all chemicals for their potential effects on the endocrine system. He said that there are an infinite number of chemical combinations and doses, and that politicians are over-legislating in this area. Wrapping up the debate, UK MEP Eryl McNally agreed that new vocabulary and media speculation can give rise to irrational fears, but that the EU gave a great deal of importance to the precautionary principle.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

EP News Report of 26/03/03, online at 01/04/03, available at:

[http://www.europarl.eu.int/press/index\\_publi\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.eu.int/press/index_publi_en.htm)

**EC Consultation on Feed/Food**

The EC's Health and Consumer Protection DG has issued a consultation paper entitled 'On a generic approach to the safety assessment of micro-organisms used in feed/food production'. Comments on the working paper, produced by members of the Scientific Committees on Animal Nutrition, Food and Plants, should be submitted by 30 June.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

The Working Paper is available at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/scf/out178\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/scf/out178_en.pdf)

Comments should be emailed to:

[Sanco-sc2-secretariat@cec.eu.int](mailto:Sanco-sc2-secretariat@cec.eu.int)

**Promoting Women Entrepreneurs**

Progress in the EC's joint drive with Member States to promote women entrepreneurs has been assessed at a European Forum on Female Entrepreneurship in Brussels. The essential contribution of women entrepreneurs to economic activity, employment, innovation, growth and social inclusiveness was stressed by EC Enterprise Commissioner Erkki Liikanen in a message to the Forum.

Although rising, the percentage of female entrepreneurs in Europe remains low; female self-employment amounts to only 28 per cent of the total in Europe and is increasing very slowly, compared to 35 per cent in the USA, where it is growing rapidly. Promoting women entrepreneurs is vital to the Lisbon target of making Europe the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the World. The Forum presented the results of a project on 'Promoting Entrepreneurship amongst Women', launched in 2001, in which the EC identified and disseminated good practice in Member States' measures for promoting female entrepreneurship. The Forum also presented various other EU policies

that help promote female entrepreneurship, including research, innovation and the Structural Funds.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/entrepreneurship/craft/craft-women/documents/study-female-entrepreneurship-en.pdf>

### **Co-operation Guidelines for Standardisation Work**

The European single market's potential to deliver growth and jobs, and the social inclusiveness and accountability of Europe's standardisation model, should be enhanced by new co-operation guidelines signed by the EC, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the European standards organisations.

These guidelines provide for more extensive involvement of NGOs in the joint work of the European Committee for standardisation (CEN), the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation (CENELEC) and the European Telecommunications Standard Institute (ETSI). Europe's standards help manufacturers use state of the art technology to meet public interest requirements. They embody a societal consensus on how best to complete the single market and foster technological innovation.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/standards\\_policy/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/standards_policy/index.htm)

## **RESEARCH NEWS**

### **Participation of Candidate Countries in FP6**

The EC has issued a call for proposals for 'Specific Support Actions' to stimulate, encourage and facilitate the participation of the 13 associated candidate countries in FP6. The call for project proposals, which has a budget of €13 million, is open until 26 June 2003.

Although candidate countries enjoy the same rights and obligations as EU Member States in FP6, the EC believes that the difficult transition period they are experiencing requires additional EU support to help them to maximise their potential and contribute to the ERA. The aim of the projects to be financed is to promote candidate countries' knowledge and skills, and to network their high quality research centres and SMEs with other scientific and industrial establishments in the EU Member States.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

EC Press Release IP/03/498 of 04/04/03, available from:

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

### **New FP6 Mailboxes**

The EC's Research DG has set up special e-mailboxes. One concerns legal and financial issues concerning the implementation and management of FP6; the other concerns the new instruments introduced in FP6 (Integrated Projects and Networks of Excellence).

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Questions on legal and financial issues can be e-mailed to:

[RTD-A03-questions-juridiques@cec.eu.int](mailto:RTD-A03-questions-juridiques@cec.eu.int)

Questions on the new instruments can be e-mailed to:

[RTD-B2-new-instruments@cec.eu.int](mailto:RTD-B2-new-instruments@cec.eu.int)

**Move to Ban Stem Cell Research**

The EP has backed a plan to regulate the use of human tissues and cells in the EU, but added amendments that ban therapeutic cloning and limit research into human embryonic stem cells. The EP adopted in April a report by Peter Liese on the EC proposal setting quality and safety standards for the donation, procurement, testing, processing, storage and distribution of human tissues and cells. More than 80 amendments were adopted to the report in first reading under the co-decision procedure; these mainly concerned the scope of the directive, ethical considerations, compensation for tissue and cell donation, anonymity and donor consent.

MEPs rejected two amendments that would have banned research involving the destruction of human embryos. The proposal will be discussed by the Health Council on 2 June.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+DN-20030410-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=X&LSTDOC=N#SECTION1>

The draft report on the proposal for a directive on setting standards of quality and safety for the donation, procurement, testing, processing, storage, and distribution of human tissues and cells is available from:

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/committees/envi/20030219/470384en.pdf>

**European Researchers Combat Parkinson's Disease**

New techniques to improve the quality of life of Parkinson's disease sufferers which have resulted from EU-financed research projects were unveiled on 11 April, World Parkinson's Disease Day. EU research into this debilitating disorder includes the PARREHA (PARKinsonians REHAbilitation) project, designed to help Parkinson's sufferers overcome their symptoms through visual stimuli and sounds. Researchers have developed a 'virtual reality room', as well as special glasses to provide patients with audio-visual reference points, and to improve their mobility and independence.

In addition, the EC is funding the €1.7 million 'EuroPa' network for clinical research and treatment of Parkinson's disease. 'EuroPa' brings together clinical centres in Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. It aims to look into the underlying causes and possible new therapies to combat brain diseases.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Information on the PARREHA project is available at

<http://www.parreha.com/>

Information on the EuroPa project is available at:

<http://www.europarkinson.net>

## **Oldest DNA Discovered**

Danish scientists have discovered the oldest DNA found to date in the permafrost of northeast Siberia. Samples taken from frozen ground between the Kolyma and Lena rivers of Siberia, were found to contain plant and animal DNA dating back between 300,000 and 400,000 years.

This is an important discovery in terms of ecosystem history, and provides a new technique in examining past plant and animal life. The research team will now extend their work to other permafrost regions, as well as in warmer climates.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

CORDIS Press Release 20132 of 23/04/03, available from:

<http://www.cordis.lu/news>

## **Arab-Israeli Crop-Research Partnership**

Researchers in drought-prone countries in the Mediterranean, including Egypt, Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Greece and Cyprus, have, through an EU-funded project, pooled resources in order to devise a common strategy for sustainable water use in horticulture. The project also provides an opportunity to develop new professional and personal ties between Israeli, Egyptian and Palestinian experts.

The 'Hortimed' project has been driven by the need to preserve fresh water for use in Mediterranean towns and cities. Using advanced technology, researchers are exploring means of reducing crop dependency upon fresh water, without compromising the quality of the crop yield. This includes exploring climate control to lower transpiration rates in greenhouses, and maximising the potential for recycling water. On the other hand, researchers intend to make the best possible use of low quality water by increasing the crops' saline tolerance with fertilisers and nutrients.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

EC Press Release IP/03/527 of 10/04/03, available from:

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

Information on the HORTIMED project can be found at:

[http://dbs.cordis.lu/fep-cgi/srchidadb?ACTION=D&SESSION=183262003-4-1&DOC=1&TBL=EN\\_PROJ&RCN=EP\\_RCN\\_A:51645&CALLER=PROJ\\_FP5](http://dbs.cordis.lu/fep-cgi/srchidadb?ACTION=D&SESSION=183262003-4-1&DOC=1&TBL=EN_PROJ&RCN=EP_RCN_A:51645&CALLER=PROJ_FP5)

## **Eco-efficiency in Public Administrations**

An EU research project is attempting to lay down easy-to-use guidelines for local authorities to adopt a more environmentally friendly approach to the purchase of electricity, construction, information technology equipment, food and public transport. The 'RELIEF' project, which involves six local authorities in five European countries (Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Sweden and Switzerland), is the first of its kind to quantify the environmental impact of switching to eco-friendly products, as well as the financial gains that can be made by using more efficient products.

The project has already suggested that a significant proportion (18 per cent) of the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions agreed to by the EU in Kyoto can be achieved by switching to renewable energy. Similarly, it has suggested that the purchase of organic

food for consumption in public canteens would help to reduce damage to European soils and waters.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

EC Press Release IP/03/452 of 28/03/2003, available from:

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

Or see:

<http://www.iclei.org/ecoprocura/relief/>

## **Armaments and Research Agency**

The EP has approved a resolution calling for a new EU-wide security and defence architecture. The report by French MP General Philippe Morillon outlines a new approach to the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). According to the resolution, the current split within the EU on key foreign policy issues is highly regrettable, since Europe should become a credible international actor and a free partner of the United States. The resolution calls for the creation of a new defence architecture that would include, among other things, a collective defence clause, a common defence budget, an Armaments and Research Agency and an Institute of Advanced Defence Studies.

The EP also proposes the drafting of a Security Strategy for the EU that would help improve Europe's ties with the US and would enhance worldwide stability. From 2004, the EP wants the EU to have a 5,000-strong emergency force for humanitarian and rescue operations. Under the resolution, the EU should take over NATO's operation in Macedonia and should also assume command of SFOR in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?L=EN&OBJID=10997&LEVEL=3&MODE=SIP&NAV=X&LSTDOC=N>

## **European Attitudes Towards the Environment**

The results of a new Eurobarometer Survey, entitled 'The attitudes of Europeans towards the environment' show that while environmental issues remain top of the list of priority issues of European citizens, opinions are changing with regards to the main causes of pollution and what action should be taken. 16,000 European citizens were polled in this survey.

Asked to indicate which causes of environmental degradation most worried them, 50 per cent of respondents said that nuclear disasters ranked highest on their list of concerns, with 45 per cent saying industrial disasters. More traditionally perceived problems, like air pollution, natural disasters, water pollution and the elimination of tropical rainforests, also still preoccupy many Europeans and were quoted by over 41 per cent of respondents. One interesting development since the last survey in 1999 is that Greece is now the most worried of the Member States, while the Netherlands is the least worried. In terms of what can be done, opinions among Europeans are equally divided. 50 per cent said that they believed that their actions could help reverse current environmental trends, while the other 50 per cent felt that their actions would make no difference. However, 65 per cent of Europeans said that their actions could have an impact if others were similarly committed to taking action. In general terms, 44 per cent of those polled said they were pessimistic about the future, while 45 per cent expressed optimism that changing behaviour patterns could bring positive results.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

The results of the survey are available from:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/barometer/index.htm>

## **EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CULTURE**

### **Approval for Erasmus World**

The EP has given its approval for the 'Erasmus World' programme. The programme, which will run from 2004 to 2008, aims to achieve closer links between European universities and to make them more attractive to students and teachers from outside Europe.

The EP has recommended a number of amendments to the programme. MEPs want the programme to be renamed 'Erasmus Mundus' instead of 'Erasmus World', to emphasise Europe's cultural diversity. They also want to raise the budget by 100 million to 300 million euro. In order to best promote language skills, MEPs feel that Erasmus Mundus Master courses should involve the use of at least two languages. Finally, MEPs introduced references to equality between men and women, so as to promote equal opportunities. The EC will issue a call for proposals in November 2003, and the programme will be implemented from September 2004.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+DN-20030408-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=X&LSTDOC=N#SECTION9>

### **Extension of Culture 2000 and MEDIA?**

The EC has proposed that the current Community programmes on culture and the audiovisual industry remain unchanged until the end of 2006, in order to ensure continuity until the new programming round begins in 2007.

EC Education and Culture Commissioner, Viviane Reding, said that the extension of the current programmes would mean that the new generation of programmes could be prepared in an unhurried atmosphere. Currently, the MEDIA Plus and MEDIA Training programmes should expire at the end of 2005, and Culture 2000 at the end of 2004. Commissioner Reding will making proposals to the EC by the end of 2003 for the programmes to follow from 2007.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

EC Release number IP/03/549 of 16/04/03, available at:

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

### **eLearning Programme Resolution**

The EP has adopted a resolution on the eLearning Programme, which supports actions to integrate Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in education and training systems in Europe. In their resolution, MEPs emphasised that the need to train teachers

on ICT is a key priority. In 2002, 90 per cent of primary schools and 98 per cent of secondary schools were connected to the internet, but only 39 per cent of primary school teachers and 50 per cent of secondary school teachers used the internet as a teaching tool. Dramatic differences exist between Member States.

The EP's rapporteur, Marco Maurio, made three other main comments on the EC's proposal for the programme. First, the multi-annual budget should be €54 million instead of the €36 million initially proposed by the EC. Second, the rapporteur believes that the breakdown of the budget between the various actions is unsatisfactory, and feels that other community funding is more appropriate in terms of fighting the digital divide. The budget should be concentrated on enabling primary and secondary schools to exchange best practice in digital literacy. Third, school twinning via the internet must be applicable to both secondary and primary schools.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+DN-20030408-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=X&LSTDOC=N#SECTION11>

## **EXTERNAL COLLABORATION**

### **EU-Ukraine Space Co-operation**

At the first meeting of the 'EU-Ukraine Joint ad hoc Working Group on Peaceful Use of Outer Space', Ukrainian space authorities have called for increased collaboration between the Ukraine and Europe in space. Ukraine has offered to modify its long-term space programme with the objective of integrating it into the emerging EU space strategy. The development of space co-operation with the Ukraine had already been referred to explicitly in the EU/Ukraine Partnership and Co-operation Agreement of March 2000.

The Ukraine inherited approximately 15 per cent of the space-related capabilities of the former Soviet Union. Important research centres have been established, representing a significant amount of expertise, and other investments have been made in the space sector. Commercial space-related activities are not currently thriving in the Ukraine, but industrial co-operation is ongoing with both American and European space industries, notably in the area of launcher technologies. Increased co-operation with the EU is a key priority for the Ukrainian Government. In 2002 the Ukrainian President proposed a wide-ranging reform programme, with accession to the EU in 2011 as its ultimate objective.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/space/articles/news/news28\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/space/articles/news/news28_en.html)

## **EVENTS and AWARDS**

### **European Congress on Biotechnology**

The European Federation of Biotechnology is organising the 11<sup>th</sup> European congress on biotechnology, to be held from 24 to 29 August in Basel, Switzerland.

The congress will focus on building bridges between biosciences and bioengineering and will include symposia on the most recent developments in the field. Specific topics include biotechnology for animal and human health; functional genomics, proteomics and metabolomics; nanobiotechnology; and economic aspects of biotechnology (start-ups, spin-offs). There will also be a parallel international biotechnology exhibition involving industry, biotechnology organisations and technology transfer organisations.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.ecb11.ch/>

### **Scientific Knowledge and Cultural Diversity**

The 8<sup>th</sup> PCST Conference will take place in Barcelona, Spain, from 3 to 6 June 2004. The event is intended to open up debate on the global discourse of science in a range of local culture and knowledge environments.

The issues will be addressed from cross-discipline approaches, such as ethics (science and science communication ethics) and innovation in the PCST frame. Furthermore, a special review will be devoted to future generations (future scientists and communicators) and women. Within the main conference theme, the conference will include the following sub-themes: native knowledge and modern science; the history of science and the popularisation of science; science communication and social participation; and fields and strategies of science communication.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Information on how to submit an abstract is available from the conference website at:

<http://www.pcst2004.org/>

Registration forms, on-line registration, accommodation details, and other information related to the event will be available via the conference web site from August 2003.

### **Governance of the European Research Area**

The EC is organising a conference entitled 'Governance of the European Research Area: the role of civil society', which will take place in Brussels on 12 and 13 June. The event is designed as a forum for discussing participatory processes in ERA, and an opportunity to develop a common understanding of civil society's participation in Community research.

The event is aimed at research policy makers, governance experts, representatives from civil society, researchers and practitioners in participatory processes, scientists, and business representatives. Speakers at the conference will include Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin, and Director of the Research DG's Science and Society Directorate, Rainer Gerold.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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## **NEW PUBLICATIONS and ON-LINE RESOURCES**

### **Research DG Annual Report 2002**

The EC's Research DG has published a report of activities, covering the period from January 2001 to March 2002. The new report provides a useful summary of the many interesting developments in EU RTD policy in this period, as well as statistics on FP5 proposals and contracts.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

The report is available from:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/reports/2002/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/reports/2002/index_en.html)

### **Assessing the Impact of Scientific Advice**

A special edition of the IPTS (Institute for Prospective Technological Studies) report, argues that a new form of co-operation between scientists and policy makers is needed to overcome public distrust of scientists and politicians and the challenges facing society today.

The special edition has been compiled in order to assess the impact of scientific advice. The issue reflects upon the social responsibilities of scientific experts; communicating scientific advice to the public; public participation in decision making on science and technology; assessing the impact of scientific advice; and the impact of the European Research Advisory Board (EURAB). In the editorial, the authors outline the traditional relationship between scientists and policy makers as well as the reasons why this relationship must now be reassessed.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

For further information on the IPTS report, please contact:

IPTS JRC Seville

Tel: +34 95 448 82 97

E-mail: [ipts\\_secr@jrc.es](mailto:ipts_secr@jrc.es)

Or see:

<http://www.jrc.es/pages/f-report.en.html>

### **Agricultural Situation in the EU**

The EC has published a new report, the 'Agricultural situation in the European Union: 2001 report'.

The first part of the report presents the agricultural situation and year's activities. Policy developments and trends are described and the different agricultural sectors and policy areas are reviewed. The economic situation, market trends, rural development issues, external trade relations, and the financing of the common agricultural policy are all discussed. The second part of the report comprises a wide range of statistics on agriculture in the EU, broken down by Member State.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

The report is available from:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/publi/agrep2001/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/publi/agrep2001/index_en.htm)

## **EC Study on Innovation Policy**

The EC has published a study entitled 'Innovation Tomorrow', which analyses how to increase the effectiveness of EU innovation policies. Since the EC's 1995 Green Paper on Innovation, there has been widespread recognition that innovation policy needs to influence other policy fields so as to avoid inconsistencies.

The study argues that a 'third generation' innovation policy, which recognises the centrality of innovation to all policy areas, is essential in increasing the innovation performance of today's economy. As opposed to earlier generations of innovation policy, based on the linear, research-dependent perception of innovation, and the current generation which supports the systemic nature of innovation, this third generation would reflect the horizontal nature of innovation and the need for innovation to become an integrated dimension of traditional policies. The publication looks at three case studies highlighting different aspects of policy. The study also shows that governments have a clear role in encouraging innovation.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

The study can be downloaded from:

[http://www.cordis.lu/innovation-policy/studies/gen\\_study7.htm](http://www.cordis.lu/innovation-policy/studies/gen_study7.htm)

## **e-Business Legal Portal for SMEs**

The EC's Enterprise DG has launched web portal containing information on the legal aspects of e-business, aimed specifically at small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). The information is available in 12 languages.

Ebusinesslex.net has been set up in order to facilitate cross-border electronic commerce within the EU single market. The site contains information and resources on a range of relevant issues; these include contractual aspects, online payments, privacy and data protection and intellectual property rights. There is also a frequently asked questions (FAQ) section, an e-business legislation database, and references to self-regulatory initiatives.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

<http://www.ebusinesslex.net/index.asp>

## **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.

URL: <http://www.cordis.lu>

## **IGLO Project Search**

The IGLO Project Service offers a forum for publishing and disseminating details of proposed FP6 project and/or research skills offered. Using the service will enable researchers to find contacts and partners within the international research community as

well as contributing to the mobilisation of a critical mass of researchers in a specific research area.

URL: <http://www.iglortd.org/>

## **EUR-LEX (Official Journal C and L)**

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 forty-five 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).

URL: 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 official European Union's Server. It contains links to the European EP, the European Council, the Commission and other EU institutions and contains information on EU policies listed by subject area.

URL: <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.

EC Press Releases are available at:

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

## **GLOSSARY**

A&S	Aeronautics and Space Priority (FP6) <a href="http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm">http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm</a>
C&G	Citizens and Governance Priority (FP6) <a href="http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm">http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm</a>
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. <a href="http://www.netmaniacs.com/cost/">http://www.netmaniacs.com/cost/</a>
'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](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/culture/index_en.html)
- 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](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm)
- 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](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/sq/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](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/>
- FQS Food Quality and Safety Priority (FP6)  
<http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm>

FP (FP5, FP6)	<p>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.</p> <p>FP5 is composed of four thematic programmes (see QoL, IST, Growth, EESD) and three horizontal programmes (see INCO II, Innovation and SMEs, and IHP).  <a href="http://www.cordis.lu/fp5">http://www.cordis.lu/fp5</a></p>
GBH	<p>Genomics and Biotechnology for Health Priority (FP6)  <a href="http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm">http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm</a></p>
Green Paper	<p>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.</p>
ITRE	<p>The European Parliament Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy (FP5)  <a href="http://www.europarl.eu.int/committees/en/default.htm">http://www.europarl.eu.int/committees/en/default.htm</a></p>
INTAS	<p>International Association for the promotion of cooperation with scientists from the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union.  <a href="http://www.intas.be/mainfs.htm">http://www.intas.be/mainfs.htm</a></p>
IST	<p>Information Society Technologies Priority (FP6)  <a href="http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm">http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm</a></p>
MEDIA	<p>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.  <a href="http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/dg10/avpolicy/media/index_en.html">http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/dg10/avpolicy/media/index_en.html</a></p>
Mobility	<p>Human Resources and Mobility Programme (FP6)  <a href="http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm">http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm</a></p>
NATO	<p>North Atlantic Treaty Organisation  <a href="http://www.nato.int/">http://www.nato.int/</a></p>
NMP	<p>Nanotechnology, Materials and Production Priority (FP6)  <a href="http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm">http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm</a></p>
PHARE	<p>The Phare Programme is the European Union's instrument for financial and technical cooperation with the countries of central and eastern Europe.  <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/pas/phare/index.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/pas/phare/index.htm</a></p>
RTD	<p>Research and Technological Development</p>

SDGC	Sustainable Development and Global Change Priority (FP6) <a href="http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm">http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm</a>
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)) <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg1a/tacis/index.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg1a/tacis/index.htm</a>
Treaty of Amsterdam	The Treaty of Amsterdam was signed in October 1997 and entered into force on 1 May 1999. <a href="http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/treaties/index.html">http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/treaties/index.html</a>
UUK	Universities UK (formerly the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals) <a href="http://universitiesuk.ac.uk">http://universitiesuk.ac.uk</a>
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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