

News on EU Research Policy and Programmes

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EU POLICY

Update on FP7 developments

Following the European Council's adoption in September of a common position on the EC's proposal for FP7, the EP began its second reading on 2 October 2006. The EP committee for Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) recently adopted reports on the Specific Programmes for the FP7 Co-operation, Capacities and Ideas themes. This followed the adoption of the ITRE reports on the Specific Programmes for the FP7 People theme, the JRC and Euratom. The Specific Programmes are not subject to the co-decision process, but require EP's formal opinion. Therefore, the next step is for all reports to be voted on in the EP's plenary session in November.

The EP needs to finish its second reading of the proposal for FP7 in late November, and the European Council would need to adopt it at their meeting on 4 – 5 December, if FP7 is to be adopted this year. The deadline for achieving this is therefore tight, but not unachievable.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Amendments and draft reports are available at:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/organes/itre/itre_20061009_1500.htm

Roadmap for Research Infrastructures in FP7

The European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) has presented its 'European Roadmap for Research Infrastructures', which details 35 large-scale research infrastructure projects that have been identified by ESFRI as being of key importance at European level. The Roadmap is intended to facilitate a coherent European approach towards research infrastructures. It follows on from ESFRI's 'list of opportunities', published in March 2005, and results from two years of consultation with experts.

The research infrastructure projects identified in the roadmap fall under the following seven research fields: environmental sciences; energy; materials sciences; astrophysics, astronomy, particle and nuclear physics; biomedical and life sciences; social sciences and humanities computation; and data treatment. The roadmap will be presented by the chair of ESFRI, Professor John Wood, at the December Competitiveness Council meeting. The research infrastructures theme of FP7 is likely to provide some funding for the projects detailed in the ESFRI roadmap. The EC held a half-day information event on Research Infrastructures in FP7 in Brussels on 27 October. This was intended as an opportunity for a wide variety of stakeholders to discuss FP7 and the ESFRI Roadmap.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The ESFRI Roadmap is available at:

ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/esfri/docs/esfri-roadmap-report-26092006_en.pdf

The ESFRI website is available at:

<http://www.cordis.europa.eu/esfri>

Details of the Research Infrastructures in FP7 information day are available at:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/infrastructures/infoday-06102006.htm>

EU selects 50th anniversary logo

A Polish designer has won the competition to find a logo for the 50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome. The logo will now be used by the EC and all other European Institutions for all related events due to take place in spring 2007. The EC has also established a website to commemorate the anniversary with a collection of historical photos and videos, including Robert Schuman's speech made on 9 May 1950.

The winner of the logo competition, Szmon Skrzypczak, was chosen from around 1,700 participants, and received an award of €6,000. A panel of 11 internationally renowned art and design experts selected the 10 best logos, before a jury of representatives of European Institutions made the final decision on the best three entries.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The logo can be accessed from the Audio Service '50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome' website, available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/50/index_en.cfm

Latest news on European Technology Platforms

In total, there are now 30 European Technology Platforms (ETPs) at various stages of development. ETPs are predominantly led by industry and made up of representatives from the private sector, academia and other interested stakeholders. They provide a framework for stakeholders to set their research and development priorities and can therefore play an important role in shaping the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). In

2006, many ETPs have moved from producing their Strategic Research Agendas (SRA) to implementing them. Around five new ETPs have developed since 2005. The numbers of ETPs will not be capped by the EC but they are intended to be focused on a specific area of technology.

ETPs have been involved in consultations on the work programmes for FP7 with some organising their own consultation process to feed in their ideas. However, links with FP7 and alignment of activities to FP7 will vary extensively from one ETP to another. Many ETPs will look to FP7 for some form of funding but other sources of funding such as the private sector may be used. Six ETPs had previously been identified by the EC to develop from ETPs to Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs), which would be larger industry led initiatives which would require Member State approval. Reports from the European Council and EP on the activities for the JTIs are expected in 2007. A third status report will be published in spring 2007, which will concern the structures that are being used by existing ETPs. A short EC publication raising awareness of ETPs is expected shortly.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The EC's web pages on European Technology Platforms are available at:
http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/home_en.html

Rain stops play: public launch event for FP7 cancelled

A conference entitled 'Today is the Future', which was due to act as the public launch of the Seventh Framework Programme, has been cancelled due to extensive flooding of the venue. The conference was meant to take place from 7 – 18 March 2007 and planned to showcase European research to the public in order to enhance their understanding of science. This event was separate to the political launch event for FP7. Other launch events for FP7 should not be affected by the cancellation of 'Today is the Future'. The Descartes Prize ceremony and dinner will take place on the 7 March 2006 as planned, albeit in a different venue. The EC hopes to use a 'Communicating European Research 2008' conference later on in FP7 to showcase leading European research.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The website for 'Today is the Future' is at:
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/events>

European Council adopts Competitiveness and Innovation Programme

The European Council recently adopted the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) through the co-decision process, accepting all of the EP's amendments from its first reading. CIP will complement other EU funding streams such as the Framework Programme for Research (FP7), Structural Funds and the Lifelong Learning Programme. In line with the revised Lisbon agenda of making the EU the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world, CIP will foster the competitiveness of European enterprises and promote all forms of innovation, particularly in small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Work can now continue on developing the work programmes for the various strands of CIP, which is split into 3 Specific Programmes: the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP); the ICT Policy Support Programme; and the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) Programme. Eco-innovation will also be a transversal theme throughout CIP. CIP has a total budget of €3.2 billion over the seven year duration of the programme (2007-

13), and the majority of this will go to the EIP Specific Programme, which will be managed by the EC's DG Enterprise. Calls for funding within CIP are not expected to take place until after work programmes and rules of participation have been further developed and agreed.

FURTHER INFORMATION

European Council Press Release 13855/06 (Presse 284) of 12 October 2006 is at:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/Newsroom>

European Science Foundation will be the COST implementing agent for FP7

In October 2006, COST (European Co-operation in the field of Science and Technical Research) announced a strengthened relationship with the European Science Foundation (ESF), whilst at the same time maintaining a clear distinction between their individual characteristics and their roles.

COST is an intergovernmental network and one of the longest-running instruments supporting co-operation between scientists across Europe. ESF acts as the legal entity which provides and manages the administrative, technical and scientific secretariat for COST, its Domain Committees and its Actions, and is dependent on the EU RTD Framework Programme for funding support.

FURTHER INFORMATION

News and details of COST actions are available at:

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

Greater access to EU funds for SMEs

Improved access to EU funds for Europe's small and medium enterprises (SMEs) was one of the themes of the recent week-long Brussels 'open days'. EU Commissioner's Verheugen, Hübner and Potočník spoke about how the new Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), the Structural Funds and the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) would all make participation easier for SMEs. SMEs lie at the heart of the Lisbon agenda and the strategy for growth and jobs in the EU. The network of Euro information and innovation relay centres across the EU will provide greater assistance to SMEs and the CIP will provide €1.1 billion of funding throughout its duration.

Several improvements have been made to FP7 to allow for greater SME participation: €1 billion will be benchmarked specifically for SMEs in the form of the 'research for the benefit of SMEs' aspect of the Capacities Specific Programme. Project evaluation for these actions would be different to other areas of FP7 and more suitable to SMEs. A participant guarantee fund will ensure that there no longer need be such stringent and off-putting financial eligibility checks ahead of SME participation and a 'consultancy voucher' will allow SMEs to test the feasibility of their ideas before applying for EU funding.

The EU Structural Funds can be used to build the capacity for SME engagement in R&D and innovation by being used to fund the construction of business and science parks that bring together universities, research institutes and SMEs. In the new Structural Funds programmes, no restrictions would be made on SMEs participating due to their geographic location. Furthermore, the new 'Joint European Resource for Micro to Medium Enterprises' (JEREMIE) fund combines Structural Funds and money from the European

Investment Fund (EIF) to increase SME access to finance. It allows SMEs to access otherwise unavailable micro-credit, research funding and venture and risk capital.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Release IP/06/1349 of 11 October 2006 is available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

The DG Research website is at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research>

The DG Enterprise website is at:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/index_en.htm

For further information on Structural Funds the DG Regio website is at:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm

EC adopts European Institute of Technology (EIT) proposal

The EC recently adopted a proposal to establish a European Institute of Technology (EIT). This proposal, which is accompanied by an impact assessment report, will now go through the co-decision procedure and will therefore be subject to approval by the EP and European Council. If approved, the EIT could start as early as 2008, and could have an estimated budget of up to €2.4 billion, financed by both public and private sources, over the period 2008-13.

The EIT will aim to help bridge the innovation gap between the EU and its major competitors by integrating and promoting excellence in research, higher education and innovation (the 'knowledge triangle') to support the Lisbon Agenda, which aims to make the EU a world class knowledge-based economy. It is planned that the EIT will have a two-level structure, firstly with a small central EIT governance structure to be overseen by a governing board (GB), and secondly with a network of 'Knowledge and Innovation Communities' (KICs). The proposal covers the financial period of 2008 - 2013, and outlines the aims and objectives of the EIT, the role of the KICs, details on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), degree-awarding powers and the EIT budget. It is also expected that the KICs will attract funding on a normal competitive basis from other relevant programmes, such as FP7, the Lifelong Learning Programme and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), as well as the Structural Funds.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Releases IP/06/1416 and MEMO/06/382 (FAQ on the road to an EIT) are available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

EC web page on the EIT, which includes the text of the proposed regulation on the EIT "Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing the European Institute of Technology", as well as the Impact Assessment summary and Impact Assessment full report, is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/eit/index_en.html

EP feeds into EIT debate

The EP has produced a working document to feed into the current debate on the European Institute of Technology (EIT). Produced by MEP, Reino Paasilinna, on behalf of the Committee of Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), the document supports the idea of boosting Europe's spending on research, education and innovation but remains sceptical about whether a new institution is required or whether the same outcomes could

be achieved by co-ordinating and strengthening existing activities, such as the Framework Programmes for Research (FP7) and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP). The document highlights the concern that the EIT will overlap with existing structures and programmes.

The report also highlights the concern that the EIT may lead to more fragmentation of the European Research Area (ERA) and of the lack of detail of the proposed structure, legal basis and financing. The report encourages the EC to provide a clear steer on the funding model for EIT, ensuring that resources are not drained from existing R&D programmes. On the subject of Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), the report recommends that there should be around ten to fifteen of these in total. The report did not comment on the education aspect of the EIT; this will be left to EPs committee for Education and Culture.

FURTHER INFORMATION

A copy of the working document on 'developing a knowledge flagship: the European Institute of Technology' is available at:
<http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/i23030.htm>

EC contributes to Lahti informal summit on innovation and energy policy

On the 12 October 2006, the EC adopted two separate contributions to the Lahti informal Summit on innovation and energy policy. These two short papers were prepared under the authority of EC President José Manuel Barroso who said that innovation and energy security are European challenges which require European solutions.

Firstly, the concept paper on external energy relations focused on the external aspects of the energy agenda. It highlighted the need for EU Member States to have a common understanding about the proposed approach and principles for a future energy partnership with Russia. The paper also underlined the need to build up relations with strategically important neighbours of the EU. In addition, it addressed the issue of preparedness for energy crises, and the establishment and implementation of a network of energy correspondents.

The second paper discussed the EC contribution on an innovation-friendly, modern Europe, and drew on the main recommendations from the EC communication adopted on 12 September 2006 which set out a 10 point programme for action on innovation at national and European levels. The paper assessed where Europe currently stands and highlighted the role of technological innovation to achieve higher productivity and economic growth. It also briefly outlined the main areas of action which would boost Europe's innovation capacity.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Release IP/06/1367 of 12 October 2006 is available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

European RTD Insight's article on the 10 point innovation plan is available, on page 9, at:

<http://www.ukro.ac.uk/insight/EI0610.doc>

More information the EC and innovation is available at:

<http://www.europe-innova.org/index.jsp>

New environment strategy for European Space Agency

The European Space Agency (ESA), which has been observing Earth from space since 1977, recently announced a new strategy for its Living Planet Programme, entitled, 'The Changing Earth: New Scientific Challenges for ESAs Living Planet Programme'. The aim of the strategy is to address the need to further understand the Earth system and the impact that human activity has on it. The main focus will be on climate change. It will assess the most important Earth-science questions to be addressed in the years to come, outlining the observational challenges these raise.

The strategy has the following objectives: to launch a steady flow of missions addressing key issues in Earth science; to provide an infrastructure to allow satellite data to be quickly and efficiently exploited in areas of research and applications; to provide a unique contribution to global Earth Observation capabilities, complementing satellites operated by other agencies and in-situ observing systems; to provide an efficient and cost-effective process whereby science priorities can be rapidly translated into space missions, adequately resourced with associated ground support; and to support the development of innovative approaches to instrumentation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The ESA website is available at:

<http://www.esa.int/esaCP>

Fisheries: good science a prerequisite for good management

Scientific advice prepared by the Advisory Committee on Fisheries Management (ACFM) of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) reports encouraging signs from a number of stocks in European waters, in particular northern hake, which has been subject to a recovery plan since 2004. Mackerel stocks also seem to be increasing. However, other stocks like cod show little sign of improvement. Joe Borg, Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs commenting on the report stated 'first, it shows that our long-term approach to the management of EU fisheries is starting to bear some fruit. Second, it underlines the benefits derived from the growing participation of stakeholders in the scientific process'.

The report will be examined by the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries of the EC, who will also consult with the industry and other parties before formulating its proposals. The EC will aim to table its proposal in 2007 for discussion at the December Council of Fisheries Ministers. Extending and deepening the long-term approach to management remains a core objective of the Common Fisheries Policy.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Release IP/06/1405 of 16 October 2006 is available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

ACFM Press Release is available at:

<http://www.ices.dk/aboutus/pressrelease/ICESPressReleaseOct2006.pdf>

EC proposes strategy to protect Europe's soils

The EC recently proposed a 'Soil Strategy for Europe' to ensure that Europe's soils remain healthy and capable of supporting human activities and ecosystems. Good quality

soil is essential to our economic activities as it provides us with food, drinking water, biomass and raw materials, and all our human activities are somehow related to soil. In reality, soil can be considered a non-renewable resource, as it takes hundreds of years to produce a few centimetres of soil. Yet in many places soil is rapidly degrading, exacerbated by human activity, such as certain agricultural and forestry practices, industrial activities, tourism or urban development. This soil degradation is having negative effects on human health, ecosystems and climate change, as well as on our economic prosperity and quality of life.

The EC's Strategy sets a common EU framework for action to preserve, protect and restore soil, while leaving EU Member States room to take into account national situations in their implementation. Member States must tackle threats such as landslides, contamination, soil erosion, the loss of soil organic matter, compaction, salinisation and sealing wherever they occur, or threaten to occur, on their national territories. The Soil Strategy should also raise public awareness as well as boosting research on soil. The Strategy is the last of the seven Thematic Strategies that the EC has presented as part of its Sixth Environmental Action Programme 2002-12.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Releases IP/06/1241 and MEMO/06/341 (FAQ on the soil strategy) of 22 September 2006 are available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

Full details of the 'Soil Strategy for Europe' are available at:

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

A video news release on the Strategy is available to television stations and networks; it can be viewed and ordered at:

<http://www.tvlink.org>

Details of the 6th Environmental Action Programme 2002-12 are available at:

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

European Council approves ITER international agreement for fusion energy

On the 25 September 2005, the European Council adopted a decision on the ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) international fusion energy project, which aims to demonstrate the scientific and technical feasibility of nuclear fusion for peaceful purposes. This decision by the European Council now authorises the EC to take part in an agreement to establish the ITER International Fusion Energy Organisation for the joint implementation of the ITER project. The agreement will be between the EU's Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and the other ITER partners, which are: China, India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the US. The ITER organisation will aim to promote co-operation amongst the members of the international ITER project, including the construction, operation and exploitation of the ITER. The agreement will last 35 years, once ratified by all ITER partners.

As reported in the October edition of this newsletter, the ITER experimental reactor and headquarters will be based in Cadarache, France, whilst there will also be a 'joint undertaking' to manage the EU's contribution to ITER, based in Barcelona. The EU will be contributing 50 per cent of the overall construction costs for ITER.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EU Press Release PRES/06/261 of 25 September 2006 available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

European RTD Insight's article about ITER Joint undertaking is available, on page 6, at:

<http://www.ukro.ac.uk/insight/EI0610.doc>

The DG Research fusion energy website is available at:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fusion-for-energy.html>

The ITER websites are available at:

<http://www.iter.org> and <http://www.itercad.org>

EU contribute to nuclear safeguards for the protection of citizens

On the 5 October 2006, the EC and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) celebrated 25 years of co-operation in the control of nuclear materials and facilities. The IAEA ensures that countries live up to their international obligations in the area of nuclear non-proliferation, such as not diverting nuclear material or using facilities for the development of nuclear weapons. For over quarter of a century, more than 100 scientists and technicians at the EC's Joint Research Centre (JRC) have provided scientific and technical support to this work.

The anniversary was marked by an event at the EC Institute for Transuranium Elements (ITU) in Karlsruhe, Germany. 'Work on nuclear safeguards is extremely important for global security' said European Science and Research Commissioner, Janez Potočnik. 'Our work with the IAEA will remain fundamental to what we do in this field. I am sure the next 25 years will be as successful as the last.' IAEA Deputy Director General, Olli Heinonen said 'DG Joint Research Centre has provided us with tremendous scientific and technical support which has enabled us to perform our duties. This has had a positive impact on the security, not only of the citizens of the EU, but also for people world-wide.' The event also provided an opportunity for the EU and IAEA to plan their future joint activities.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Releases IP/06/1323 and MEMO/06/364 (which gives examples of ongoing cooperation between the EC and IAEA) of 5 October 2006 are available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

Activities of DG JRC and copies of all event presentations, speeches, and pictures at:

<http://www.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

The IAEA website is available at:

<http://www.iaea.org>

EC public hearing on energy policy

The EC recently held a public hearing on the EU's energy policy. The event, suggested by the European Council, aimed to analyse current EU policy in the energy field from a strategic point of view. The Commissioner for Energy, Andris Piebalgs, spoke about the public hearing, and stressed that 'Europe's current energy situation is no longer tenable and it is necessary to provide the EU with a genuine energy policy'. 'But,' he added, 'all interested parties have to contribute to this future policy if it is to be a success.' The meeting, which had almost 600 participants, was structured around two discussion panels, one on the energy mix and another on internal energy market. Participants from a range of different backgrounds, such as national administrations, the EP, international organisations, and industry were given an opportunity to present what they believe should appear in the strategic analysis.

Based on the Green Paper 'A European strategy for sustainable, competitive and secure energy', the strategic analysis and an action plan are to be adopted by the EC in January

2007. This strategic analysis is the first of its kind, and will be repeated at regular intervals.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Releases IP/06/1242 and SPEECH/06/524 of 22 September 2006 available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

Further information is also available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/green-paper-energy/index_en.htm

The results of the hearing will be also published shortly.

European guidelines on regional innovation

The EC has published a guide for EU Member States and regions entitled 'Innovative strategies and actions - results from 15 years of regional experimentation'. The document provides an analysis of regional experimentation supported by Europe over the last 15 years and is designed to highlight methodologies and tools that can be used by regions as they develop or refine their regional innovation strategies.

The Community Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion 2007-13 will be used by Member States as the basis for drafting their national strategic priorities and planning for 2007-13, known as the National Strategic Reference Frameworks (NSRFs). Member States are currently producing their NSRFs and their regions are in the process of preparing their regional operational programmes for 2007-13. These regional operational programmes will be designed to target resources on improving the attractiveness of Member States, regions and cities, encouraging innovation, entrepreneurship and the growth of the knowledge economy, and creating more and better jobs. The publication of the guidelines on regional innovation, which includes several good practice examples, therefore comes at a good time.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The guide is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/2007/index_en.htm

The EC's regional policy website is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm

EP Environment Committee votes on REACH

The EC proposed a new EU regulatory framework for the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH) on 29 October 2003. The aim is to improve the protection of human health and the environment through better and earlier identification of the properties of chemical substances. The REACH proposal gives greater responsibility to industry to manage the risks from chemicals and to provide safety information on the substances. Following 2 years of negotiation on the EC's original proposal, and following the EP's first reading opinion, the European Council reached a common position on June 27 2006. This common position was supported by the EC, so the proposals are now undergoing a second reading.

In this second reading, the EP's Environment Committee recently issued a report on the REACH directive, which reflects a tougher line than the European Council's Common Position in June. The main amendments suggested referred to the substitution of the most dangerous substances, the duty of care, the compulsory safety assessment for chemical products in amounts of less than 10 tonnes and the promotion of alternatives to

animal testing. In addition, the EP's Environment Committee is calling for aid for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to apply the regulation; deeper involvement of MEPs in the governing bodies of the Chemicals Agency and request the EC to put forward a proposal to create a quality label for those that meet the regulation.

The Environment Committee's report will now be voted on in a future EP plenary session to complete the EP's second reading on the directive, after which the EC and European Council will look at the suggested amendments.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The EC's website on the REACH directive is at:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/reach/reach_intro.htm

EP Press Release 20050818FTX00270 of 10 October 2006 is available from the Health and Environment section of EP Press Service at:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/default_en.htm

EC voice concerns about EP amendments to air quality directive

The 'Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution' was adopted by the EC in September 2005 to establish ambitious, cost-effective targets for improving human health and environmental quality over the period up to 2020. The Strategy was accompanied by a proposal for a directive on ambient air quality. This would introduce from 2010 a limit on airborne concentrations of fine dust particles, which contribute to the premature deaths of 350 thousand people annually across the EU. Together with coarser particles, which have already been regulated since January 2005, fine particles are among the most dangerous pollutants for human health.

Recently, the EP issued its opinion about the Thematic Strategy to combat air pollution. However, the EC is concerned that some of the EP's first reading amendments to the air quality directive would weaken important elements of the EC's proposal. Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas said: 'I am pleased the EP has endorsed our strategy for reducing air pollution and I acknowledge its expressed desire for even more ambitious levels of protection. However, I am disappointed that the EP's amendments to the air quality directive appear to contradict this objective by weakening the legislation we have proposed in some key respects. Air pollution is shortening the life of every EU citizen by an average of eight months and we need to tackle it vigorously.'

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Release IP/06/1263 of 26 September 2006 available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

EC website on air quality is available at:

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

Research in translation

Earlier this month, the EC's DG Translation hosted its first conference on translation curriculum. The event was aimed at universities, and was attended by experts from all EU Member States, as well as Bulgaria and Romania. The conference also brought together representatives from international organisations, including the UN (United Nations), NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) and the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development). Entitled 'Towards a European Master's in Translation (EMT)', the conference is seen as a first step towards developing a standard translation

curriculum, to be used in the Master's degrees across the EU. This is also one of the actions presented in the EC's Communication on Multilingualism, which was presented by the EC in September 2006.

The conference also aimed at strengthening DG Translation's links with universities; to promote the development of a European curriculum in translation; to create a network among experts in translation; and to encourage universities to develop their curricula in line with EC recommendations for a proposed standard curriculum. The degree is intended to last one to two years, and to focus on translation rather than language skills / language acquisition. The main objective of developing a standard curriculum is to produce highly qualified translators, a need that has become particularly crucial following the EU enlargement in 2004. The conference conclusions will provide the basis for an EC action plan in this area.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Release IP 06/1418 of 18 October 2006 is available from:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

Further information on the conference can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/translation/events/emt2006/index_en.htm

EC appoints a new Deputy Director-General in DG Research

The EC has appointed Mr Daniel Jacob as new Deputy Director-General for DG Research. From September 1991 until February 2003, Daniel Jacob worked as Head of Cabinet to the then Commissioner for Science and Research, Philippe Busquin. Following this, Mr Jacob worked in the EC's DG for Personnel and Administration (DG Admin) as the Director responsible for staff regulations, policy, management and advice.

The appointment of Mr Jacob follows a wider restructuring in DG Research, which came into effect from 1 October 2006. The new structure of DG Research also reflects the move from FP6 to FP7, with significant changes to most Directorates in terms of remit. This restructuring sees DG Research split into two main parts: one covering policy and implementation, and the other covering science directorates. The science directorates will be headed by the current Deputy Director-General, Zoran Stančič. New Directors in most areas (except Directorate E-Biotechnology and Directorate F-Health) are mostly as a result of transfers of existing Directors. Some new Directorates have been created, for example one which will concentrate on the 'implementation of the Ideas Specific Programme' which could lead to the formation of an European Research Council (ERC) Executive Agency, whilst another new Directorate will cover 'Implementation' (including Marie Curie and SME Actions) and will also prepare for the creation of external agencies for these actions.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The new organisation chart for DG Research is available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/research/organisation.cfm>

New Chair of European Medical Research Council

Professor Liselotte Højgaard from the University of Copenhagen has been appointed as the new Chair of the European Medical Research Council (EMRC). Professor Højgaard is Head of The Department of Clinical Physiology, Nuclear Medicine and PET Centre at Rigshospitalet, and professor in Medical Technology at the University of Copenhagen.

She was the first woman to be appointed Editor-in-Chief for the Danish Medical Journal from 1996 to 2002, and also the first female Editor-in-Chief being member of “The Vancouver Group” – The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Until recently she was also chair of the ESFRI (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures) Expert Group in Clinical and Translational Medical Research.

Her research interests are in pathophysiology, nuclear medicine and positron emission tomography (PET). Professor Højgaard is a widely published author, and a well known international keynote speaker at congresses and scientific societies on PET and oncology. Her work has been covered in some 140 peer review publications. The aim of the new EMRC chair is to create the ‘best R&D set-ups’ in Europe, with the aim of reducing outflow of talented scientists from Europe. She supports inter-disciplinary collaboration and plans to work with the European Research Council (ERC) to promote excellence in European medical research.

FURTHER INFORMATION

ESF News Release ‘New Chair of EMRC’ of 3 October 2006 is available at:
http://www.esf.org/esf_pressarea_home.php

Move to private management of the internet

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the US Department of Commerce and the body managing the internet, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), expired on 30 September 2006. Following stakeholder consultations, this has been replaced by a new lighter MoU, set to expire in 2009, at which point governance of the internet should be without government interference. The EC, which has continuously called for the internet to be governed without government interference, has welcomed the move. Under the new arrangements, ICANN has increased autonomy for the management of the internet, will no longer have work prescribed for it, and it will not be required to report to the US Department of Commerce every six months, but will instead produce an annual report for the internet community.

Under the previous MoU, the US government unilaterally oversaw ICANN’s decision. The EC Commissioner for Information Society and Media, Ms Viviane Reding, has repeatedly criticised public management of the internet, including the current US administration’s interventions in decisions relating to top level domain names. Following the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis in November 2005, an Internet Governance Forum (IGF) will be convened by the UN Secretary-General from 30 October – 3 November 2006 in Athens. It will aim to discuss broader internet governance issues with key stakeholders, including non governmental organisations, civil society and industry.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Release IP/06/1297 of 2 October 2006 available at:
<http://europa.eu/rapid>
EC communication on the outcome of the Tunis Summit is available from:
<http://www.itu.int/wsis/tunis>

Results of EC’s recent consultation on scientific publications

A strong and effective scientific publication system is seen by the EC as key to the success of FP7 and the wider ‘Lisbon objective’ of making Europe the world’s most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy. Communication between scientists

themselves, and with society at large, is seen as an important aspect. Therefore, to initiate the debate on the functioning and efficiency of the scientific publication system, the EU commissioned a public consultation earlier this year, a 'study on the economic and technical evolution of the scientific publications markets in Europe'. A synthesis report, which summarised the 170 responses from individuals and organisations across the world, was recently published.

Issues highlighted include access to publications, in particular concerns about the visibility of European research in languages other than English and about the quality of publications. One respondent recommended that research funding organisations should recognise publications as a major component of research costs, and provide scientists with the funds for open access publications. Respondents suggested future co-operation between the EC's DG Research and DG Information Society to speed up developments in digital publications, whilst 26 respondents also recommended that a collaborative stakeholders 'advisory committee' be set up. In December 2006, a joint communication from DG Research and DG Information Society is expected on access to, and dissemination of, scientific information. This will be followed by a conference addressing scientific publication issues, on 15-16 February 2006, in Brussels.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information: the synthesis report (including a list of the names of the contributors to the public consultation) and the full responses are available on the EC's Science and Society website:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/page_en.cfm?id=3185

EC consults on patient mobility

The EC has launched a public consultation on how to ensure legal certainty regarding cross-border health services under Community law, and to support co-operation between the health systems of the Member States. This consultation is based on a Communication to be drawn up by Commissioner Markos Kyprianou setting out ideas for an EU framework for safe, high-quality and efficient healthcare services.

The consultation will cover the following key issues: the conditions according to which cross-border health care must be authorised and paid for; the provision of information to patients about treatments available in other Member States; defining which health authority is responsible for supervising cross-border health care in different circumstances; responsibility for any harm caused by healthcare and compensation; patient rights; and supporting health systems through European co-operation. The consultation will be open until 31 January 2007 and responses are invited from Member States, the EP and other stakeholders such as patients and health professionals, as well as purchasers and providers of care. The EC plans to use the results of the consultation to develop a pan European proposal later in 2007.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Details of the consultation are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/co_operation/mobility/patient_mobility_en.htm

EC web pages on Mobility in Europe are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/care_for_me/mobility_in_europe/index_en.htm

EC consults on media literacy

The EC's DG Information Society and Media recently launched a new survey on media literacy with respect to digital technologies. It has also asked for information about initiatives in commercial communications, film and in the online community, in order to facilitate the sharing of best practice. The results of the survey will feed into an EC Communication planned for the second half of 2007, and will also be used to guide the work of the EC's Media Literacy Expert Group.

At the launch of the survey, the Commissioner for Information Society and Media, Ms Viviane Reding, stressed the importance of media literacy to 'an active and full citizenship' comparing it to literacy at the beginning of the 19th century. With the growing role of information and communication technologies (ICT) in today's society, the ability to judge media content becomes increasingly important to active democracy and citizenship. Media literacy also covers understanding how the media filters information and the power that images can have, across all media, including print, the internet, radio, television and other forms of communication. The notion of media literacy also supports the right to information and freedom of expression. The media literacy initiative forms part of a wider EC policy towards enhancing trust and take-up of online content.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Release IP/06/1326 of 6 October 2006 is available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

The consultation, open to all parties until 15 December 2006, can be accessed at:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/avpolicy/media_literacy/index_en.htm

Members of the EC Media Literacy Expert Group are listed at:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/avpolicy/media_literacy/expert_group/index_en.htm

RESEARCH NEWS

EC funds 15 new security research projects to combat terrorism

From 2004-6, the EC has been running a 'Preparatory Action for Security Research' (PASR) funding scheme. This focuses on the development of a European security research agenda to bridge the gap between civil research supported by EC's Framework Programmes, and national and intergovernmental security research initiatives. The response to the PASR calls has been tremendous, with 165 proposals submitted to the 2006 call. With an overall budget of €15 Million, the EC has announced that 15 proposals will be supported - eight technology projects and seven supporting activities. The eight technology projects cover the detection of explosives and biological agents, management tools for humanitarian and rescue operations, protection of drinking water network against chemical or biological terrorist attack, tracking system for identification of financial transactions linked to crime or terrorist activities, wireless communication network for emergency and security end-users. The seven supporting activities are complementary, covering some specific fields relating to the co-ordination of the security network, involvement of SMEs, human behaviour and standardisation.

Given the success of the PASR, and in light of the increasing importance of security concerns, security research will be included in FP7, with a total budget of about €1.43 billion. As reported in the last edition of this newsletter, the European Security Research Advisory Board (ESRAB) - which comprises of stakeholders to advise the EC on how FP7

research should contribute effectively to citizen's security - has recently published a report.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Releases IP/06/1390 and MEMO/06/375 (which includes more details on all 15 projects supported) of 13 October 2006 are available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

More information on the EC's security research activities, as well as a link to the ESRAB report, is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/security/index_en.htm

EC publishes ICT success stories - strategies for leadership

The EC's DG Information Society and Media recently published a book featuring successful Information Society Technologies (IST) projects. The book, entitled 'Strategies for Leadership' provides case-studies of different IST projects funded under FP6, highlighting the impact of IST developments on society, for example in the areas of health and transport. It also draws attention to the need to create an inclusive society, and to ensure that new technology can benefit everyone. To this end, it is important that the EU remains active in developing technologies, in order to ensure that any new technologies are appropriate in the European context. This is also a key feature of the Information Communication Technologies (ICT) thematic priority in FP7, and of the EC's i2010 initiative (which is a strategy on a European information society for growth and employment) which will be implemented, in part, through FP7.

The book also briefly outlines the FP7, drawing attention to the complementarity between FP7 and other EU programmes, including the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP). The new CIP programme will draw on experiences from past programmes, including eEurope; Modinis; eTEN and eContent, so the book also provides a brief description each of these past programmes. Finally, the publication outlines technological advances and the impact that these can have. It uses a range of case studies of IST projects to demonstrate how new challenges are being addressed in the context of the Framework Programme.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The ICT success stories 'Strategies for Leadership' can be downloaded, or a hard copy ordered free of charge, from the EC's online bookshop at:

http://bookshop.europa.eu/eGetRecords?Template=Test_EUB/en_search_words

Functional genomics developments during FP6

Now that the FP6 calls are drawing to an end, it is a good time to take stock of functional genomics developments during FP6. The functional genomics strand of the FP6 'Life Sciences Genomics and Biotechnology for Health' theme covered: gene expression and proteomics; structural genomics; comparative genomics and population genetics; bioinformatics; and multidisciplinary functional genomics approaches to basic biological processes. Over the last few years, the EC has also held a number of workshops in the FP6 area of Functional Genomics as part of a continuous consultation process that is likely to continue throughout FP7. For each workshop the EC invited small groups of stakeholders active in these areas to attend the events and to discuss the main issues.

The workshop reports have been published, and these should be a useful resource both to follow European research developments over the last few years, and also to provide insight into future developments as FP7 approaches. The most recent workshop, held in March 2006 covered human genetic variation databases. Other events during FP6 included a biomedical sciences workshop (July 2005), a systems biology-EU projects-workshop (December 2005), a computational systems biology workshop (September 2003), and a bioinformatics workshop (June 2003).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information, including a link to all the workshop reports, is available at:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/lifescihealth/genomics/home.htm>

Marco Polo transport projects chosen

The EC has selected 16 Marco Polo projects for funding this year. Submitted under the third call of the Marco Polo programme, these projects will receive €21.7 million funding in total. Vice President of the EU and Commissioner for Transport, Jaques Barrot, stated 'all supported projects will shift the balance between the transport modes, and thereby contribute to the sustainable development strategy of the EU'. The Marco Polo programme helps the EU achieve its aim, as set out in the mid-term review of the Transport White Paper, of promoting environmentally friendly modes of transport.

The 16 projects, which have a good geographic distribution around the EU, will lever in private investment worth around €350 million and will be responsible for shifting 10.3 billion tones/kilometres of freight. Most projects are worth around €1-2 million each and include rail, road, and waterborne transport methods. In total, 63 project proposals had been submitted. An exhaustive evaluation procedure was carried out in order to fund the best 16 projects, which included the EP and European Council endorsing the EC's shortlist.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Release IP/06/1352 of 11 October 2006 is available at:
<http://europa.eu/rapid>

Further details of Marco Polo projects are available at:
http://ec.europa.eu/transport/marcopolo/projects/index_en.htm

The mid-term review of the EUs Transport White Paper is available at:
http://ec.europa.eu/transport/transport_policy_review/index_en.htm

Zebrafish help you monitor cell development

A Network of Excellence funded under the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) is underway with the overall aim to integrate and strengthen the European research area in the field of cardiovascular diseases. A new Zebrafish research platform, part of the Network of Excellence on European Vascular Genomics Network (EVGN), has been launched to aid in the advancement of cardiovascular research it aims to support and enhance scientific and clinical research of cardiovascular diseases. At present, there are five ongoing collaborative projects involving EVGN partner laboratories from Italy, Germany, Finland, the UK and France.

The Zebrafish (*danio rerio*) has proven to be an ideal model for studying vertebrate development, due to its fully developed immune system, fully functional nervous and cardiovascular systems. It is used in many labs instead of rats or mice. Zebrafish embryos

are unusual as they are transparent so they allow researchers to watch processes that take place during critical stages of early development. Analysis of the Zebrafish may prove to be particularly effective in studying the manipulation of the development of blood vessels, or angiogenesis, to produce certain desirable, medically beneficial results such as increased blood flow to a damaged organ or restricted blood flow to a tumour in an attempt to stem its growth.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The EVGN website is available at:

<http://www.evgn.org>

New research projects on avian and pandemic influenza

17 projects have been selected for funding under the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) Science in Support of Policies call on avian and pandemic influenza (Call 5b). These projects will collectively receive funding of €28.3 million which has been evenly divided between human and animal health projects; this is in addition to the €21 million already committed in this area under FP5 and FP6. 51 proposals were submitted to the call and 25 proposals passed the evaluation thresholds with an overall success rate of 33 per cent.

The projects were divided in the animal and human health projects. The human health projects will cover research on better understanding of how the flu virus works as well as clinical research on vaccine development. The animal health projects will address vaccines, better diagnosis and early warning systems, increased knowledge of the avian influenza virus itself, technology transfer to third (non EU) countries and a network for monitoring migratory birds. This call demonstrated strong third country participation, nine of the selected projects include third country partners including, Russia, China, Vietnam, Australia, US, Canada and Croatia, several of which have been directly affected by recent outbreaks of avian influenza. There are also a number of SMEs involved in the funded projects.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Releases IP/06/1413 and MEMO/06/381 of 17 October 2006 are available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

Details of European activities in the area of avian flu are available from:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/controlmeasures/avian/index_en.htm

Sunning safely

An online service entitled 'HappySun' provides users with information on when it is safe to sun tan, thereby allowing them to avoid excessive levels of ultraviolet radiation. The service involves users filling in an online questionnaire about skin sensitivity, and specifying when and where they are being exposed to the sun. 'HappySun' then calculates a personal safe exposure time to the sun, and also suggests what sun protection factor the individual should use. According to a recent World Health Organisation (WHO) report, excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation accounts for up to 60,000 deaths annually. HappySun can therefore play an important role in the fight against cancer, including malignant melanomas and skin carcinomas.

HappySun services can be delivered to mobile phones through SMS and can also be accessed online. The system makes use of satellite data from the European Space

Association (ESA). A UV Index is then calculated for different times of the day, using satellite information on radiation, ozone and cloud coverage. Data relating to the sea transparency is also available, which is useful for the tourists wanting to dive. So far, HappySun has been up and running for two years, and has had very positive feedback from users. The service is currently available for two hotel chains in Tuscany and Sardinia in Italy.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further details are available from the European Space Association at:
http://www.esa.int/esaEO/SEMZAIV74TE_economy_0.html

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CULTURE

EP's view on education

The EP recently debated and adopted three reports relating to different aspects of European educational policy, one of which was a report on the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF). The aim of the EQF is to enable a better comparison of qualifications across Europe. MEPs agreed that the EQF should be implemented initially on a voluntary basis but Member States should seek to ensure complementarity between their own qualifications and the EQF. Overall, EP was broadly welcoming of the EQF but they did remain critical of certain areas calling on the EC to place greater emphasis on the relationship between EQF and the labour market and to clarify the three horizontal areas of knowledge, skills and personal and professional competences.

The second report concerned the establishment of a European quality charter for mobility in education, which followed on from an EC communication last year. This report was adopted in one reading under the co-decision procedure following certain compromise amendments. It highlighted the importance of student mobility in creating a competitive, knowledge-based society, and in promoting a European citizenship. The EP recommends that Member States adopt the European charter. The third report focused on the European dimension of school teaching material and stressed the importance of including a European dimension in curricula to cover information about the EU and language development skills.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Reports are available from the EP website at:
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/default_en.htm

EC launches scholarships for Belarusian students

The EC has launched a new scholarship programme for Belarusian students wanting to study abroad. The programme has a total of €4.5 million and will be implemented by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The Scholarships programme has been devised in order to support students who have been penalised by the Belarusian regime and who have been denied access to Belarusian universities because of their political activities during and after the presidential elections on 19 March 2006. The EC's 3-year scholarship programme for Belarusian students, worth €4.5 million, will comprise 3 components: Scholarships to 170 Master and 35 Bachelor Programmes for new students at the

European Humanities University (EHU) in Vilnius; living expenses for Belarusian students currently enrolled at the EHU; and scholarships for 100 students for higher education in Ukraine and other neighbouring countries.

The European Humanities University (EHU) is a Belarusian university which was exiled in Vilnius. It currently receives support from the EC of €2.2 million. The EHU expertise is in the social sciences and humanities. Ukrainian universities are considered a suitable alternative for Belarusian students interested in all other disciplines.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available at the following:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/belarus/intro/index.htm

EXTERNAL COLLABORATION

EU-India Summit

The seventh EU-India Summit was held in Helsinki on 13 October 2006 with leaders from the EU and India. The summit covered topics such as effective multilateralism, climate change, energy, counter terrorism, and non-proliferation. The EU is India's largest trading partner, accounting for a fifth of India's trade. A key outcome of the summit was an agreement on the establishment of a high level trade group to study and explore ways to deepen the relationship in trade and investment.

Leaders discussed progress since the last summit in 2005 in implementing the Joint Action Plan. Notably, there has been a strong increase in Erasmus Mundus student exchanges, more than double in the 2005-06 academic year. Indian participation in FP6 has also more than doubled to over 50 projects. The EU and India agreed on the critical role of science and technology in striving towards their knowledge-based economies and the mutual benefits of further strengthening joint research and S&T co-operation. The EU-India S&T agreement will be renewed in 2007 and both sides welcomed India's full membership of ITER.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Release IP/06/1387 of 12 October 2006 available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

European Council EU-India summit website is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/india/intro/summ_index.htm

EU-African Union: focus on partnership and development

The EC and the Commission of the African Union met for a joint working session at the headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 2 October 2006. The meeting focused on institutional partnership and development. Almost a year after the adoption of the EU Strategy for Africa, both sides reviewed the progress in its implementation and looked at the impact of the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure.

The four pillars of the African Union Strategic Plan 2004-07 will receive EU funding under the €55 million Support Programme. The four pillars are: institutional strengthening of the AU Commission; peace, human security and governance; regional integration, which also

covers science and technology; and enhancing concrete EU-African Union co-operation. It includes fostering regional centres of excellence for research and higher education, and the establishment of the Nyerere student exchange programme across Africa. Complementary support will also be provided within the Erasmus Mundus programme, allowing for more well-qualified African students to come to Europe for post-graduate education.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

EC Press Release IP/06/1277 of 28 September 2006 is available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

Details of the EC-African Union meeting are available at:

<http://www.africa-union.org/root/AU/Conferences/Past/2006/October/EU-AU/AU-EU-meeting-en.htm>

The Strategy for Africa is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/development/body/communications/eu_africa_strategy_en.htm

EU-Southeast Europe: Commissioner discusses research and integration

EC Commissioner for Research, Janez Potočnik, recently spoke about ways of boosting public and private investment in research in southeast Europe. Although the region has a strong scientific base, Potočnik believes that, like the EU, these countries should increase public investment in research. Potočnik stressed how research can facilitate integration, and how FP7 is the perfect vehicle for co-operation with the benefits being more knowledge transfer and increased market access opportunities. He said that [he is] 'committed to make the conditions very attractive for South Eastern European countries to be associated to the next Framework Programme, FP7. I am thinking particularly of the financial contribution required. I said this when the Steering Platform for Western Balkan Countries was launched in June in Vienna. And I am pleased that since then, some of you have taken up my offer!'

Southeast European countries need to boost research by getting together with all stakeholders; designing an integrated research policy and setting national targets on how much public funding will go to research, and increasing human resources capacities. To make the most of limited funds, Potočnik suggested: national science budgets need to focus on excellence; governments need to encourage collaboration and networking with the EU; to update national equipment and laboratories (but without duplicating facilities); to avoid fragmentation in funding; to introduce a fair level of competition into national research funding; and to set priorities in the thematic areas playing on strengths and strategic interests.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Release SPEECH/06/551 of 29 September 2006 is available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

The website of the Steering Platform of the Western Balkans is available at:

<http://www.see-era.net>

EU-Croatia/Serbia: Potočnik visit commemorates Tesla

The EC Commissioner for science and research, Janez Potočnik, also recently visited Croatia and Serbia. During his visit, he attended the 'Tesla's Heirs' workshops, which were organised jointly by the EC together with the research ministries of Serbia and Croatia. The Tesla's Heirs workshops commemorated the 150th anniversary of the birth

of Nikola Tesla, inventor, physicist and engineer, whose work formed the basis of modern electric power. The workshops aimed to provide a forum for researchers from across Europe, particularly those benefiting from European research grants and working in the area of engineering, physics, mathematics and information sciences. It enabled them to exchange scientific knowledge and experience of working in another country, whilst also covering sessions related to key transferable skills such as promoting technology transfer and IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) management. Researchers in the Western Balkans and across the EU were able to build scientific networks with other researchers working in similar domains.

While in the region, Commissioner Potočnik also met with the Prime Ministers and Science Ministers of both Serbia and Croatia to persuade the governments there to encourage researchers to co-operate with European researchers to strengthen their own science base, thereby aiding their economic and social development. Potočnik encouraged participation in the research framework programme and also called for increased emphasis on innovation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Release IP/06/1338 of 9 October 2006 is available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

More information on the “Tesla’s Heirs” Workshop is available at:

<http://www.hatz.hr/MarieCurie2006> and <http://www.mntr.sr.gov.yu/MarieCurie2006>

Developing countries: €100 million to fund energy efficiency and renewables

The EC has proposed to create a new global risk capital fund called the Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund (GEEREF). The aim of the fund would be to mobilise private investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in economies in transition and in developing countries. This ties in with one of the EU’s goals which is to ensure that global temperatures do not rise more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels, since the impacts of climate change are forecast to be far more severe beyond this level. The main responsibility for triggering these changes lies with industrialised countries, but scaling up energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives will greatly benefit all countries. It will also allow developing countries to provide secure and clean energy to people who currently do not have access to reliable energy sources.

The EC intends to provide up to €80 million over the next four years for the initiative, with financing from other private and public funding sources expected to bring the total to €100 million. GEEREF should accelerate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries. The EC has invited the European Council, the EP and other stakeholders to comment on the initiative, and to endorse the EC’s aims, such as reaching the initial funding target by mid-2007.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Release IP/06/1329 of 6 October 2006 is available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

EU-China: Science and Technology Year launched

The launch of the China-EU Science & Technology Year took place in Brussels recently. This collaboration follows on from the science and technology agreement (STA) signed by

both regions in 1998, which has up to date produced over 130 joint science and technology projects worth more than €850 million. Formally launched by Janez Potočnik, EU Commissioner for Research, and Vice Minister Wu Zonghze of China, it was followed by a policy forum on topical issues such as health, renewable energy, researcher mobility, environment, biotechnology and food.

The aim of the year is to strengthen scientific and political links between the two regions in order to better face shared challenges. Commissioner Potočnik highlighted climate change, avian flu and oil reserve shortages as key common challenges. The objectives of the year are to strengthen research links; increase researcher and knowledge mobility; open further government collaboration on research programmes; promote fair technology exchanges; and help develop research projects of mutual interest and benefit. The signing of this agreement with China is timely given that its R&D spending is growing at 20 per cent per year and produced 2.6 million graduates in 2005 alone.

FUTHER INFORMATION

More details on the joint S&T year, including a list of events is available at:

<http://www.ec.europa.eu/cesty>

Further information on Chinese research is available at:

<http://www.most.gov.cn/eng>

The EC contact person for this initiative is:

Philippe Vialatte

Principal Administrator

DG Research

+32 2 296 63 36

E-mail: Philippe.Vialatte@ec.europa.eu

EU-China to increase co-operation on food safety

Illegal exports of food to the EU from China escape all official controls and can therefore pose an animal or public health risk, as they have not undergone the normal health and quality checks of legal exports. Last week, European Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner, Markos Kyprianou, and People's Republic of China Minister Li Changjiang, in charge of AQSIQ (Administration for Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine) signed an agreement to fight the trade of 'illegal food products'. Commissioner Kyprianou said the agreement was 'a significant step forward in ensuring consumer safety'.

The agreement is based on a better exchange of information and enhanced co-ordination. Both sides will establish contact points for rapid communication of relevant technical information about potential illegal food trade. The EU and Chinese authorities will investigate and follow up information whenever illegal export consignments are detected; notify each other of the results of the investigations; take corrective action to prevent and deter illegal export activities; jointly conduct investigations for especially sensitive matters; co-operate on the mutual development of electronic certification to prevent false certification; speed up the approval process for food exports; and return or destroy illegal imports in accordance with each other's respective legal requirements.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Released IP/06/1210 of 19 September 2006 is available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

DG Health and Consumer Affairs, Food and Food Safety websites:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/cons_safe/prod_safe/gpsd/surveillance_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/rapex_en.cfm

http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/rapidalert/index_en.htm

Details of training opportunities, in 2007, managed by DG Health and Consumer Affairs:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/training/training2007_en.htm

EVENTS and AWARDS

Conferences on health research in FP7

A series of three conferences on the health theme of FP7 will be held in the UK in November and December 2006. These conferences are being organised by the UK National Contact Point (NCP) for Health in FP6 and the UK's Medical Research Council. They will present the opportunities for UK participants in the areas of health in FP7. The events will be taking place in London on 30 November, Nottingham on 1 December and Edinburgh on 5 December 2006. The events are free of charge and are intended for an audience of potential future FP7 applicants from industry and academia.

Speakers from the EC, the UK's Department for Trade and Industry (DTI) and the UK NCP for health will present the Seventh Framework Programme. The programmes also contain specific sessions on rules, regulations and contracts in FP7. The event in London will also contain sessions on the ICT theme of FP7. The Nottingham event will contain some information on the Nanosciences and Nanotechnologies, Materials and New Production Technologies (NMP) theme of FP7.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information and programmes for the conferences are available at:

<http://fp6uk.ost.gov.uk/fp7/page.aspx?sp=2570>

Workshops for young researchers from the UK and Spain

As part of a British Council and Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) initiative entitled 'OPENING DOORS - Scientific Workshops for Young Researchers', a workshop on regeneration and cell therapy will be taking place in Barcelona from 18–22 March 2007. The aim of the initiative is to promote the links between young scientists from the UK and Spain enabling them to meet to exchange knowledge and ideas, and to explore future areas of collaboration. The workshop is open to early to mid-stage researchers and those wishing to participate need to submit their CV and a completed application form to the British Council in Spain before 15 December 2006.

The seminar will provide the participants with ample opportunities for discussion in structured and informal sessions. Keynote speakers, who will give a brief presentation of their own work, include Dame Julia Polak from Imperial College London on regenerative medicine and Ian Wilmut of the University of Edinburgh on stem cells. Other keynote speakers will be covering areas including liver regeneration, epithelial bioengineering and smart materials for tissue engineering. The seminar is limited to about 30 participants and participation is by invitation. The organisers of this scientific workshop will cover participants' travel and full board accommodation costs

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further details and application forms are available from:

belen.fortea@britishcouncil.es

More information will be available from the British Council website at:

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/es/spain-science-and-society-whats-on-science-events.htm>

Workshop on biometric markers

The EU-funded ECNIS (Environmental Cancer Risk, Nutrition and Individual Susceptibility) project, in co-operation with the EC, is hosting a workshop on 'biomarkers and their potential in human biomonitoring and environmental health surveillance' in Luxembourg on 29 November 2006. ECNIS is a network of excellence, funded through the Sixth Framework Programme for research, which brings together some of the major protagonists of European biomarker research. The workshop intends to provide an overview of the current state of biomarker science and discuss its potential in terms of environmental health and human biomonitoring surveillance. It will build on an EC conference of November 2005 entitled 'synthesising research results for supporting human biomonitoring in Europe'.

The workshop is aimed at policy makers, industry, members of the consultative forum on environment and health, patient advocacy groups, consumer organisations and all other stakeholders interested in environmental health. Attendance of the workshop is free but advance registration is strongly encouraged.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The ECNIS website is available at:

<http://www.ecnis.org>

For further information on the workshop please contact:

Dr. Maria Botsivali,
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Greece
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E-mail: mbotsi@eie.gr

STOA to hold annual lecture IT sector's future

The EP's Scientific Options Technology Assessment (STOA) has organised a lecture entitled 'avoiding a Web of confusion – innovation in the heart of information technology', to be held in the EP in Brussels on 21 November 2006. STOA is an official organ of the EP, and provides parliamentary committees with independent assessments of scientific issues. Through this, STOA therefore also liaises closely with research institutes, universities and consultancies.

This year's lecture will be presented by Phil Janson, a guest speaker from IBM Research Division, Zurich Laboratory. His speech will explore the possible future of the IT industry, including the future of the internet; the challenges of the 'knowledge area', and the rise in 'event-driven middleware'.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The STOA website, which includes more details on the event in their August newsletter, is available at:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/stoa/default_en.htm

The event is open to all interested parties free of charge, but registration is mandatory by emailing:

nicloe.lacourt@europarl.europa.eu

For further information on the event, please contact:

Jarka Chloupkova, STOA Secretariat. Tel: 0032 2284 0606

Launch of ARTEMIS Industrial Association

The European Technology Platform for Advanced Research and Technology for Embedded and Intelligence & Systems (ARTEMIS) is set to launch its industrial association, ARTEMISIA, in November 2006 in Helsinki. The launch has been scheduled to coincide with the 2006 IST Conference, which takes place from 21 – 23 November 2006. Attendance of the event is free of charge, but registration (via the website) is mandatory.

The launch of the new association follows the publication of the ARTEMIS strategic research agenda (SRA) earlier this year, and aims to bring together European R&D actors to represent them in future joint undertakings. By becoming members of ARTEMISIA, organisations can contribute to the future development of ARTEMIS' research agenda, and will get the opportunity to liaise with other key actors in the field. ARTEMIS is one of nine European Technology Platforms in the IST priority in FP6, and will develop into one of two Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) in the ICT priority in FP7.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The ARTEMIS website is available at:

<http://www.artemis-office.org/dotnetnuke>

Further information on the Helsinki conference is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/istevent/2006/index_en.htm

The EC webpage on European Technology Platforms is available at:

http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/home_en.html

Nominees announced for Sakharov Prize supporting freedom of thought

The EP recently announced the nominees for the 2006 Sakharov Prize. The prize is given to exceptional individuals or organisations fighting oppression, injustice and intolerance. Past winners include Nelson Mandela, Kofi Annan and the UN. The prize takes its name from one of the scientists involved in developing the hydrogen bomb for the Soviet Union Andrei Sakharov (1921 -1989), who went on to become a strong critic of the nuclear arms race, and founded a human rights committee. For his achievements, Andrei Sakharov was awarded the 1975 Nobel Peace Prize. The Sakharov Prize was founded in 1988, and recognizes achievements in the four fields: defence of human rights and fundamental freedoms; safeguarding minorities' rights; respect for international law and development of democracy and implementation of the rule of law.

Nominees this year include, amongst others, Ingrid Betancourt (the former Colombian Senator and a lead campaigner against corruption and drug trafficking), Bishop Erwin Krautler (an Austrian Catholic bishop, based in Brazil and fighting for the rights of the indigenous minorities and the preservation of the rain forest) and Alexander Milinkevich

(leader of the opposition in Belarus, calling for a democratic future for Belarus). Following a selection process within the EP, the prize of €50,000 will be awarded in the December 2006.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on the Sakharov prize can be found at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/comparl/afet/droi/sakharov/default.htm>

Awards for Europe's best young researchers

Three projects were awarded the first prize in the EU Contest for Young Scientists 2007 in Stockholm recently. The winners were: Tomasz Wdowik from Poland for his work on synthesis of new potential beta blockers; Johannes Burkart and Alexander Joos from Germany for their work on the flight curves of table-tennis balls; and Michael Kaiser and Johannes Kienl from Austria for developing a completely new de-icing system for aircraft. The jury of 15 scientists was chaired by Professor Jane Grimson of Trinity College Dublin. They chose the winners from over 120 scientists, aged from 15 to 20, from 33 countries.

Three second and third prizes were also awarded to the young scientists due to the diversity of the projects under decision. They include research in the fields of biology, physics and botany from young scientists in Ireland, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic. The winners received prizes worth €5,000, with the second and third place prizes worth €3,000 and €1,500 per project respectively. In addition, several other honorary prizes were awarded, allowing young scientists to attend events such as the Stockholm International Youth Science Seminar and the London International Youth Science Forum. The event next year will be taking place in Valencia, Spain.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Release IP/06/1270 of 11 September 2006 is available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

Further information is available from the contest website:

<http://www.eucontest.se>

European Science-to-Business Award

The Degussa European Science-to Business Award 2006 has been awarded to Professor Russell Cowburn from Imperial College London, of this work on 'spintronic' microchips. The new microchips could revolutionise modern technology, with their capacity to increase data storage by 100 times. Professor Cowburn reproduced the key functions of semiconductor electronics in microchips by using nanoelectronics, and focusing only on the 'spin' of electrons. Spin-based electronics (Spintronics) chips use the magnetism of an electron rather than conventional charges. They have been shown to use less energy than conventional electronic microchips, and are less volatile. Spintronic chips also have the potential to be much smaller than electronic chips, and keep their memory when power is switched off. The chips could be instrumental in developing a new generation of 3D microchips, which could store much more information than two-dimensional surface chips.

The Degussa award targets scientists less than 35 years old whose work shows real commercial promise. All research has to have been carried out at a European facility within the last two years. The award was launched in 2005, and has as its patron the European Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potočnik.

FURTHER INFORMATION

More details are available at:

http://www.degussa-award.com/degussa/en/innovations/r_d_awards/science_to_business_award

2006 EURYI Awards showcase the future of EU science

The third European Young Investigator (EURYI) Award ceremony took place in Prague on 13 October 2006. The EURYI scheme is co-ordinated by the European Science Foundation (ESF) on behalf of the European Heads of Research Councils (EuroHORCs) and will provide awards to young researchers from €897,500 to €1,250,000 usually over five-year periods. 20 European national research organisations support the competition with no 'juste retour'.

The third year of EURYI saw 457 applications. Through a two stage process, first at national level and then at EU-level, 25 young researchers were selected based on their future potential, academic and research excellence. The researchers will be based in 11 different EU countries, although the distribution means that over half will be based in France, Germany or the Netherlands. The Fourth Call is now receiving applications, with a deadline of 11 November 2006.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further details of the EURYI scheme are available at:

http://www.esf.org/esf_genericpage.php?section=8&genericpage=1879

An overview of this year's winners is available at:

http://www.esf.org/esf_genericpage.php?section=10&language=0&genericpage=2606

NEW PUBLICATIONS and ONLINE RESOURCES

New JRC website on industrial research and innovation

As part of its industrial research and innovation (IRI) initiative, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the EU has launched a new website on industrial research and innovation. The website presents the main results of its research activity undertaken at the JRC Institute of Prospective Technical Study. It is made up of three sections: industrial research; industrial innovation and a focus on the new Member States. The R&D performance and strategies of leading companies are studied and policy analyses based on these observations are presented in several reports in the industrial research section of the website.

In the innovation section, the need to improve the understanding of the relationship between innovation process and industrial performance is addressed. It presents activities to monitor and analyse innovation patterns and identifies the technological challenges and future requirements of European industry. In the third section, which is addressed to new EU Member States, it addresses issues such as how they can catch up with other Member States in terms of increasing their R&D in line with the Lisbon agenda.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The JRC website on industrial research and innovation is available at:

<http://iri.jrc.es>

eHealthNews portal

A new portal called eHealthNews has recently been launched. The portal was developed as part of an EU funded Tempus Individual Mobility Grant. It aims to advance the eHealth industrial and research sectors by promoting awareness of the latest trends, achievements and technology in the field and to foster collaborations. The eHealthNews portal editor welcomes news articles, opinions, press releases, product descriptions and other eHealth relevant information to further develop the website.

Currently the eHealthNews portal covers several major eHealth news topics and includes information on industry news, research news, conferences and open calls. Additionally registered members are able to access the eHealthNews portal discussion group covering all eHealth related topics.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The eHealthNews.EU portal is available at:

<http://www.ehealthnews.eu>

'eSafety aware' launched

The new eSafety aware platform for user awareness of intelligent vehicles and road safety has been announced by the EC recently, as part of the i2010 initiative. At the moment the platform is made up of 26 members representing service providers, the insurance sector, road safety agencies and automotive suppliers. The platform will launch public awareness campaigns on the benefits of road safety technologies, encouraging the public to use these technologies. The impetus to improve road safety comes from the number of deaths and injuries each year. In 2005, road accidents killed over 4,000 people and injured over one million people in the EU.

The first campaign will be launched in April 2007 and is focused on electronic stability control (ESC). Future topics are expected to include eCall, which is for in-vehicle emergency calls. Speaking of the launch of the eSafety platform, Viviane Reding, EU Commissioner for Information Society and Media, said 'We have for a long time emphasised the importance of user awareness in the take-up of the new car safety technologies. Now we have concrete evidence that users' knowledge of new technologies needs improving. This is why I welcome the launch today of this new platform for promoting user awareness.'

FURTHER INFORMATION

EC Press Release IP/06/1271 of 28 September 2006 is available from:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

The eSafety website is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/esafety/index_en.htm

Checking the ethics of nanosciences

Nanologue is a new tool that supports dialogue between scientists and the wider public on issues relating to nanoscience and nanotechnology. Funded through the EU's Sixth Framework Programme, the project is co-ordinated by the Wuppertal Institute in Germany. Nanosciences and nanotechnologies are perhaps the least well-known and most feared areas of science. The new tool aims to encourage dialogue between policy makers, the business sector, researchers and the general public about the potential

benefits and problems of this area. The tools for use on the website include a nanologue mapping study, a nanologue backing paper and the results of a nanologue consultation with the research and business community.

At the same time, a 'Nanometer' tool has also been produced to assist researchers and scientists in identifying any areas of their work which could raise ethical, environmental or societal concerns. Researchers and product developers can use the nanometer to carry out an assessment of their application at an early stage. The nanometer comes in the form of a survey and can be completed online. Based on the answers given to 18 questions covering areas such as health, social benefits, the environment, privacy, transparency and resource requirements, the results highlight the areas that would be likely to cause concern for the public.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on the Nanologue project is available at:

<http://www.nanologue.net>

The Nanometer is available online at:

<http://nanometer.nanologue.net>

Publications and awards from the European Environment Agency

The European Environment Agency has launched the Corine Land Cover 2000 (CLC 2000) database on DVD. The CLC 2000 database offers borderless information on land cover and land cover changes over the past decade and maps land cover and land cover changes across 32 European countries using photo-interpretation of satellite images. The seamless vector database allows users to do borderless, pan-European analysis on land cover. CLC2000 can be used for assessing the impact of climate change and monitoring urban development. It is primarily intended as a tool for national and European policymakers and is also useful in commercial products, such as on-line maps and navigation systems.

PRELUDE (Prospective Environmental analysis of Land Use Development in Europe), an audio and video animated tool developed by the European Environment Agency, has won a Clarion Award - the fourth award for the project this year. PRELUDE shows how changing land use, climate change, agriculture and demographics may affect Europe over a period of 30 years. PRELUDE is designed to promote discussions among policymakers and politicians through the simulation of five plausible environmental futures. It questions what Europe's society and environment look like in 30 years' time and tries to encourage policy makers to anticipate some of the future problems. The Clarion Awards are not-for-profit and recognise best practice in communicating the importance of sustainable development initiatives. The awards were launched in 2003, receiving both cross-party support in the United Kingdom and endorsements from senior business people and communicators

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available at:

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/europes-land-cover-changes-on-dvd>

and

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/prelude-picks-up-a-fourth-award>

New EIB publication: EIB lending for health and education

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has recently published 'EIB lending for health and education', which outlines the EIB's work since it started investing in these areas in 1997. Health and education have become a permanent presence in the bank's lending portfolio, and are considered as key to contributing to the Lisbon strategy. The EIB has lent €22.1 billion between January 1997 and December 2005 for education and health projects.

The publication includes case studies of EIB investments. This includes a total of over €1 billion to the UK education sector between 1997 and 2005. The EIB has also supported research and innovation in both the private and public sectors. The EIB loans have covered infrastructure as well as other costs such as personnel, staff training, research costs and patent applications. For example, in Poland, the EIB loan has set up three operations stimulating human capital formation: a multi-sector support facility to support financing of R & D, academic university research and a science and innovation loan. The EIB individual loans are for projects that require investments of over €25 million in public, private and not-for-profit sectors. The EIB global loans are for investments that are less than €25 million and aimed at organisations such as SMEs, local authorities and special-purpose groupings. The loans can cover up to 50 per cent of the total cost.

FURTHER INFORMATION

More details are available from the following:

http://eib.eu.int/Attachments/thematic/health_education_2006_en.pdf

UK Science Insight

Science Insight is the British Council's monthly science news bulletin covering the latest developments and forthcoming events in science, engineering and technology in the UK.

URL: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/science-publications-science-insight-5.htm>

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 EU 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/eur-lex/en/index.html>
Official Journal C & L <http://www.europa.eu/eur-lex/en/oj/index.html>
Treaty of Amsterdam <http://www.europa.eu/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/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/rapid>

GLOSSARY

A&S	Aeronautics and Space Priority (FP6) http://cordis.europa.eu/fp6/activities.htm
C&G	Citizens and Governance Priority (FP6) http://cordis.europa.eu/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.cost.esf.org
'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://consilium.europa.eu/cms3_fo/showPage.ASP?lang=en
Culture 2000	First European Community Framework Programme in support of culture, which runs from 2000/04 (inclusive). http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/index_en.html
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. http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm
eEurope	eEurope A political initiative of the EC to allow Europe to benefit fully from the Information Society. http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/2005/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.europa.eu/news/public/default_en.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://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index_en.html
ESC	European Economic and Social Committee is a consultative body made up of representatives of Europe's employers'

organisations, trade unions, farmers, consumer groups and professional associations.

http://eesc.europa.eu/index_en.asp

Press Releases:

http://eesc.europa.eu/activities/press/cp/index_en.asp

ESF	European Science Foundation http://www.esf.org
ESF	The European Social Fund http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/esf2000/index_en.html
Eureka	Eureka is a Europe-wide network for Industrial Research and Development. http://www.eureka.be
FQS	Food Quality and Safety Priority (FP6) http://cordis.europa.eu/fp6/activities.htm
FP (FP5, FP6, FP7)	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. Further information on the thematic and horizontal programme composition of FP6 is available at: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp6 Further information on FP7 at: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7
GBH	Genomics and Biotechnology for Health Priority (FP6) http://cordis.europa.eu/fp6/activities.htm
Green Paper	Green Papers are communications published by the European Commission on a specific policy area. Primarily they are documents addressed to interested parties who are invited to participate in a process of consultation and debate. In some cases they provide an impetus for subsequent legislation.
ITRE	The European Parliament Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy (FP5) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/itre_home_en.htm
INTAS	International Association for the promotion of co-operation with scientists from the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union. http://www.intas.be
IST	Information Society Technologies Priority (FP6) http://cordis.europa.eu/fp6/activities.htm
JRC	The ECs Joint Research Centre acting as a scientific and

technological laboratory in support of EU policies, with a range 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://ec.europa.eu/comm/avpolicy/media/index_en.html
Mobility	Human Resources and Mobility Programme (FP6) http://cordis.europa.eu/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://ec.europa.eu/comm/enlargement/pas/phare/index.htm
RTD	Research and Technological Development
SDGC	Sustainable Development and Global Change Priority (FP6) http://cordis.europa.eu/fp6/activities.htm
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)) http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/ceeca/tacis
Treaty of Amsterdam	The Treaty of Amsterdam was signed in October 1997 and entered into force on 1 May 1999. http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/en/treaties/index.htm
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.

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