
News on EU Research Policy and Programmes

Issue: EI 05:12 – 1 December 2005

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EU POLICY.....	2
Into the future.....	2
EU informal summit.....	2
Blair's plans to reform the EU.....	3
Communicating European research 2005.....	3
Public register of EC expert groups.....	4
European group on ethics.....	5
EC to promote multilingualism.....	5
Euro-Mediterranean partnership reviews progress.....	5
European partnership to promote alternative approaches to animal testing.....	6
EU rules on advanced therapies.....	6
REACH is approved.....	7
RESEARCH NEWS.....	8
JRC study on modern biotechnology.....	8
Getting to the root of the problem.....	8
Restoring land sustainability with our waste.....	9
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CULTURE.....	9
Doctoral programmes for the European knowledge society.....	9
Learn more languages!.....	10
EXTERNAL COLLABORATION.....	10
World summit on the information society.....	10
Turkey joins Culture 2000.....	11
Norway gets a Brussels-based EU research office.....	11
Renewable energy.....	12
EVENTS and AWARDS.....	12
European conference on security.....	12
Conference on co-operation with the Western Balkans.....	13
NEW PUBLICATIONS and ONLINE RESOURCES.....	13
Monitoring for environment and security (GMES).....	13
European values in the globalised world.....	13
Voice your opinion on the EC research website.....	14
A change to the Cordis web address.....	14
New website on 'EU in your country'.....	15
EC develops new tenders electronic daily (TED) facilities.....	15
CORDIS.....	16
IGLO Project Search.....	16
EUR-LEX (Official Journal C and L).....	16
EUROPA.....	16
RAPID.....	16
GLOSSARY.....	17

EU POLICY

Into the future

The EC adopted its work programme for 2006 on 25 October, setting out its key priorities for the year 2006. The work programme translates the annual policy strategy into objectives and an operational programme of decisions to be adopted by the Commission. It sets out major political priorities and identifies legislative initiatives, executive and other acts that the EC intends to adopt for the realisation of these priorities. In March 2005 the EC published its Annual Policy Strategy. EP and Council reactions to the Strategy have been taken into account in developing the work programme.

The 2006 Work Programme focuses on the key strategic objectives which the EC set out at the start of its mandate: prosperity, solidarity, security and Europe as a world partner. Knowledge and innovation for growth and better jobs is a major item under the 'prosperity' heading. It is suggested that a European Institute of Technology (EIT) could act as flagship for knowledge and innovation in Europe. In the context of the European Year of Mobility for Workers, the EC will work to improve geographical and occupational mobility through the transparency, transfer and recognition of qualifications in the Union. A mid-term review of the Work Programme in the summer of 2006 will allow the EC to take stock and to amend the priority list where appropriate.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

available at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/atwork/programmes/index_en.htm.

EU informal summit

On 27 October, after the informal meeting of the European Council, the EU Heads of State or Government (including UK Prime Minister, Tony Blair), and President of the EC, José Manuel Barroso, held a press conference to review the outcomes of the day. They also answered questions on some of the major policy issues. Tony Blair described the purpose of the summit as trying to set a clear direction on how Europe responds to the challenges of globalisation - a direction for reform, and in particular the need to 'reconnect Europe with the concerns of the citizens of Europe'. Some streams of work were identified below which will be further outlined in the December summit. Conclusions will then be drawn at the March summit of 2006.

As well as reviewing Europe's economic and social policy, some new directions were required, including 'the need to boost significantly research and development, and innovation, and support for the knowledge economy in the EU.' The issue of university reform was also identified, specifically the need to develop 'strong centres of excellence across the EU, able to compete, not just with the United States but also with the emerging economies of China and India and elsewhere.' A third action line was an agreement to take forward work in the energy sector towards establishing a common European grid, something which the UK had previously objected to. More co-ordinated action against illegal immigration was called for, whilst it is also necessary to recognise the benefits to Europe of lawful immigration. The work-life balance is also something which requires addressing, not least as the European population ages, with fewer and fewer people of working age. In conclusion, Tony Blair highlighted that some areas require that Europe does more, and some areas require that Europe actually does less, not least where the

amount of regulation is concerned. Mr Blair also took the opportunity to welcome the contribution of the newer Member States, who have contributed greatly to discussions.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

available from the UK Presidency News pages, including outcomes of the informal meeting at: <http://www.eu2005.gov.uk/>

Blair's plans to reform the EU

Tony Blair spoke to MEPs in Strasbourg on 27 October, outlining his reform plan for the EU. He said that research, universities, legal migration, work/life balance, and clean energy all needed a new focus, and are vital to ensuring that Europe and its citizens are able to compete in a global economy. The aim of the Blair's parliamentary speech was to refuel interest in his economic reform plan for the EU, in advance of the Hampton Court Summit. The Summit focused on globalisation and the role of Europe in relation to globalisation. In his speech, Mr Blair declared his support for a European Research Council and for Europe's universities, stating that we need deeper co-ordination in order to boost research and innovation. He also emphasised the important of role of education to economic and social cohesion. With respect to agreeing the EU budget, Blair stated that this can not be achieved until there is a clear consensus about the direction of the EU.

The EC's contribution to the informal summit has been presented in the form of a communication entitled 'European values in the globalised world'.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

available at <http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page8384.asp>

Communicating European research 2005

On 14-15 November 2005, the EC held its second Communicating European Research Event (CER), this time at a much larger venue in the Heysel Expopark, Brussels. Over 2,500 scientists, journalists and policy makers attended the event.

The event itself was a chance for interactions around many important issues relating to communication of science, and specifically, but not limited to, the communication of FP6 projects. The conference was initiated by a welcome speech from the former Commissioner for Research, Philippe Busquin, now an MEP and leading the EPs STOA (Science and Technology Options Assessment) advisory committee. Busquin made particular reference to the importance of scientific communication to increasing interest levels of society, particularly amongst young people, and to help recruit new researchers. A specific target of the Lisbon Agenda is to have 600,000 new researchers in Europe by 2010. Janez Potočnik, the current Commissioner for Science and Research, continued the message stating that there was a real need to improve the means of communication and of improving the image of science in society. In particular he called for a better use of television, as it is estimated that seven out of ten EU citizens get the majority of their information from this medium. In particular the Commissioner highlighted the work of CORDIS, as the ECs website for science and technology, now celebrating its fifteenth anniversary. Potočnik also gave insight that CORDIS would be developed in the future to

accommodate a tool for training journalists in EU scientific communication. The Commissioner for Information Society, Viviane Reding, also spoke at the opening session of the conference and made the case for the important contribution of information technologies to communication, particularly in the light of a funding level in the EU per person per year for IT research, that is less than a quarter of that in the US and Japan.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Commissioner Potočník's CER 2005 speech, reference 'SPEECH/05/685', available at:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/searchAction.do>.

CER 2005 event pages, available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2005/cer2005/index_en.html

Cordis webpages and guidance notes on a successful communications strategy available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/science-society/science-communication/comstrategy_en.html

Public register of EC expert groups

The EC has set up an online register of expert groups with the aim to give a transparent overview of the advisory bodies that assist it and its services in preparing legislative proposals and policy initiatives.

The new register covers formal and informal advisory bodies and it provides information on the nature and tasks of each group. It also indicates which department within the EC is responsible for overseeing the group. The register classifies the participants in broad categories (scientists, academics, practitioners, industry etc...) but it does not contain any information on individual experts, mainly for data protection and privacy reasons. Nonetheless, and providing that formal data protection requirements have been respected, links to information about the identity of members of specific groups will be included in the register. The new register provides information on expert groups, created by the EC to help in its day to day work. However, it does not cover the 250 'Comitology Committees' which are established by under EU rules to assist the Commission in using its executive powers to implement legislation, nor the joint bodies resulting from international agreements to supervise their implementation.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

EC press release [IP/05/1382 of 8 November 2005](#) available at:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/setLanguage.do?language=en>.

The register of expert groups is available from the EC website at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/regexp/

and the register of comitology is located at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/regcomito/?CL=en.

A list of Joint Entities resulting from international agreements can be found at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/joint_entities/index_en.htm

European group on ethics

The President of the EC, Jose Manuel Barroso, has appointed 15 members of the European group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE) for 2005 – 2009. Nine members have been appointed for the first time, while six members have been reappointed from the previous mandate. The European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE) is an independent body that provides advice to the Commission on ethics issues in the field of science, in relation to Community legislation and policies. The members of the group come from a range of different academic fields and disciplines.

The previous EGE mandate expired in March 2005, and the Commission took the opportunity to revise the mandate. Instead of 12 members the group now has 15 members. It therefore also has a broader range of competences. Issues that are likely to feature early on in the work of the group are stem cells and nanomedicine. From the UK, the group is joined by Professor Julian Kinderlerer, Institute of Biotechnological Law and Ethics, University of Sheffield. The work of the previous EGE group is available in a General Report for the 2000–05 mandate.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

available at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/european_group_ethics/index_en.htm

EC to promote multilingualism

On 22 November the EC adopted its first ever Communication on the issue of multilingualism, supporting the idea that speaking more languages is important for personal development. The Communication examines some of the EC related policies and proposes some specific actions in the key areas of society, economy and the relations between the EC and EU citizens. The EC has made a call upon Member States to enhance the teaching, learning and use of languages and has launched a new web portal on languages.

For the EC, language skills are vital as life skills to ensure mobility of workers in the EU, and the EC also notes the impact of shortages of language skills. The EC has therefore increased its efforts to make its own websites better available in other languages and has stated that it will invest more in language related research, using new information and communication technologies. The EC has requested that Member States work on national action plans and that a High-Level Group on Multilingualism should be set up.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

EC web portal on multilingualism, available at:
<http://www.europa.eu.int/languages/>

Euro-Mediterranean partnership reviews progress

A special meeting was held in the week of the 21 November 2005 in the Moroccan capital, Rabat, to examine the progress that had been made since the Barcelona Declaration ten years ago. The declaration made in 1995 sought to enhance co-operation

between the EU and ten Mediterranean countries, on political, economic and cultural issues. High on the agenda at the beginning of the week were the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, the fight against terrorism and the avian flu outbreak.

Ten years, after the original Barcelona conference, reviews of progress and achievements are mixed, with the Parliament identifying in October this year that much still needed to be done to realise the potential of the Declaration. Chairing the Assembly, President of the Parliament, Josep Borrell warned those present that the economic gaps between countries continued to grow and he urged that the best way to increase foreign direct investment was through good governance. The next meeting of the Assembly will take place in March 2006 in Brussels.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

EP press release, available at:

http://www.europarl.eu.int/news/expert/infopress_page/030-2698-325-11-47-903-20051121IPR02644-21-11-2005-2005--false/default_en.htm

Euromed Partnership website, available at:

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/president/euromed/en/default.htm>

European partnership to promote alternative approaches to animal testing

A European partnership to promote alternative approaches to animal testing was agreed on 7 November 2005. The EC and industry associations in the pharmaceuticals, chemicals, cosmetics and biotechnology sectors will be working together on the initiative. It is hoped that this will lead to a reduction in the estimated 10.7 million animals used for testing purposes in Europe each year. The '3 Rs Declaration' agreed by the Commission and industry associations, including CEFIC (the European Chemical Industry Council), ECPA (the European Crop Protection Association) and EFPIA (the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations), establishes a voluntary partnership aimed at refining, reducing or replacing (the three Rs) animal tests.

The action plan will be devised in early 2006 and include proposals to promote the development, validation and regulatory acceptance of alternative approaches. These could include mapping of research activities, research cooperation, the development of intelligent testing strategies, and practical mechanisms to gain regulatory acceptance for alternative approaches. The Commission will take this group's work into account in the development of future research policy.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

EC press release IP/05/1375 of 07/11/2005 available from:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/setLanguage.do?language=en>

EU rules on advanced therapies

The EC has proposed new EU-wide rules addressing advanced therapies to include gene, cell and tissue-based therapies. These advanced therapies are being increasingly used in the treatment of diseases or injuries including cancer, Parkinson's disease, for skin grafts in burn victims and persons with cartilage damage. At present each member state has a range of national approaches and it has been decided it is time to co-ordinate

an EU wide approach. The main aim of the proposal is to guarantee a high level of health protection for European patients treated with advanced therapy products.

The EC has proposed a centralised marketing authorisation procedure; a new expert Committee; strengthened requirement for risk management and traceability; and top-quality scientific advice. There will also be special incentives for small and medium-sized enterprises. The ethical decisions regarding whether a member state chooses to use germ cells or embryonic stem cells will remain under the full control and responsibility of the individual member states. The proposal is based on an extensive public consultation with all stakeholders and a comprehensive impact assessment.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

available on the EU website at: <http://pharmacos.eudra.org/F2/advtherapies/index.htm>

REACH is approved

On Thursday 17 November the EP adopted the Commission's proposal for a Directive on Registration, Evaluation, and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH). Labelled as the most important piece of legislation in this EP's term, the REACH Directive outlines a single approach to testing of chemicals. It contains three elements. *Registration* requires for manufacturers and importers to gather information on substances manufactured, imported or used. Under *Evaluation*, analysis will be carried out by national authorities, on registered substances that are of concern. The proposal allows for the possibility of banning chemical products on the basis of human health and environmental safety concerns.

The proposal also contains measures requiring industry to substitute dangerous substances where alternatives are available. *Authorisation* involves seeking permission for use from the EU Commission authorities for substances with hazardous properties that are of concern. Other aspects include minimising animal testing through the regular adaptation of testing methods; a strengthened role for the newly developed EU Chemical Agency in evaluating dossiers and substances; and the creation of a Helpdesk to assist SMEs with the implementation of the Directive. The Parliament's vote has been welcomed by the Commission. The next step is for the Council to adopt a common position on REACH.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Full details of the REACH Directive and the EP's vote can be found on the EP website at <http://www.europarl.eu.int/>

RESEARCH NEWS

JRC study on modern biotechnology

The ECs in-house research facility, the Joint Research Centre (JRC), is launching a study on the social, economic and environmental consequences and challenges of modern biotechnology.

The results from the 2005 biotechnology report, which is the third report on the 2002 'Community Strategy for Europe on Life Sciences and Biotechnology', confirm that biotechnology is an important economic player and can be a major contributor in achieving EU goals on economic growth and job creation. If compared to the US biotech industry, the EU sector has approximately the same number of companies; employs nearly half as many people; spends one third as much on Research and Development; raises three or four times less venture capital and has access to four times less debt finance; and it raises about half the revenue of the US sector. The financing gap appears to be the biggest barrier to competitiveness in biotechnology. The problems do not seem to occur at early stages but later in the business cycle, when companies run out of money before they manage to take off. The European biotechnology industry faces a crucial challenge as it needs to catch up with its international rivals, including the Asia Pacific region where fierce competition is emerging. In this context, the Commission Services have assigned the task of carrying out a study on the social economic and environmental consequences and challenges of modern biotechnology to the Joint Research Centre (JRC). The study will focus on modern biotechnology. This includes biotechnologies covering DNA, proteins and other molecules; cell and tissue culture and engineering; process biotechnologies; and sub-cellular organisms. The focus of the study will be on existing biotechnology applications, though reference will also be made to emerging biotechnology applications. The study will cover the EU-25 and the results will be compared with the situation in the US, Japan and China, and for specific application areas, additional countries such as South Korea and Canada. The aim of the study is to provide the necessary background for policy making over the next five years.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

EC memo [MEMO/05/389](#), 21 October 2005 available from:
<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/searchAction.do>

Getting to the root of the problem

Belgium researchers have discovered the genes which control root development. Healthy roots give healthy plants, which can give good crops and give good yields for farmers. Root systems absorb nutrients and anchor plants in the soil. The formation of capillary roots is vital to the root system and determines how much water and minerals a plant can absorb. New root production involves cell division, growth and differentiation. Research on roots has been very difficult until now due to the complex growing mechanism.

The Belgium researchers developed a special method, called the 'Lateral Root-Inducible System' (LRIS) to control capillary root growth. They studied all the genes connected with

the growth and compared them with the complete genome of a plant that is unable to form capillary roots. They have identified the genes are essential for new roots formation. Capillary root formation is controlled by both internal and external signals. This ensures that the root system adapts itself to changes in the soil. This is important to farmers because roots are responsible for helping plants adapt to adverse environmental conditions. The better we understand how crops absorb water and minerals the closer we are to achieving environment-friendly, sustainable agriculture.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

available from the EC website at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/headlines/news/article_05_11_11_en.html

Restoring land sustainability with our waste

The University of Wales, Bangor is leading a €3 million project that looks at treating waste for restoring land sustainability. Other partners in the LIFE-Environment funded research include: Alfred McAlpine Slate Ltd, UPM-Kymmene (UK) Ltd, the Welsh Development Agency and NAGREF-Soil Science Institute of Athens.

Since organic materials of no perceived value are often either land- filled or incinerated, this project aims to demonstrate the value of these materials for the sustainable reclamation of degraded land. Through the application of composting technology, designer soils are produced which will demonstrate their capacity to: restore degraded land to high conservation-value habitats; bioremediate contaminated land and create socio-economically beneficial areas in urban and rural settings. Success in this project should reduce automatic landfill and incineration of such materials and hence reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

available from Dr Julie Williamson at the University of Wales, Bangor. E-mail: j.c.williamson@bangor.ac.uk

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CULTURE

Doctoral programmes for the European knowledge society

The European University Association (EUA) recently published its study on Doctoral Programmes across Europe. The report reflects the findings of its project, which ran from 2004–05, and set out to analyse key issues facing doctoral education in Europe. The project was based around six thematic networks, representing 48 EUA members from 22 countries. The findings address three issues: the structure and organisation of doctoral programmes; supervision, monitoring and assessment; and mobility, European collaboration and joint doctoral degrees. The report shows a considerable diversity in

terms of structure and organisation of doctoral programmes across different countries, between universities within the same country, and across faculties within universities. Universities are aware of the need to sustain and improve the quality of their supervision, monitoring and assessment procedures. Mobility can be a strategic tool of doctoral training, leading to wider research experience and career development opportunities for doctoral candidates.

EUA received the mandate of the Bologna Ministers meeting in Bergen in May 2005 to follow up its work over the next two years, by further development of basic principles for doctoral programmes. The project will be followed up through targeted action resulting in a report to be presented to the next Bologna Ministers meeting in London, 2007, through a project focusing on doctoral careers; and through 'hands on' workshops for universities on important issues.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

available at <http://www.eua.be/eua/en/publications.jsp>

Learn more languages!

The EC has published a new Communication on the issue of language learning and multilingualism. The Communication is accompanied by a new web-portal providing information on the languages of the EU. The new Communication is launched under the banner 'the more languages you know, the more of a person you are', and reaffirms the EC's commitment to multilingualism. It outlines three main areas where languages are crucial to people in the EU: society, the economy, and the Commission's relations with EU citizens. The Communication emphasises the role of language in increasing worker mobility and its importance to the competitiveness of the EU. The EC has committed to undertake further efforts in increasing information about the EU in different languages. This includes making websites more multilingual and to establish a proactive multilingual communication policy. The Commission will also invest more in language-related research and how language barriers can be overcome.

The EC has also proposed that national action plans to promote multilingualism should be adopted and promoted. The Commission also proposes to set up a High-Level Group on Multilingualism and to hold a ministerial conference on multilingualism in the near future.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Available at <http://europa.eu.int/languages/>

EXTERNAL COLLABORATION

World summit on the information society

The second World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) was held in Tunis on the 16 and 18 of November. The Summit followed on from a previous summit, held in Geneva in 2003. It included representatives from governments, private companies and civil society. The aim of the conference was to reach agreement on the future international governance of the internet, and developing strategies for tackling the digital divide. The conference

was considered a success, and concluded with the agreement of a compromise text. The compromise agreement was based on previous EU proposals from June this year.

The summit reached agreement on a new international Internet Governance Forum (IGF) should be established. While the US-based Iccann body will continue to technically manage the internet, the new IGF will represent government, private sector and civil society interests in discussing the future governance of the Internet. The World Summit also reached agreement on how countries should not be involved in decisions concerning top level domains (TLD) of other countries. The MIT media lab presented a new laptop, which will be made available for less than \$ 100, as part of the 'One Laptop Per Child' campaign being spearheaded by MIT.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

available from World Summit website at <http://www.itu.int/wsis/>

Turkey joins Culture 2000

Turkey signed a memorandum of understanding on 25 October 2005 to join the EU's CULTURE 2000 programme.

CULTURE 2000 is a seven-year programme (2000-06) with a total budget of €236.5 million. It aims to encourage creativity and mobility of artists; public access to culture; the dissemination of art and culture; inter-cultural dialogue and knowledge of the history and cultural heritage of the peoples of Europe. Turkey's participation in the programme is part of the pre-accession strategy. Bulgaria and Romania already participate in CULTURE 2000 and negotiations will begin with Croatia for participation in the programme after 2007. The CULTURE 2000 programme encourages translational co-operation between cultural operations across Europe. Turkey will participate on the same footing as the EU member states and will contribute €1.4 million to the programme. Turkey's participation will enhance the Turco-EU cultural dimension of Turkey's integration into the EU.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

The CULTURE 2000 Programme is available from the programme's website at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/index_en.html

Norway gets a Brussels-based EU research office

The Norwegian Research Council recently opened a dedicated research office in Brussels. The aim of the office is to strengthen Norway's participation and influence in European research. The office was officially inaugurated on 21 November by the Norwegian State Secretary for Education and Research, Mr Age Rosnes. Mr Rosnes stressed how the office will provide a platform for Norwegian research, and will contribute to a better understanding of Norway's research landscape. It was also stressed that the office is being opened at a crucial time, with FP7 due to start in January 2007. EC Director, Richard Eucritt, highlighted Norway's impressive success rate in FP6, and described Norway as a model of research co-operation.

Norway joins a growing number of countries to have research-dedicated offices in

Brussels. From outside the EU, both Switzerland and Turkey have a well-established research presence in Brussels. Other recent offices include that of the Czech Republic and Poland.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

available at <http://www.rcn.no/english>

Renewable energy

On 7-8 November this year, the Chinese government hosted an international conference on renewable energy. The Beijing conference aimed to build on the momentum started at the international renewable energy conference held in Bonn, June 2004, as a follow-up to the Johannesburg agreements. The Chinese Government invited ministers and high-level experts from across the world to discuss options for significantly increasing renewable energy shares of the worldwide market. These include enhancing international frameworks for developing and transferring renewable technologies and creating more efficient market-based delivery mechanisms that can provide affordable and reliable energy services.

The Environment Commissioner, Mr Stavros Dimas, represented the EC at the conference. Mr Dimas also held a number of bilateral meetings to discuss preparations for the next annual climate change conference, taking place in Montreal from 28 November to 9 December 2005. The conference also saw Mr Dimas signing off the implementation agreements to the EU-China Biodiversity Programme. The programme aims to enable China's national biodiversity programme to manage its ecosystems sustainably and to contribute to the implementation of related international conventions. The EC has contributed €30 million to the programme..

FURTHER INFORMATION:

EC Press Release IP/05/1365 of 3 November 2005 available from <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/searchAction.do>

EVENTS and AWARDS

European conference on security research

Under the Austrian presidency, a conference on security research is to be held in Vienna, Austria, on 20-21 February 2006. The event will be co-organised by the Austrian EU Council Presidency 2006 and the EC and will focus on defining a new European security research agenda. This security research agenda will be based on findings of the ECs Preparatory Action for Security Research (PASR) which runs from 2004-06.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

The conference programme is available from the Austrian Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology website at:

http://www.bmvit.gv.at/sixcms_upload/media/191/src06_conference_outline.pdf

and registration forms can be obtained from:

http://www.bmvit.gv.at/sixcms_upload/media/191/src06_registration_form.pdf

Conference on co-operation with the Western Balkans

The Southeast European Era-Net (SEE-ERA.NET) initiative, which is a networking project aimed at integrating EU Member States and Southeast European countries is organising an information exchange in the context of the European Research Area (ERA). The idea behind the conference is to link research activities in existing national, bilateral and regional RTD programmes.

The event will take place in Zagreb, Croatia, on 15 and 16 December and is the first major public information event within SEE-ERA.NET. It will provide an overview on the current situation of RTD co-operation in the area with identification of 'good practice'

FURTHER INFORMATION:

can be obtained from the conference organizer: Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, Croatia . E-mail: damir.jelicic@mzos.hr.

NEW PUBLICATIONS and ONLINE RESOURCES

Monitoring for environment and security (GMES)

The EC has recently adopted a new communication on Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES). The communication, which was adopted on 10 November, is titled 'Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES): From concept to reality'. It is intended to be on the agenda of the next European Space Council meeting since it forms a part of plans to introduce the first three earth observation services: emergency management, land monitoring and marine services.

GMES is an EU-led initiative, in which the EC will manage related actions for identifying and developing services and the European Space Agency (ESA) will manage the implementation of the space segment. GMES will substantially increase the ability of geospatial information to support a variety of EU policies including: monitoring global climate change; the security of European citizens (e.g. border surveillance); and development aid and humanitarian assistance.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

The communication can be found on the EC website at::

http://europa.eu.int/comm/space/doc_pdf/gmes-com2005-en.pdf

European values in the globalised world

On the occasion of the October meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the EU (an informal summit, see article above), the EC issued a Communication to the EP, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. The Communication makes a call for European reforms and policy

modernisation to maintain the high quality of life in EU in the light of global competition and other challenges facing Europe today.

The Communication starts with a wake up call to all concerning the duality of Europe, whereby stagnant growth sits alongside dynamism and innovation. In particular the existing structures of the EU, that have delivered 50 years of prosperity, are to a larger and larger extent, no longer meeting the ambitions of the European Community. The economic, financial and social successes are now called into question. While some ground work has been done such as the Lisbon strategy, there is still much to be done at EU and Member State level, not least by agreeing the 2007-13 financial perspectives as soon as possible.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

The communication is available from the EC website at:

http://europa.eu.int/growthandjobs/pdf/COM2005_525_en.pdf

Voice your opinion on the EC research website

The EC recently launched a review of the website for the Director General for research. Users of the website are encouraged to submit their opinions on the website, which can then be used for the future improvement of the website. All replies will be treated in full confidence.

Further information:

you can take part in the survey at

<http://www.evaluationpartnership.com/surveys/rweben.htm>

A change to the Cordis web address

With the imminent launch of the new '.eu' domain name CORDIS is changing its web address. The new address <http://cordis.europa.eu.int/> is active immediately. CORDIS has introduced automatic re-routing to ensure that old CORDIS addresses and bookmarks will remain valid.

The first sunrise period for the .eu domain name starts on 7 December this year, and runs until 7 February. The second sunrise period closes on 7 February, at which point general registration opens.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

available at <http://www.eurid.eu/>

New website on 'EU in your country'

The Europa website has been updated to include pages on how to contact the 'EU in your country'. The website includes links to Commission Representations, Parliament information offices, MEPs and other information networks. It also includes full details of the Commission's representations in third countries.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

the website can be found at http://www.europa.eu.int/euinyourcountry/index_en.htm

EC develops new tenders electronic daily (TED) facilities

From 3 November 2005, users of the ECs Tenders Electronic Daily (TED) database will be able to take advantage of a range of new features designed to improve access.

The TED database is an online system that contains public non-Framework Programme EC and non-EC opportunities related to research support. The new features include better means of browsing opportunities; a more user-friendly interface; a new 'latest publications' section; a revised help section with search facility; and a site map tree to help users locate and navigate different parts of TED.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

the Tenders Electronic Daily database can be found at:

<http://ted.publications.eu.int/official/>

CORDIS

CORDIS is the Community Research and Development Information Service. It is a web-based service that provides information on EU R&D programmes and related issues.

URL: <http://www.cordis.eu.int>

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 website provides information on EU 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), plus 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 EU Server. It contains links to the EP, the European Council, the EC 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 EU as presented by the Institutions in their press releases.

EC Press Releases are available at:

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

GLOSSARY

A&S	Aeronautics and Space Priority (FP6) http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm
C&G	Citizens and Governance Priority (FP6) http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm
COST	European Co-operation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research is a framework for scientific and technical co-operation, 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 2000/04 (inclusive). 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
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 - 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 co-ordinated. http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/area.html

ESC	<p>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.</p> <p>http://www.ces.eu.int</p> <p>Press Releases: http://www.ces.eu.int/en/acs/fr_acs_press_rels.htm</p>
ESF	<p>European Science Foundation</p> <p>http://www.esf.org</p>
ESF	<p>The European Social Fund</p> <p>http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg05/esf/en/index.htm</p>
Eureka	<p>Eureka is a Europe-wide network for Industrial Research and Development.</p> <p>http://www3.eureka.be/Home</p>
FQS	<p>Food Quality and Safety Priority (FP6)</p> <p>http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm</p>
FP (FP5, FP6, FP7)	<p>The EU's Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. The Fifth Framework Programme (FP5) was adopted in 1998 and ran until 2002, with FP6 superseding until 2006, with discussions underway on FP7 beyond 2006.</p> <p>Further information on the thematic and horizontal programme composition of FP6 is available at: http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/home.cfm</p>
GBH	<p>Genomics and Biotechnology for Health Priority (FP6)</p> <p>http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm</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)</p> <p>http://www.europarl.eu.int/committees/en/default.htm</p>
INTAS	<p>International Association for the promotion of co-operation with scientists from the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union.</p> <p>http://www.intas.be/mainfs.htm</p>
IST	<p>Information Society Technologies Priority (FP6)</p> <p>http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm</p>
JRC	<p>The ECs Joint Research Centre acting as a scientific and technological laboratory in support of EU policies, with a range</p>

	of institutes and research activities. http://www.jrc.cec.eu.int
MEDIA	The MEDIA Plus Programme (2001–05) 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
Mobility	Human Resources and Mobility Programme (FP6) http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation http://www.nato.int/
NMP	Nanotechnology, Materials and Production Priority (FP6) http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm
PHARE	The Phare Programme is the European Union's instrument for financial and technical co-operation with the countries of central and eastern Europe. http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/pas/phare/index.htm
RTD	Research and Technological Development
SDGC	Sustainable Development and Global Change Priority (FP6) http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm
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
UUK	Universities UK (formerly the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals) http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk
White Paper	White Papers are documents containing proposals for Community action in a specific area. They often follow a Green Paper.

Produced by the United Kingdom Research Office (UKRO)
for the British Council.

UKRO
Rue de la Loi 83
1040 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 230 5275 / 1535
Fax: +32 2 230 4803
E-mail: ukro@bbsrc.ac.uk
URL: <http://www.ukro.ac.uk>
