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*News on EU Research Policy and Programmes*

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

EU POLICY.....	2
Update on the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme.....	2
Strengthening transparency in the EU.....	2
Increasing Europe's output in research.....	3
EC examines innovation performance of the EU.....	3
UN discuss sustainable energy future.....	4
More policy initiatives needed for European transport.....	4
Gender imbalance in science.....	5
Globalising Europe.....	5
Regions draft strategies for FP7.....	6
World summit on the information society.....	6
New state aid schemes.....	7
Climate change and the EU emissions trading scheme.....	7
EC consultation on socio-economic sciences and humanities in FP7.....	8
EC consultation on knowledge transfer.....	8
ITER fusion research agreements confirmed.....	9
RESEARCH NEWS.....	9
Detecting diseases through smells.....	9
CUTE solution for urban transport.....	10
Linking the biological and silicon worlds.....	10
Europe may miss commercial returns of nanotechnology.....	11
Venus Express probe explores.....	11
Aircraft noise impairs children learning.....	12
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CULTURE.....	12
Annual update on Education and Training 2010 work programme.....	12
Study on perceptions of European higher education.....	13
Modernising universities.....	13
Marie Curie conference.....	14
EIB launches University Research Action.....	14
EXTERNAL COLLABORATION.....	15
EU-China high-speed electronic network announced.....	15
EU-US co-operate to tackle obesity.....	15
EU-Latin America and Caribbean summit.....	16
ESF further co-operation with Japan.....	16
EVENTS and AWARDS.....	17
UKRO Annual Conference registration now open.....	17
European Inventor of the Year decided.....	17
Antidiscrimination press awards announced.....	18
European Technology Platform conference.....	18
Workshop on building capacity for sustainable development.....	19
Summer school in microtechnology.....	20
European forum on nanosciences.....	20
International food and health innovation conference 2006.....	21
NEW PUBLICATIONS and ONLINE RESOURCES.....	21
EC launches new health portal.....	21

EC status report on European Technology Platforms.....	22
ESF to fund Europe-wide database on globalisation .....	22
CORDIS .....	23
IGLO Project Search.....	23
EUR-LEX (Official Journal C and L).....	23
EUROPA.....	23
RAPID .....	23
GLOSSARY .....	24

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## EU POLICY

### Update on the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme

The EC's proposal for a new Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) was recently adopted by the EP Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE). Following agreement on compromise amendments, the programme was adopted by EP on 11 May. It is intended that CIP will be complementary to the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), but with an overall focus on enhancing competitiveness and innovation in Europe. CIP will integrate three current programmes; the 'Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme' (MAP), the 'ICT Policy Support Programme' and the 'Intelligent Energy-Europe Programme'. CIP will also include a risk capital instrument aimed at SMEs, and a 'BISS' scheme providing support for co-operation between programmes at the national and regional levels, aimed at business innovations.

In reaching the agreement, it was stressed that there should a particular emphasis on SMEs. This includes facilitating easy access to the programme, in the form of 'user manuals', and a clear framework for participation. It was also stressed that the CIP should aim to close the gap between research and innovation, as well as promote innovation. Following agreement, the overall budget for the programme will be €3,196 million, compared to the EC's original proposal of € 4,212 million.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

is available from the EP web site at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=5243412>

### Strengthening transparency in the EU

The EC recently adopted a Green Paper on the European Transparency Initiative. This initiative aims at strengthening transparency in the relationship between the European institutions and lobbying organisations, and at providing better information on the EU to the public. A public consultation on the initiative has also been launched and will run until the end of August 2006. There is a concern that citizens perceive a lack of information from and about the European institutions. The EC will, therefore, also aim to provide more user-friendly information and liaise with Member States to ensure that additional

information becomes available on how EC funds are spent through programmes managed in Member States.

Whilst lobbying is seen as legitimate in a democratic society, the EC considers it paramount that standards be applied to the industry. It should be clear to the public who lobbying groups represent, how they are funded and how they seek to contribute to EU policy development. Therefore, the EC has proposed a voluntary web-based register of lobbyists who would like to be consulted on EU initiatives. In addition, the EC is proposing a common code of conduct for lobbyists.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Release IP/06/562 of 3 May 2006 available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

further information on the transparency initiative can be found at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/commission\\_barroso/kallas/transparency\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/commission_barroso/kallas/transparency_en.htm)

### **Increasing Europe's output in research**

Janez Potočnik, Commissioner for Research, recently spoke at a conference organised by the EC and the Austrian Presidency about improving research policies through the Open Method of Co-ordination, (OMC). The OMC is the main research policy co-ordination method available at the EU level. He explained that the application of OMC to research started in 2003, following the adoption of the Barcelona objective that EU investment in R&D should be at 3% of the GDP by 2010. Much progress has been made since its inception; for example, countries considering reform of public research organisations have benefited from knowledge gained by other countries that have recently undertaken such reforms.

Believing that the objectives and basic working principles outlined in 2003 do not need changing, Potočnik outlined four areas for improvement: the OMC has to focus in the areas where the transnational dimension is greater and where the impact is bigger; an area in need of mutual learning may be the use of structural funds to support research and innovation; there is room for the OMC process to be more effective in producing guidance, identifying good practice and recommendations; and finally, that the OMC has to be embedded in the research policy making in Member States, including in the effective take-up of results.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

is available from:

[http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/coordination/coordination01\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/coordination/coordination01_en.htm)

EC Press Release SPEECH/03/311 of 18 May 2006 available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

### **EC examines innovation performance of the EU**

At the European Inventor of the Year awards, the EC took the opportunity to highlight some key actions in Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy. The event was organised by the EC and the European Patent Office (EPO). The EPO has been working on several projects to enhance access to patent and innovation related information. This includes the

ESPAENET project, which makes over 50 million patent documents accessible to the public. There are also existing EC proposals for a Community patent and the development of a European Patent Litigation Agreement.

One key report which indicates a widening innovation performance gap between Europe and the US and Japan is the European Innovation Scoreboard 2005. The Scoreboard highlights, in particular, that patent indicators are highly correlated to a country's global innovation performance. More also needs to be done to encourage an IPR culture and to support better use of IPR by SMEs. As part of the EC's IPR initiative announced in autumn 2005, an expert group will draft policy recommendations as to how barriers to the use of IPR can be removed and how the relationship between IPR and innovation can be strengthened.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

EC press releases MEMO/06/182 and MEMO/06/181 of 3 May 2006 available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

IPR Helpdesk, for support to projects supported by the Framework Programme, available at: <http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org>

European Patent Office web site, available at:

<http://www.european-patent-office.org>

### **UN discuss sustainable energy future**

Environment Commissioner, Stavros Dimas, participated at the 14th meeting of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) on 10-12 May. He placed high emphasis on renewable energy sources and advocated energy policies to improve access to energy services for the world's poor, to maximise energy efficiency, and on the global use of renewable energy to increase environmental protection.

Dimas announced the launch of the EU energy facility, with a budget of €220 million, to fund projects improving access to energy, mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is crucial for progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Commissioner Dimas also underlined the need for an integrated approach to improve energy efficiency, promote technological innovation, expand markets for renewable energy sources and to develop cleaner fossil fuels for transportation. The meeting was attended by ministers and non-governmental stakeholders from 100 countries. The CSD monitors implementation of the commitments agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in 2002. In 2007 the CSD will meet to decide upon concrete actions to respond to these challenges.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press release IP/06/581 of 8 May 2006 available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

### **More policy initiatives needed for European transport**

Greenhouse gas emissions from transport have increased by 22 per cent between 1990 and 2002, according to a recent European Environment Agency report. Pollution from transport has a detrimental affect both on our health, and on our work towards meeting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions targets. By studying the trends in transport and its environmental effect, as well as progress towards existing targets, the report predicts that many European cities

will continue to fail to meet air quality standards in the future. The study found that more goods and passengers are being transported further and more frequently across Europe. Between 1990 and 2002, passenger transport has increased by 30 per cent and freight transport by 34 per cent. Most worryingly, air transport has increased by 96 per cent over the same period. Germany performed best, with an increase of greenhouse gas emissions of 5 per cent being in line with its economic development, whilst Ireland at the other extreme had an increase of 130 per cent (excluding aviation and maritime emissions).

So, although transport plays a major role in the European lifestyle, economy and development, there is increasing concern about its impact on the environment, our health and quality of life. The study shows that despite air pollution having been subject to ever tighter emissions standards in Europe recently, further action in member states is still needed in order to meet the air quality targets set out in the EC's 6th Environmental Action Programme, and also to ensure that transport does not cancel out progress made in other sectors towards the Kyoto CO<sub>2</sub> emission targets.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

is available in the EC Science for Environmental Policy newsletter at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research\\_alert\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research_alert_en.htm)

European Environment Agency Report at:

[http://reports.eea.europa.eu/eea\\_report\\_2006\\_3/en/term\\_2005.pdf](http://reports.eea.europa.eu/eea_report_2006_3/en/term_2005.pdf)

### **Gender imbalance in science**

The EC's latest figures show that although the numbers of women participating in science is increasing, there is still a substantial gender imbalance. Only 29% of the workforce of scientists and engineers was female in 2004, and this was a mere 0.03% increase from 1998. Men usually have a much higher success rate in accessing financial assistance for research than women. There is also a deficit in the number of women holding senior positions in academia and in research and development posts.

The EC is attempting to increase the numbers of women participating in science. Speaking at the 're-searching women in science and technology' conference in Vienna in May, Janez Potočnik, Commissioner for Research, stressed that attracting and employing equal numbers of men and women into science is necessary for the future growth and innovation of Europe.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

is available from:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/women-science>

### **Globalising Europe**

At a recent event in London, Vice-President of the EC, Ms Margot Wallstrom, highlighted the importance of values, creativity and leadership in meeting the challenges of globalisation. Ms Wallstrom identified the key challenges facing Europe as: sluggish economic growth, demographic problems, environmental problems, including climate change, and energy security. She also highlighted the opportunities that globalisation brings with it, adding that Europe's response should not be to create new barriers. The basis for long term sustainability should be found in economic growth, social welfare and

ecological balance, also seen as 'the European way'. Sacrificing social welfare and leaving aside environmental costs is not cost-free, but carries new costs.

Ms Wallstrom argued that Europe is 'united in diversity', united through common values that provide the basis for the European social model(s). Europe should focus on 'smart growth', and growth through creativity. In this context, Ms Wallstrom highlighted the EC's four priority actions: increased investment in research, development and higher education; support for SMEs; getting people into work; and ensuring efficient, secure and sustainable energy.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Release SPEECH/06/296 of 12 May 2006 available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/>

### **Regions draft strategies for FP7**

The EC recently brought heads of regional offices in Brussels together to discuss the role of regions in European research and the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The current proposal for FP7 includes two actions specifically targeted at Europe's regions. 'Regions of Knowledge' will support existing regional research-driven clusters bringing together regional authorities, universities, research centres and enterprises. 'Unlocking the research potential' is aimed at developing the research potential in the EU's convergence and outermost regions to encourage greater participation EU research activities. Measures could include twinning, networks for exchanging expertise, acquisition of research equipment, and awareness raising activities.

The conference highlighted three projects as existing good practice: Mentoring European Knowledge of Chemical Regions (MentorChem) examines how to develop clusters based on expertise in the chemical industry; 'BlueBioNet' aims to stimulate regional development in traditional coastal regions that are experiencing the upheaval of industrial restructuring; 'IN.TRACK' brings together island regions to develop appropriate methodology for technological foresight within regions. The EC invited the participants to start to prepare their draft operational strategies and to treat research and development as a priority for FP7. It is expected that official strategic guidelines will be issued in October 2006, when the regions will be invited to formally submit their operational programmes for FP7.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Release MEMO/06/196 of 12 May 2006 available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/>

### **World summit on the information society**

The EC recently published a communication entitled 'Towards a Global Partnership in the Information Society: Follow-up to the Tunis Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)'. The Communication outlines EC measures to implement the WSIS commitments, highlighting how these fit with existing community policies. The WSIS took place in Tunis in November last year. It focused on two main topics: internet governance and financial mechanisms to overcome the digital divide, and implementation of the WSIS commitments.

The EC has stated its support, at an international level, to overcoming the digital divide, and to adopting programmes aimed at helping developing countries to make use of Information Communication Technologies (ICT) in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. It also highlighted the need for developing new applications and services, and for developing a legal framework to promote investment and competition in ICT infrastructure. Overall, the summit was considered as a success by the EC, with the EU taking a broader interpretation of the summit than the US. The communication concluded by highlighting what is seen as an important lesson from WSIS: 'Information Society policies should be mainstreamed in the broader context of economic and development cooperation, because ICTs are no longer only an economic or social priority, but are becoming a condition for the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms.'

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Communication COM(2006) 181 final, available at:

[http://www.europa.eu/documents/comm/index\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu/documents/comm/index_en.htm)

### **New state aid schemes**

The EC recently approved four State Aid schemes to support the media industry in the EU Member States of Poland, Denmark, Ireland and France. The Polish scheme, worth €25.4 million each year, will allow for grants for the production and distribution of films of relevance to Polish and European culture. Tax incentives of up to 80% will be given to investors in film production in Ireland. The Danish scheme will provide finance for the distribution costs and promotion of certain newspapers. Finally, the French scheme will aid non-mainstream music production by up to €10 million per annum.

State Aid is classed as a subsidy, form of support, or financial assistance that a Member State gives its businesses or to businesses looking to set up in that state. As such, they are closely monitored and regulated by the EU as they can be seen to be distorting the internal market. In the new financial programme period, from 2007-13, the UK and the majority of the older Member States will generally see a reduction in the level of State Aid they can offer.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Release IP/06/641 of 17 May 2006 available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

### **Climate change and the EU emissions trading scheme**

Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas recently spoke at a seminar on climate change in Helsinki, focusing on the single most important measure for reducing EU greenhouse gas emissions, the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). Firstly, he outlined the international context, which is that discussions have begun on global actions for tackling climate change after the Kyoto targets expire in 2012. He is extremely keen to ensure that major emitting nations participate, including big developing countries like China and India. Discussions will also include non-Kyoto countries such as the US and Australia, which is a promising start. Commissioner Dimas is convinced that Kyoto's flexible mechanisms (the clean development mechanism, joint implementation and emissions trading) should be central to future global policy, since they both stimulate the development of cleaner

technologies and also help sustainable development in developing nations without hampering their economic development.

Commissioner Dimas then concentrated on the EU's global leadership in combating climate change, with the EU ETS. Around 260 million allowances, worth more than €5 billion have been traded in the first year. He hopes that the upcoming ETS review, coupled with reflection on the experiences so far (including the recent turbulence in the market) will potentially allow the ETS to become the nucleus for the international ETS envisaged by the Kyoto protocol from 2008. The EC also plans a formal proposal to bring aviation emissions into the ETS.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

EC press release SPEECH/06/276 of 4 May 2006 available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/>

### **EC consultation on socio-economic sciences and humanities in FP7**

The EC has launched a public online consultation on the draft research agenda for Theme 8 'Socio-economic Sciences and the Humanities' in the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The EC invites the public, and especially the scientific community, to comment on the draft research agenda for the dedicated socio-economic sciences and humanities part of FP7.

The document under consultation outlines the research agenda in seven areas: growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society; Combining economic, social and environmental objectives in a European perspective; major trends in society and their implications; Europe in the world; the citizen in the EU; socio-economic and scientific indicators and foresight activities. Researchers, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders are invited to provide the EC with comments on the design of each of these activities. Comments are invited up to the end of June, so that they will be received in sufficient time to feed into the preparation of the first annual work programme.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

is available from:

<http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=SSHinFP7>

### **EC consultation on knowledge transfer**

DG Research and DG Enterprise have launched a consultation that aims to identify the main problems experienced by public research organisations (such as universities) and industry when working together - be they cultural barriers or legal ones - and how the research and industry communities feel they should be addressed. The questionnaire focuses on three aspects: Facilitating co-operation between industry and public research organisations; legislative issues affecting, in particular, pro-industry co-operation; tackling the problems.

The EC invites the views of all stakeholders, including those of universities, industry, SMEs, publicly-funded research laboratories and public authorities. Individuals, senior management, management, researchers, technology transfer officers, or those with strategy or policy functions, can all take part in this consultation. Input from this public

consultation will feed into a Communication the EC intends to prepare on fostering and facilitating co-operation between industry and public research organisations and knowledge transfer in Europe. The consultation will close on 19 July 2006.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

is available from:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/list\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/list_en.html)

#### **ITER fusion research agreements confirmed**

ITER, a project to demonstrate the potential of fusion as an energy source, will be the world's biggest scientific collaboration of its kind, and will involve countries representing over half the world's population. Following the selection of the EU as the site for ITER (at Cadarache in southern France), the parties involved (the EU, Russia, Japan, China, India, South Korea and the United States) met in Brussels for an official agreement signing ceremony. As hosts, the EU will finance up to 50 per cent of the project, expected to generate 10,000 jobs, while other parties will contribute up to 10 per cent. ITER partners have been working together making remarkable progress towards ITER, which is the next step in the path to developing fusion as an attractive, long-term option for supplying the energy needs of the world.

The ITER project, an international collaborative research project on an unprecedented scale, aims to recreate the fusion reactions that power the sun and stars. Fusion would be a great energy source since it uses an abundant fuel (a type of hydrogen) available everywhere and it produces no greenhouse gas emissions. Unlike current 'nuclear fission' technology, fusion is inherently safe with no possibility of 'runaway reactions' and also has no long-lasting radioactive waste to be passed on to future generations. Janez Potočnik, Commissioner for Science and Research, who hosted the meeting said 'energy is an issue of concern to all of us, and we all hope that what at one time seemed a far off goal - fusion as a viable energy source - is now a step nearer reality.'

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

EC press release IP/06/676 and MEMO/06/216 of 24 May 2006 available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/>

further information is also available from the ITER web site at: <http://www.iter.org/>

#### **RESEARCH NEWS**

##### **Detecting diseases through smells**

A project funded through the EC's Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) programme in the Sixth Framework Programme has successfully developed a new form of nanobiosensors aimed at mimicking human and animal responses to different odours. The 'SPOT-NOSED' project was led by the University of Barcelona, and included researchers from Spain, France and Italy. The development of nanobiosensors will eventually lead to the development of electronic noses that could have a wide range of applications. Electronic noses could allow doctors to detect disease earlier, through

replicating the human olfactory system. Another challenge lies in establishing the odorant signature of different diseases, to allow the new diagnostic tools to be developed and applied. Other potential applications include detecting rotten food, testing cosmetics and pharmaceutical products, identifying pollutants, or scanning for drugs or bombs at airports.

The biosensor is capable of detecting concentrations of odorants that go undetected by humans, and works through placing a layer of proteins on a microelectrode, and measuring reactions to odorants. The project is planning to expand their research and to develop the software tools necessary for electronic noses to recognise smells.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

IST Results, available at:

<http://istresults.cordis.europa.eu/>

#### **CUTE solution for urban transport**

The results of the Clean Urban Transport for Europe (CUTE) project, which is the world's largest trial of Hydrogen Fuel Cell powered buses, have been made public. 29 hydrogen powered buses have been operational in nine European cities, including London, since 2003. Over one million km of road has been covered without any emissions being produced. The project also included the development of nine hydrogen refuelling stations. Throughout the duration of the project 9,000 refuelling operations were made successfully and over half of the 192 tonnes of hydrogen produced and used came from renewable sources.

The success of this scheme has led to the development of an initiative, partly funded by the EU, called the 'Hydrogen for Transport' project. This will involve 200 hydrogen powered vehicles being used daily throughout the world and will include the roll out of eight fuel cell cars and small transport vehicles including mini-buses, scooters and wheelchairs. The EU is to contribute €48 million to this €105 million project over the next three years.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Release IP/06/604 of 11 May 2006 available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

#### **Linking the biological and silicon worlds**

A versatile molecular switch, which is expected to play a major role in future developments in nanotechnology, has been produced by researchers on a €2 million EU-funded project. The Mol-Switch, as it is known, is a single-molecule DNA sequencing device with an accompanying nano-switch. A biological molecule motor and a moving magnetic bead make up the nano-switch and are attached to the single-molecule DNA sequencing device. The vertical movement of the magnetic bead is measured when a phosphate molecule is added, thus signalling if the switch is "on" or "off".

The project is a collaboration of scientists from the UK, Italy, the Czech Republic, France and the Netherlands, and is co-ordinated by Portsmouth University. Despite much scepticism from the scientific world, the project has successfully come up with a way to

link the biological and silicon worlds. It is hoped that this development could be used in prosthetics, giving users far greater control over their movements than is currently possible with prosthetic limbs. Similarly, the Mol-Switch could be applied to motors, relays, flow-control valves and biosensors and an unlimited number of other applications that could benefit from a molecular switch at the nano-scale.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

is available from the project web site:

<http://www.nanonet.org.uk/molswitch/>

### **Europe may miss commercial returns of nanotechnology**

A recent report has warned that the number of nanotechnology-related patent applications in Europe is far below that of the US and Asia. As a result Europe is in danger of missing out on the associated commercial and economic growth. The report by Marks & Clerk states that in the areas of nanoelectronics, nanoenergy and nanotechnology in health and personal care, the number of first patent applications in Europe is far below the US and Asia, despite EU investment in research in these areas. In the field of nanoelectronics, for example, 51 per cent of first applications from the top players came from Japan, 24 per cent from the US, but only 8 per cent from Europe.

The EC aims to reduce this trend through the NanoRoadMap project, funded under the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6), and has provided significant investment into nanoscience and nanotechnologies during FP6. The report encourages European research institutes and companies to consider filing patent application. While acknowledging registered patents may go on to have no commercial value, it was stressed that some may go on to create enormous returns, and it is these that can have the lucrative economic spin-offs.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

is available from:

[http://www.marks-clerk.com/attorneys/news\\_one.aspx?newsid=91](http://www.marks-clerk.com/attorneys/news_one.aspx?newsid=91)

information about the EC NanoRoadMap project is available from:

<http://www.nanoroadmap.it>

### **Venus Express probe explores**

The European Space Agency (ESA) Venus Express probe arrived at Venus on 11 April, and after a series of manoeuvres it reached a stable orbit on 7 May. The probe now follows an elliptical orbit every 24 hours at a height varying from 250km at the closest to 66,000 km at the furthest. This allows for the best possible observations of Venus. The probe will study the Venusian atmosphere, the surface of the planet, and the interaction between the planet and the solar wind. However, observations did not start immediately. Scientists first turned instruments on one-by-one for testing, aiming for the main science measurements to begin on the 4 June.

The initial test pictures are very exciting, and include the first ever ESA pictures of the planet's South Pole, revealing a huge cloud vortex. The mission will be particularly interesting since Venus is a similar size, age and distance from the sun as the Earth, yet it has evolved so differently. Many scientists believe Venus might even once have had

oceans which have since evaporated. The planet is now covered in thick, toxic clouds, after runaway global warming, so scientists hope that the mission to Venus may shed light on how global warming may affect Earth in the future.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

available from the European Space Agency web site at:  
<http://sci.esa.int/science-e/www/area/index.cfm?fareaid=64>

### **Aircraft noise impairs children learning**

Although the effects of air pollution are well known, less attention has traditionally been paid to the effects of environmental noise on health. As well as being an annoyance, noise may also affect cognition. In particular, little is known about the effects of environmental noise on a child's health, learning and development. An EU FP5 funded project, called RANCH, assessed the effect of road traffic and aircraft noise on children's cognitive development and health. It looked at over 2,800 children, in 89 primary schools situated near to three of the busiest airports in Europe: Heathrow in the UK, Barajas in Spain, and Schipol in the Netherlands. Scientists compared noise levels around the schools with the results of cognitive and health tests. They also took into account socio-economic status, education and ethnic group.

They found that exposure to aircraft noise impaired reading comprehension and recognition memory, as well as producing annoyance which may in turn reduce the quality of life. However, they also found that sustained attention was not affected by noise, neither was self-reported health and mental health. The study showed that schools exposed to high levels of noise are not healthy educational environments. The authors recommended further studies, including research into the potential for classroom noise insulation. The research results so far are relevant for the design and placement of schools in relation to airports.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

is available from the RANCH (Road Traffic & Aircraft Noise & Children's Cognition & Health) project web site at:

[http://www.wolfson.qmul.ac.uk/RANCH\\_Project/](http://www.wolfson.qmul.ac.uk/RANCH_Project/)

the project report is at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/quality-of-life/ka4/pdf/report\\_ranch\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/quality-of-life/ka4/pdf/report_ranch_en.pdf)

further information is available from EU web site on noise at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/noise/>

## **EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CULTURE**

### **Annual update on Education and Training 2010 work programme**

The EC has published its annual report on the implementation of the Education and Training 2010 work programme. The report finds that some one million students will graduate in maths, science and technology in 2010, compared to the present day level of 755,000. It notes that an additional four million adults would need to participate in lifelong

learning within any four week period in 2010 to meet the EU benchmark of a 12.5 per cent participation rate. The report states that during the coming ten years, the EU needs to attract at least one million newly qualified teachers in order to replace those who will retire. With respect to literacy levels, it notes that about one in five 15 year old pupils in the EU is a poor reader, meaning that the EU still has a long way to go to reach its 2010 benchmark of reducing this to 15.5 per cent.

The rates of public investment in education and training as percentage of GDP has increased slightly since the adoption of the Lisbon agenda, and is now comparable with levels in the US (and is higher than in Japan). However, rates of private investment are modest in most Member States compared with leading countries in the world (including the USA) and especially in higher education.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

is available from:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/2010/objectives\\_en.html#measuring](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/2010/objectives_en.html#measuring)

### **Study on perceptions of European higher education**

The EC has published a study carried out by the Academic Co-operation Association (ACA) entitled 'Perceptions of European Higher Education in Third Countries'. The report aims to contribute to the debate about marketing European higher education and the development of the concept of a 'European higher education brand'.

The main findings of the report include the notion that Europe is viewed as a union in an economic and political respect, but not in terms of higher education. When it comes to higher education, the perception focuses on the continent's individual countries, and mostly on the larger European countries. Europe's higher education institutions received good marks, but on a number of issues, such as prestige of institutions, labour-market acceptance of qualifications, and dynamism and innovation force, it came out second to the US. The most important factors influencing the decision of where to study were quality of education, reputation and prestige of the institution and of the degrees earned, as well as affordability and safety. Respondents saw a clear lack of information on study opportunities in Europe. The report is based on an analysis of about 20,000 completed surveys as well as interviews with students from six target countries (Brazil, Mexico, China, India, Russia and Thailand). In addition, students in the US were asked why they had chosen the US and not the EU.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

the full report can be downloaded from:

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/mundus/acareport.pdf>

### **Modernising universities**

In a recent communication entitled 'Delivering on the Modernisation agenda for Universities: Education, Research and Innovation', the EC has called on EU Member States and universities to move forward in relation to the way they have traditionally operated. The Communication gives a clear signal about the need for universities to move away from operating in a national context and offering traditional degrees.

It suggests several ways that universities can modernise, for example by offering more non-degree level courses for adult learners and widening the participation in their institution. One of the key points in the Communication is that universities need to encourage the Bologna process of improving mobility across all higher education institutions in Europe. Linked to this, the qualifications they offer need to be universally accepted. Universities should be given a greater degree of autonomy and accountability, and they should strive to set up and maintain structured partnerships with the business community. The Communication also stresses the need for universities to be producing graduates with the correct skills and competencies for the labour market.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

is available from:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/2010/lisbon\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/2010/lisbon_en.html)

#### **Marie Curie conference**

In April 2006, Marie Curie fellows funded under the European Framework Programme met in Manchester, UK. The Marie Curie Conference was entitled 'MC2: Putting the Knowledge-based Society into Practice'. The event aimed to expose Marie Curie researchers to a variety of multi-disciplinary lectures, seminars and workshops with speakers drawn from a wide range of academic, business and policy agencies. There was a diverse and interesting range of international keynote speakers, from leading academics to key figures in research policy and industry. In addition, participants had the opportunity to network through research 'speed dating', and other research and training activities such as poster sessions, presentations and research skills workshops.

Highlights included presentations from Georges Bingen, Head of the Unit for 'Strategy and Policy' for mobility within the EC and Dr Tim Hunt FRS, who is Chief Scientist at Cancer Research UK and a Nobel Prize winner. Georges Bingen spoke about various aspects of research careers and EU human resources policy within research, as well as outlining the future of research careers within FP7. Tim Hunt delivered a very interesting and entertaining lecture on his research career leading up to his Nobel Prize. The event proved an excellent opportunity for Marie Curie fellows to network and to learn more about the career opportunities open to them.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

Is available from the conference web site at:

<http://www.jb.man.ac.uk/mc2/index.html>

#### **EIB launches University Research Action**

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has established a new EIB-Universities Research Action, which aims to foster their relations with universities. This has three separate programmes. Firstly, the 'EIBURS' (EIB University Research Sponsorship Programme) will fund research on topics of major interest to the EIB, with bursaries of up to €100,000 per year for three years. In its first year, calls for proposals have been launched covering four topics, namely 'financial and economic valuation of environmental impacts', 'technology assessment and the acceleration of innovation', 'public-private partnerships' and 'social dimensions of sustainable development'. The second programme, 'STAREBEI' (STAgEs de REcherche BEI), will fund young researchers working on joint

EIB-University projects. This aims to provide traineeships for junior researchers interested in carrying out research projects proposed by the bank, under joint supervision of a university tutor and an EIB tutor. The final programme, the 'EIB University Networks' will support University networks on topics of relevance to the EIB.

In addition to the 3 programmes, the EIB may also award small grants to specific activities of Universities that have a clear EU-wide interest. There is also a scheme for short-term traineeships at the EIB, which offers a few students in their final years of University a chance to discover how an EU institution operates.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

is available from the EIB-University Research Action webpage at:

<http://www.eib.org/universities>

## EXTERNAL COLLABORATION

### EU-China high-speed electronic network announced

A new high-speed network connection developed by the EU, China and the European National Research and Education Networks, called ORIENT has been announced. The project facilitates linkages between the 45 million researchers and students across Europe and China, and will bring major benefits across the range of Sino-European research, from radio-astronomy and sustainable development, to meteorology and grid computing. Once it goes live later this year, it will link together over 200 Chinese universities and research institutes, making international research co-operation easier, faster and more efficient. The FP6 project, co-ordinated by two research networking organisations, DANTE in Europe and CERNET in China totals €4.15 million.

ORIENT began on 1 March 2006 and will run for the next three years. The ORIENT connection will benefit a number of Sino-European research projects that are already underway. Co-operation between China and the EU in terms of research infrastructure play a key role in developing better responses to today's global challenges. Bringing together researchers and students is important for the development of open societies and for social and economic development.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

EC Press Release MEMO IP/06/549 of 28 April 2006 available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

### EU-US co-operate to tackle obesity

The EU and US recently held a joint conference in Brussels to exchange good practices on diet, physical activity and health. Over 150 participants attended the conference, representing government and EC officials, members of the EU Platform for Action, industry players, NGOs and consumer representatives from both sides of the Atlantic. The delegates compared good practice on ongoing and new initiatives regarding health, nutrition and physical activity. The key issues addressed included food advertising, labelling, consumer education and research.

The EC recently adopted a Green Paper on the promotion of a healthy diet and physical activity, aiming to stimulate discussion about effective initiatives to promote healthy diets and physical activity and to define best practices. The EU Platform for 'Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health' represents one of the EU initiatives in this area. Its work is complemented by a Member State 'Network on Nutrition and Physical Activity', the EU's role in developing new food labelling and support for obesity projects. The EU and US plan to agree future common objectives and transatlantic co-operation in areas including food advertising, food labelling and reformulation, consumer education and research.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Release IP/06/603 of 11 May 2006 and SPEECH/06/294 of 12 May 2006 available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

### **EU–Latin America and Caribbean summit**

A recent EU-Latin America and Caribbean Summit discussed the situation in both regions. The EU highlighted key developments in Europe, including the current debate on the future of Europe and the next round of EU enlargement, as well as the EU's progress towards the Lisbon Strategy targets.

During the summit, the President of the EC, Jose Barroso, also gave a lunchtime speech to Heads of State and Governments. He noted recent developments in Latin America and the Caribbean, such as the promotion of social cohesion and poverty alleviation. Positive developments include the recent substantial rise in social spending, which has bought about significant improvements, particularly in education and health. However, he noted that considerable further efforts were needed to improve public services and develop social cohesion strategies. Barroso stressed that social cohesion, as well as support to regional integration, will continue to feature prominently in the economic and development co-operation programme. He believes that both sides can learn from each other. The EU is very aware of the inherent challenges of regional integration, and could share their recent experiences in regional integration with the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

EC press releases SPEECH/06/295 of 12 May 2006 and PRES/06/142 of 13 May 2006 available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

### **ESF further co-operation with Japan**

The ESF has signed a new extended Memorandum of Understanding with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). They will co-operate further on the 'Frontier Science Meeting Series for Young Scientists' which brings about 80 young researchers from both Europe and Japan together with more eminent scientists to debate key topics at the cutting edge of research. These annual conferences alternate between Europe and Japan. The new agreement provides for Follow-up Workshops to be held about 2 to 3 years after each initial conference to allow for the subject to be explored further in the light

of new advances. Participation is mainly by the young researchers who took part in the first conference and who can demonstrate significant progress in their research.

The first conference, 'Functional Genomics: From the bench to Bioinformatics', was held in 2003 in Spain, with the first follow up workshop recently held in Japan. The second conference in 2005 addressed the topic of 'Quantum Information and Quantum Physics'. In June 2006, a conference will be held in Nynäshamn, Sweden, on the topic of 'Climate Change'. Future planned conferences also include 'Robotics' in Japan in 2007, followed by 'Social cognitive neuroscience' in Europe in 2008.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

ESF press release on the agreement, issued on 11/05/2006, available at:

[http://www.esf.org/esf\\_pressarea\\_home.php](http://www.esf.org/esf_pressarea_home.php)

ESF-JSPS Frontier Science Conference Series for Young Researchers at:

<http://www.esf.org/esfjgps>

Japan Society for the promotion of science webpage at:

<http://www.jspso.go.jp/english/index.html>

## **EVENTS and AWARDS**

### **UKRO Annual Conference registration now open**

Registration for the 2006 UKRO Annual Conference is now open. The conference takes place at the Civic Centre in Newcastle on 6 and 7 July.

With the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) due to start in January 2007, this year's conference will focus exclusively on FP7, and will predominantly feature EC speakers. A range of topics will be covered, including the 'Ideas', 'People' and 'Capacities' pillars, as well as the different thematic priorities under the 'Co-operation' pillar. It will also cover FP7 participation issues. The conference web site contains full details of the conference, including the conference programme, choice of parallel sessions, and a link to the separate accommodation web site.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

including registration, is available at:

<http://www.ukro.ac.uk/public/pub/events.htm>

### **European Inventor of the Year decided**

The winners of the recent European Inventor of the Year Awards included scientists and teams responsible for discovering and developing the DNA Chip and an affordable vaccine against hepatitis B. The inventor of the microprocessor, Federico Faggin, was awarded a lifetime achievement award at the ceremony, which was the first of its kind. Speaking at the award ceremony, Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry, Günter Verheugen, expressed his desire that these awards go on to compete in stature with the Nobel prizes.

The winners were selected by a jury on the basis of outstanding technical inventions for which the European Patent Office (EPO) granted a patent in the last decade. The industry category was won by Zbigniew Janowicz and Cornelius Hollenburg for their method of making proteins from Hansenula yeast, which is used in producing affordable vaccines to hepatitis B. The SME category was won by Dr Stephen Fodor and his team for developing the DNA chip. Peter Grünberg won the Universities and Research category for his discovery of the giant-magnetoresistance effect, which increases the volume of information stored on a hard drive. The New EU Member States award went to the team of John Edwards Starret in the Czech Republic, who led a breakthrough in chemical compounds offering anti-viral properties. Finally, the non-European award went to Larry Gold and Craig Tuerk of the United States for their work on nucleic acids.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

EC press release IP/06/558 of 3 May 2006 available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

### **Antidiscrimination press awards announced**

As part of the EC's five-year EU information campaign, the 'For diversity. Against discrimination' prize is intended to recognise journalists who have helped bring the issues of diversity and discrimination in the workplace to the public's attention. This year's top award has been won by two Dutch journalists who work for the magazine Vrij Nederland. The winning article deals with ethnic and racial discrimination, particularly against young Muslims, in the jobs market in the Netherlands. The second and the third prizes were won by articles from Poland and Ireland respectively. This year, a photo category award was also made to a Dutch journalist at Vrij Nederland.

The winning entries were selected from over 600 articles and photos, submitted during the course of the year by all Member States. All entries were judged according to their newsworthiness, relevance, depth of research, and originality. Juries in each of the 25 Member States selected national winners to go forward to the European award. An EU jury made up of media and anti-discrimination experts then selected the three winners. The 2006 award was launched at the end of April, with a deadline for entries of 31 December 2006.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

is available from the 'For Diversity. Against Discrimination' web site:

<http://www.stop-discrimination.info>

### **European Technology Platform conference**

The Austrian Presidency Conference on European Technology Platforms (ETPs) brought together around 450 stakeholders from both industry and academia, together with policy makers and EC officials. Presentations were given from the EC, the Presidency, and representatives of individual ETPs and technological sectors. Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for Science and Research, presented a key note speech. He stated 'Technology Platforms involve industry taking the lead role. This ensures that platforms are focused on potential future markets for key technologies and provide the necessary impulse to realise Europe's potential in leading-edge technologies.' It was

stressed that the scope of an ETP should go beyond FP and ETPs must mobilise a range of public and private funding, where FP7 will be only one potential strand of this.

A small number of ETPs will lead to FP7 funded Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs). These involve the setting up of a legal structure to implement defined objectives, and constitute a long-term public-private partnership. Six areas have been identified to date where JTIs might be funded. However, there will be a phased approach to these, as opposed to all being funded at the outset of FP7. In response to the conference recommendations, the EC are intending to produce a brochure on best practice in openness and transparency for the ETPs.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press release SPEECH/06/273 of 4 May 2006 available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

further information about the Austrian Presidency conference, including presentations is available from:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/seminarvienna\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/seminarvienna_en.html)

### **Workshop on building capacity for sustainable development**

In 2000, world leaders agreed a set of targets, the Millennium Development Goals, designed to meet the needs of the world's poorest people. To reach these targets, developing countries need to build their human resource and infrastructural capacity, with help from the international community, particularly in science, healthcare, engineering, industrial production, and energy production and distribution. Unfortunately, it now seems that many countries will not meet the targets for sustainable development. However, there are many examples where capacity has been built and sustainable development enhanced, so now there is an urgent need to document these successful 'Capacity Building for Sustainable Development' initiatives to enable their methodologies learned to be replicated elsewhere.

A workshop will be held in Trieste, Italy, from the 10-13 October 2006 to document and share best practice for capacity building for sustainable development. The event is a partnership between the Third World Network of Scientific Organisations (TWNISO), The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS), the United Nations Development Programme special unit for South-South Co-operation (UNDP-SSC) and the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies. Following the workshop, books of case studies 'Sharing Innovative Experiences' will be distributed free of charge throughout the South. They will contain examples of projects that have successfully built capacity and demonstrate the effects of improved capacity on sustainable development. The book will therefore provide a series of 'best practices', presented in non-technical language, which can be referred to by decision makers interested in replicating successful experiences.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

on the Millennium Development Goals is available at:

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

a description of the conference, a timeline for submitting case studies, and result dissemination plans are available at:

<http://www.ictp.trieste.it/~twiso/capacity/capacity.html>

## **Summer school in microtechnology**

The 'Highlights in Microtechnology' summer course, financed by FP6 under the Marie Curie Programme, will be held in Neuchatel (Switzerland) on 3-14 July 2006. Since 2004, Highlights in Microtechnology (HIM) has been a successful training programme that offers an opportunity to experience 10 intensive days of high-level teaching on topics at the heart of microtechnology. As in the previous years, the course is organised on two thematic weeks and includes both multimedia-based instruction and hands-on experience in the clean-room and laboratory. This year, the proposed themes are 'general methods for microtechnology' and 'global navigation satellite systems (GNSSs)'. The latter is a very hot topic today as Europe is currently launching its own GNSS system called Galileo. In addition, GNSS offers a very good example of applied microtechnology.

The course is financed by the Marie Curie Training Courses action, and is aimed at recent graduates and doctoral students in physics or engineering who wish to boost their standing in the high-tech job market. Thanks to the complete funding of the EU, the Committee is particularly keen to include young scientists coming from EU new Member States that have never been exposed to large technological facilities. Lectures will include  $\mu$ -optics, microrobotics, nanotechnology, integrated navigation systems, Galileo opportunities, GNSS network synchronization and performance monitoring, and search and rescue by satellites.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

is available from the conference web site at:

<http://www.highlights-microtech.org/>

## **European forum on nanosciences**

COST, European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research, in conjunction with the EC and other partners, has organised a forum on nanosciences, which will take place in Brussels on 19–20 October this year. The 'European Forum' is aimed at promoting multidisciplinary approaches to nanosciences to encourage networking, to identify research and training priorities, to explore synergies of different funding agencies, and to promote nanoscience as a driving force in the knowledge-based society.

The conference is aimed at key stakeholders, including researchers active in nanosciences, representatives of funding agencies, policy makers, industry, journalists and politicians. The conference will be structured around three key-note lectures and four thematic sessions. The conference will end with a round table discussion on nanosciences. All registered participants will be asked to complete a questionnaire with suggestions for future priority research areas in nanoscience.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

including registration details and conference programme is available from:

[www.cost.esf.org/nanosciences](http://www.cost.esf.org/nanosciences)

## **International food and health innovation conference 2006**

The international food and health innovation conference 2006 will be held on 25–27 October in Malmö, Sweden. The conference addresses the future role of diet concepts and functional foods in preventative health strategies. There will be a plenary session and two parallel sessions. One of these is on nutrition, looking at the potential for designing new foods with specific health benefits. The other session is on innovation and marketing, and will present and analyse interesting food innovation systems in different countries around the world.

The conference comes in the context of escalating problems with diet-related disorders in the developed world. Both researchers and the food industry face the question of how can new food concepts help tackle these disorders? This event brings together representatives from the European and international academic world, industry and governmental organisations to discuss the latest developments in nutrition science and in food innovation.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

including registration details and conference programme are available from:

<http://62.65.12.138/ifhic2006/html/index.html>

## **NEW PUBLICATIONS and ONLINE RESOURCES**

### **EC launches new health portal**

The EC has launched a new health portal to provide reliable health information and to help people take responsibility for and improve their own health. It will also be of interest to, and be an important resource for, scientists, policy makers and health professionals. The portal, available in all official EU languages, also contains the latest developments in research, details of forthcoming events, EU legislation and publications, and also links to a large number of specialist web sites. One of the main goals of the portal is to provide information on a wide range of health concerns. These are addressed under six thematic areas: 'My Health', 'My Lifestyle', 'My Environment', 'Health Problems', 'Care for Me', and 'Health in the EU', giving simple and sound information on 47 topics that range from cardiovascular diseases to road safety and information on health care across Europe.

The health portal is an initiative of the EU Public Health Programme 2003-2008 with financial support for the interchange of data between administrations, which aims to promote greater involvement of the public, institutions, organisations and associations in health. The portal also corresponds with the aims of the e-Europe Action Plan – providing citizens with simple, clear and scientifically sound information on-line. An editorial board composed of EC services and member state representatives will oversee the content development of the portal using standard procedures.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

is available on the Health Portal at:

<http://health.europa.eu>

EC Press Release IP/06/597 of 10 May 2006 available at

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

## **EC status report on European Technology Platforms**

The EC has published its second status report on European Technology Platforms (ETPs) to identify the current state of play, important horizontal issues facing all platforms and their future development. The report includes detailed status reports on individual platforms. European Technology Platforms (ETPs) are addressed in the introduction to the report in the context of the recent 2005 industrial R&D scoreboard, which indicates that such private investment in R&D is still too low.

The report also claims that ETPs are effective in mobilising the key players in given areas, in influencing the priority setting of Community funded research programmes, and that they are impacting positively in national and other international research initiatives as a leverage to private investment in R&D. ETPs are also impacting positively in other areas such as identifying needs for research infrastructures, defining future education and training needs and reinforcing synergies with other EU research support programmes such as EUREKA.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

the second status report is available from:

<ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/technology-platforms/docs/ki7305429ecd.pdf>

## **ESF to fund Europe-wide database on globalisation**

'Globalising Europe Economic History Network' (GLOBALEURONET), an ESF funded programme, will start this month with a launch meeting in Strasbourg. The project aims to address key gaps in previous globalisation studies by focusing on a more holistic, long-term view of the role of Europe in globalisation over the last 150 years. The database project will create a broad analytical framework for future studies, covering many indicators related to market integration and its impact on social welfare, economic growth and institutional development.

The researchers stress the importance of historical awareness and interdisciplinarity when analysing globalising trends. Initially, they will concentrate on consolidating existing partial databases using consistent methodologies, to make it a truly Europe-wide database. They then hope to encourage further research initiatives by improving the data available to researchers. Previously, studies on globalisation have tended to focus on a single nation or a sub group of nations, with an obvious bias towards Western Europe and the USA. Therefore, conclusions previously drawn may not tell the whole story. Through the creation of this new 'GLOBALEURONET' database and the new studies that will originate from it, a more systematic approach will allow for research on all European countries. The database will be the first of its kind and will be available to the whole European scientific community.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

ESF press release issued 11/05/2006 available at:

[http://www.esf.org/esf\\_pressarea\\_home.php](http://www.esf.org/esf_pressarea_home.php)

## **CORDIS**

CORDIS is the official **C**ommunity **R**esearch and **D**evelopment **I**nformation **S**ervice for science, research and innovation provided by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities. The interactive website offers daily news and detailed information on the European Union research programmes.

URL: <http://cordis.europa.eu>

## **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); 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).

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/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 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. <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. <a href="http://ue.eu.int/en/summ.htm">http://ue.eu.int/en/summ.htm</a>
Culture 2000	First European Community Framework Programme in support of culture, which runs from 2000/04 (inclusive). <a href="http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/culture/index_en.html">http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/culture/index_en.html</a>
EC	The European Commission - made up of 25 Commissioners nominated by the Member States - both initiates proposals for EU legislation and executes EU policies and actions. <a href="http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm">http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm</a>
eEurope	eEurope A political initiative of the EC to allow Europe to benefit fully from the Information Society. <a href="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</a>
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. <a href="http://www.europarl.eu.int/sg/tree/en/default.htm">http://www.europarl.eu.int/sg/tree/en/default.htm</a>
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. <a href="http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/area.html">http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/area.html</a>

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><a href="http://www.ces.eu.int">http://www.ces.eu.int</a></p> <p>Press Releases: <a href="http://www.ces.eu.int/en/acs/fr_acs_press_rels.htm">http://www.ces.eu.int/en/acs/fr_acs_press_rels.htm</a></p>
ESF	<p>European Science Foundation</p> <p><a href="http://www.esf.org">http://www.esf.org</a></p>
ESF	<p>The European Social Fund</p> <p><a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg05/esf/en/index.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg05/esf/en/index.htm</a></p>
Eureka	<p>Eureka is a Europe-wide network for Industrial Research and Development.</p> <p><a href="http://www3.eureka.be/Home">http://www3.eureka.be/Home</a></p>
FQS	<p>Food Quality and Safety Priority (FP6)</p> <p><a href="http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm">http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm</a></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: <a href="http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/home.cfm">http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/home.cfm</a></p>
GBH	<p>Genomics and Biotechnology for Health Priority (FP6)</p> <p><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)</p> <p><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 co-operation with scientists from the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union.</p> <p><a href="http://www.intas.be/mainfs.htm">http://www.intas.be/mainfs.htm</a></p>
IST	<p>Information Society Technologies Priority (FP6)</p> <p><a href="http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm">http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm</a></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. <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>
Mobility	Human Resources and Mobility Programme (FP6) <a href="http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm">http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm</a>
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation <a href="http://www.nato.int/">http://www.nato.int/</a>
NMP	Nanotechnology, Materials and Production Priority (FP6) <a href="http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm">http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm</a>
PHARE	The Phare Programme is the European Union's instrument for financial and technical co-operation 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>
RTD	Research and Technological Development
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>
SME	Small and Medium sized Enterprises
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://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk">http://www.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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