

# European RTD Insight

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## News on EU Research Policy and Programmes

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## EU Policy

### ERC launch conference and fact sheets

The launch conference of the European Research Council (ERC) was held in Berlin on 27 and 28 February. Almost 300 scientific experts from around the world were invited to the conference to discuss and exchange their views on the strategic and programme intentions of the ERC. The EU Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potočnik, said at the launch, 'With the ERC, we are moving into a new era of European support to scientific research. Some of the greatest scientific discoveries and advances in knowledge have come from giving great ideas the space and time to flourish. This is what we want to achieve with the ERC.'

The conference website contains eight useful fact sheets and further information on the ERC. The fact sheets are as follows: 1. Mission – which describes the aims of the ERC; 2. Organisation – which explains how the ERC is organised; 3. Grant Schemes – which describes the two grants available; 4. Evaluation System – which explains the peer review process and application process; 5. Citizen – which describes how investment in leading research can benefit European citizens; 6. Science – which discusses frontier research; 7. Policy – which explains the policy background to frontier research; and, 8. Private Sector – which explains how the ERC can have an impact on Europe's private sector.

Additionally, the Scientific Council for the ERC has published four storylines to illustrate frontier research and its importance in Europe: 1. What makes scientists creative?; 2. Bring the Nobel prizes back to Europe; 3. The role of serendipity in basic research; and, 4. How discoveries at the research frontiers have changed our daily lives.

### **Further information**

Further information, including the fact sheets and storyline documents, is available from the ERC website at: <http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm>

## **EC seeks evaluators for Marie Curie actions**

The EC is seeking support from organisations to nominate potential expert evaluators for the FP7 Marie Curie actions. The EC is looking for evaluators of any nationality (including from non-EU countries), with a high level of professional experience in the public or private sector. In particular, they are looking for experience in research in any scientific or technological field and experience in the development of human resources, especially training, mobility and career development for researchers. In addition, experience in any of the following areas would be considered valuable: administration, management or evaluation of RTD projects, programmes or policies; issues at the interface of science and society (e.g. education, communication, risk, ethics, etc.); use of the results of RTD projects; technology transfer, innovation, and business co-operation, particularly with regard to small and medium-sized enterprises; and international co-operation in science and technology.

Evaluators will receive honorariums for their work and will be required to abide by the same rules as other parts of FP7, including those covering conflicts of interest. If an organisation wishes to nominate individuals, the organisation should register in the expert database and recommend an expert by filling in their name, family name, e-mail address, and research area.

### **Further information**

Registration is available at: <http://cordis.europa.eu/emmf7>

## **Establishment of a new European Technology Platform in aquaculture**

The European Aquaculture Technology Platform (EATP) was established recently. Its aim is to identify priority research areas and promote and stimulate the deployment and implementation of its Strategic Research Agenda, in order to achieve the goals of its vision. The EATP will have an open and transparent structure, allowing all stakeholders to play an active part in formulating the vision and Strategic Research Agenda for the Platform.

Participation is expected from key stakeholders such as aquaculture producers and processors, feed manufacturers, the pharmaceutical industry, suppliers to aquaculture (from engineering to services), the financial community, education/training and research institutes, public authorities, civil society and NGOs, and consumer organisations. The EATP also expects participation to take place at different levels: as a member of the advisory council or participant at the general assembly; as a participant in one or more of the initiative groups; as a participant in national mirror platforms or in a research, training, development and innovation project during the implementation phase. The first stakeholder meeting of this new ETP, held in Brussels in March, formulated a common vision for the industry for the next 20 years. The EATP's Strategic Research Agenda is currently under development.

### **Further information**

More information on EATP is available at: <http://www.eatpnet.eu/default.php>

## **2007 EIP work programme published for CIP**

The 2007 work programme for the Entrepreneurship and Innovation (EIP) theme of the new Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) has now been published after being formally approved on 8 March. The work programme is accompanied by a document setting out the other

support measures that will be implemented in 2007. The EIP work programme provides details of the 23 implementing measures for 2007, along with information on the budget, details of whether it is open to tender, contract or grant, and a table of notable milestones. The document detailing the support measures includes details on sectoral studies, dissemination activities on SMEs, competitiveness and cross-sectoral studies, conferences, study groups, technical support, and communication and information. The work programmes for the other two CIP programmes, the ICT Policy Support Programme and Intelligent Energy Europe, will be published in the near future.

#### **Further information**

The EIP work programme is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise\\_policy/cip/docs/eip\\_wp2007.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/cip/docs/eip_wp2007.pdf)

The list of EIP support measures for 2007 is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise\\_policy/cip/docs/eip\\_wp2007\\_measures.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/cip/docs/eip_wp2007_measures.pdf)

The DG Enterprise web pages on CIP can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise\\_policy/cip/index\\_en.htm#entr](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/cip/index_en.htm#entr)

### **The single European sky modernisation project**

The EC has adopted a communication outlining the progress being made in the development of SESAR. SESAR is a project for the modernisation of the air traffic control infrastructure; it aims to provide modern technologies and new working methods to ensure more effective flight management and to minimise the environmental impact of aviation. The project is being co-financed by the EC and EuroControl (the Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation in Europe), and is under the responsibility of an industrial consortium of 30 companies, representative of the entire European aviation community. The report finds that progress is developing on track and to schedule. On 27 February 2007, the European Council adopted a regulation on the establishment of a Joint Undertaking which will be responsible for managing the development phase of SESAR.

The project is organised into three phases. The definition phase was launched in 2005 and sets out a roadmap of the technologies and organisational methods to be deployed. SESAR is currently embarking on the development phase (2007-13) and will soon reach the stage of designing systems and implementing the critical components. This phase will be managed by the proposed Joint Undertaking. The deployment phase (2012-20) will be funded by industry and installed on a wide scale in Europe and in some partner countries. It is hoped that SESAR will enable European industry to become more innovative and competitive. Additionally, it is hoped that SESAR will make aircraft movements more efficient and that this will have a positive impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

#### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/07/331 of 15 March 2007 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

### **European Council discuss Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs**

The Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs was discussed at the recent EU summit (European Council) on 8 and 9 March. The meeting resulted in several follow-up actions for the EC and member states. For example, the EC will present an interim report in autumn 2007 with a view to its proposal for the Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs (2008-11).

With respect to research and innovation, the European Council reiterated the importance of spending three per cent of GDP on research and development by 2010 and stressed the need to optimise synergy among Community programmes, to improve the transformation of research findings into innovative products and services, and to ensure appropriate knowledge sharing between all partners. The EC has been asked to present recommendations for guidelines for co-

operation and technology transfer between public research and industry and to put forward its intellectual property rights (IPR) and patent strategies. It was noted that good progress has been made in implementing the 'Education and Training 2010' work programme over the last 12 months.

The Council and the EP were asked to produce an examination of the EC proposal on a European Institute of Technology as soon as possible with a view to taking a decision before the end of 2007. Finally, the EC has been invited to present proposals for achieving an integrated strategy for the promotion of eco-innovation early in 2008.

#### **Further information**

EC Press Release DOC/07/1 of 9 March 2007 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

### **Europe gradually catching up with the US in innovation**

The European innovation scoreboard for 2006 has shown that the innovation gap between Europe and the US has narrowed again. The report presents an analysis of the innovation performance of EU countries, the US, and Japan using a range of indicators including education, expenditure in ICT, investment in R&D, and the number of patents. The Nordic countries and Switzerland are leaders in innovation throughout the world and the performance of new member states is encouraging, with them steadily catching up with the EU average.

The scoreboard groups countries into four categories based on their current and historical performance in innovation: Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Denmark, Germany and Japan are classed as 'innovation leaders'; the UK, Iceland, France, Holland, Belgium, Austria, Ireland and the US are all 'innovation followers'; Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Portugal, Poland, Latvia, Greece, Bulgaria, Cyprus and Romania are 'catching up'; and Estonia, Spain, Italy, Malta, Hungary, Croatia and Slovakia are classed as 'trailing countries'. Overall, the innovation gap between the EU and the US and the EU and Japan is narrowing. However, a gap still exists. This can be explained by superior performance in the areas of early stage venture capital availability and the number of patents, and a higher percentage of the population with tertiary education.

#### **Further information**

EC Press Releases MEMO/07/74 and IP/07/221 of 22 February 2007 are available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

The full report is available at: <http://www.proinno-europe.eu/inno-metrics.html>

### **EU urged to move forward on mobile television**

At the recent CeBIT fair in Germany, the European Commissioner for Information Society and Media, Viviane Reding, highlighted the potential of mobile television as a new platform for the distribution of audiovisual content and outlined the new business opportunities it presents. Ms Reding stressed the need for a proactive and co-ordinated EU effort in this area to overcome fragmentation and regulatory obstacles. The EC remains committed to mobile television and strongly encouraged the establishment of the European Mobile Broadcasting Council (EMBC) in July last year. Following discussions with member states, and taking account of ongoing work on mobile television, the EC will launch a communication on mobile television in mid-2007. Key obstacles to the take-up of mobile television include interoperability, spectrum availability, and regulatory obstacles. By 2009, the worldwide market for mobile television is expected to be €11.4 billion.

The annual CeBIT conference is the world's largest trade fair on digital IT and telecommunications, and brings together actors from industry, research, government agencies and other key

stakeholders. This year, an informal meeting of EU Telecom Ministers was organised in connection with the fair.

#### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/07/340 of 16 March 2007 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

Further information on the CeBIT conference is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/events/cebit\\_07/mobile\\_tv/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/cebit_07/mobile_tv/index_en.htm)

### **New smart radio tag policy for Europe**

The EC has recently published its proposal for a new European strategy for smart radio tags. It proposes a set of measures to address concerns over the increased use of smart radio tags over the coming years. Around one billion smart tags are sold annually worldwide and they are increasingly incorporated into a range of other products like consumer goods, healthcare products and food packaging. The communication follows on from a European-wide public consultation on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags, which was launched a year ago. Stakeholders and the public were invited to express their views on RFIDs and a conference was held in October 2006.

The new communication addresses factors that are preventing the full use of RFID tags, including a predictable and stable policy development. To allow Europe to make full use of the tags, the communication recommends: creating an RFID stakeholder group to advise and inform the EC in developing its strategy; proposing amendments to the e-Privacy Directive by mid-2007; publishing a recommendation on data security and privacy by mid-2007; and analysing the economic and social effects of smart radio tags, and in particular the issues of privacy, trust and governance.

#### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/07/332 of 15 March 2007 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

### **International Polar Year gets underway**

The European Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potočnik, recently opened an event marking the beginning of International Polar Year (IPY). Addressing 160 participants from 21 different countries, Potočnik spoke about the recent changes in temperature at the poles, highlighted the effect of climate change on the Arctic and Antarctic, and outlined how this will affect Europe in terms of our climate, our ecosystems and our living conditions. He said 'The poles act as a sort of environmental library, having documented changes over many ages. They give us a clue as to what will happen in the next stage of climate change, from previous examples.'

To tie in with the event, the EC also released a report highlighting the advances in our understanding of the role played by the polar regions in climate change and the environment, advances made possible by the EU's Research Framework programmes. The EU has supported more than 60 projects looking specifically at the two poles over the last ten years, with finance of more than €200 million. Potočnik also highlighted in his speech how the EU's current Framework Programme, FP7, is continuing to contribute to polar and climate change research - future calls are planned focusing on sea-level rise, UV radiation, climate change impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, and human health issues.

#### **Further information**

EC Press Releases IP/07/271 of 1 March 2007 and SPEECH/07/118 of 5 March 2007 are available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

The International Polar Year website is available at: <http://www.ipy.org>

The EC report on Polar Research Projects is available at:

## **EU at the forefront of the knowledge revolution**

A recent speech given by the President of the EC, José Manuel Barroso, at the opening of the Netherlands House of Education and Research (Neth-ER), outlined the challenges facing Europe in the new knowledge era and highlighted some of the answers proposed by the EC at the start of 2007. President Barroso referred to the opening of Neth-ER as an indication of the importance of knowledge and innovation, and a recognition of the shift in focus in many sectors. He also stated that these changes were not just limited to economic activity, but were also related to social organisation and the way we see the world.

Commenting on the establishment of Neth-ER, which follows on from ten years of the Netherlands House of Science and Technology (NEST), Barroso welcomed this opportunity to help integrate the EU policy objectives of the knowledge triangle (education, innovation and research) into the agenda of the member states. The exchange of views at European level helps national systems to improve their performance and raise their visibility while contributing to the achievement of the EU's economic and social goals.

### **Further information**

EC Press Release SPEECH/07/93 of 21 February 2007 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

## **EC advisory group on energy and climate change**

The President of the EC, José Manuel Barroso, recently established an advisory group on energy and climate change, which met for the first time on 6 March 2007. The group will discuss a variety of issues during its coming meetings, including legislative proposals stemming from the energy package adopted on 10 January 2007; future G8 meetings on energy and climate change; and the different options facing Europe in terms of future energy policy, based on the adopted energy package. The work will be carried out in co-operation with the EC Bureau of European Policy Advisers and will bring valuable expertise from outside the EC.

The advisory group comprises 11 members, all of whom act in a personal capacity. They are a mix of energy and climate experts from a range of disciplines, organisations (such as universities, governments and international organisations) and countries. The advisory group was set up by the President of the EC to reflect the status of energy and climate change as major global challenges. The President of the EC considers Europe as part of the solution and is determined that the European Union will maintain its leadership role, including in the G8.

### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/07/283 of 6 March is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

## **European Parliament Temporary Committee on Climate Change**

The European Parliament this month agreed to establish a Temporary Committee on Climate Change, following a proposal made by EPP-ED (the Group of the European People's Party). It coincides with the summit of the Heads of State on 8 and 9 March, which called for a clear and precise response to climate change from the European Union and its member states. The decision to establish a temporary committee was taken by the Conference of Presidents, which consists of the President of the EP and the chairmen of the different political groups. The new Committee will be established in accordance with Parliamentary rules (Rule 175), which allow the EP to set up temporary committees as and when needed. A temporary committee does not have any legislative power.

Following political agreement to set up a new committee, the next step is a formal decision to establish the group. This will happen as soon as the committee's mandate has been confirmed. The Temporary Committee on Climate Change will be composed of members from a number of the Parliament's committees and is expected to report its findings within 12 months. EPP-ED Group wishes to see a focus on all the effects of climate change, including the cost implications, for a comprehensive climate change policy.

#### **Further information**

EPP-ED Press Release of 15 March 2007 is available at: <http://www.epp-ed.eu/Press/en/default.asp>

### **An energy policy for Europe**

The recent EU Summit (European Council) on 8 and 9 March 2007 agreed major new targets and actions for climate protection and greener energy. The Council adopted the Energy Action Plan for 2007-09, which pursues the following three objectives: full respect for member states' choice of energy mix and sovereignty over primary energy sources; increased security of supply; the ensured competitiveness of European economies and the availability of affordable energy; and environmental sustainability and combating climate change. The EC should provide an updated Strategic Energy Review in early 2009, which will serve as the basis for the new Energy Action Plan from 2010 onwards, to be adopted by the European Council in spring 2010.

The Council set an objective of a 30 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 compared to 1990, for the period beyond 2012 (post Kyoto Protocol), provided that other developed countries commit themselves to comparable emission reductions. In addition, a separate guarantee was made of at least a 20 per cent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 compared to 1990. The Council also made a commitment to continue its support for developing countries in lessening their vulnerability and adapting to climate change and issued an invitation to the EC to review the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).

#### **Further information**

EC Press Release DOC/07/1 of 9 March 2007 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

### **Results available from recent energy consultation**

The EC's DG TREN (Transport and Energy) has published the results of its consultation on the 'Promotion of Heating and Cooling from Renewable Energies'. The consultation took place between 8 August and 6 October 2006. A total of 127 responses were received, of which ten were invalid. The responses came from 15 EU member states, Romania and Switzerland. Twenty per cent of the answers came from Belgium, mainly from interest groups.

The consultation was based around 14 questions. The key findings related to obstacles, the role of policy measures, and the role of the European Union. Respondents felt that the main obstacles hindering a widespread development of heating and cooling technologies from renewable energies were financial, technological, market and political/regulation issues. The respondents highlighted a series of successful policy measures on promoting heating and cooling from renewable energies, including financial incentives, outreach and awareness campaigns, legal obligations, biomass supply promotion, training and service qualification/accreditation, and heat planning. Most respondents agreed that there would be added value in an EU-wide approach to promoting the development of standards for heating and cooling in renewable energies, though there was some concern that standardisation would impede market development.

#### **Further information**

The results of the DG TREN consultations on energy are available at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/consultation/setplan\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/consultation/setplan_en.htm)

## **EC consultation on Europe's research potential**

On 4 April this year, the EC is scheduled to adopt a Green Paper addressing issues affecting the creation of a 'single European market' for research. The consultation document is expected to outline issues affecting Europe's efforts to create economic growth and jobs, including the issues of overlapping priorities and dispersed research efforts.

The Green Paper is expected to go beyond research policy in a strict sense, and will also address issues such as the movement of people, international co-operation, innovation policy, intellectual property and equal opportunities, all of which are seen as central to creating and maintaining the European Research Area (ERA). The consultation follows on from earlier EC documents, including the Green Paper from 2000 which laid out the principles of the ERA. The Green Paper will be launched by the Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potočnik, at a press conference on 'investing together in research for our future'.

### **Further information**

Further details on the ERA are available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index_en.html)

## **Public consultation on SET-Plan**

The EC has opened a consultation on the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan). The consultation comes at a time when the EC is stressing the need for Europe to act together in order to deliver sustainable, secure and competitive energy in an 'Energy Policy for Europe'. It is hoped that the consultation will help to establish the basis for such a plan, which is scheduled to be put forward at the end of 2007. The aim of SET-Plan is to accelerate the market introduction and take up of low-carbon and efficient energy technologies. The strategic element of the plan is to identify those technologies for which it is essential that the EU as a whole works in an integrated manner.

The consultation itself will comprise two strands. The EC will consult stakeholder and advisory groups like the FP7 advisory groups and European Technology Platforms, hold workshops and hearings, and discuss the plan at high-level European conferences. In parallel, the EC will hold an online consultation, in which respondents will fill out an online questionnaire. The closing date for this is 13 May 2007. The questionnaire is divided into five topic areas, each with an introductory text to help respondents understand the context of the questions. A report with the findings of this public consultation will be made available via the internet six weeks after the closing date.

### **Further information**

Further details of the consultation are available at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/consultation/setplan\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/consultation/setplan_en.htm)

# **Research News**

## **New hydrogen technology will mean more efficient engines**

An EU funded research project in collaboration with US partners has produced new techniques for more efficient hydrogen-fuelled engines. It appears that these new engines will be much better able to compete with traditional fossil fuel-powered engines for performance and cost. The Hydrogen

Internal Combustion Engine (HyICE) project brought together a variety of participants from the car industry, supplier companies and universities to look at new engines for cars, trucks and buses.

The development of the new engine technology over the three years of the FP6 funded Integrated Project, is also important in terms of its environmental impacts. The new engine produces very little pollution but does not involve any considerable loss in power or engine size.

#### **Further information**

Further details on the project are available at:

[http://www.ec.europa.eu/research/transport/news/article\\_5196\\_en.html](http://www.ec.europa.eu/research/transport/news/article_5196_en.html)

#### **Researchers do the quick step**

Scientists from the EU and India are working together on the EU funded ASSIST research project to develop a test to quickly diagnose streptococcal strains with the potential to cause serious disease. The project, which is worth €1.5 million, is being co-ordinated by the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research in Germany and includes partners from the Karolinska Institut in Stockholm, the University of St Andrews in the UK, the postgraduate Institute of Medical Education in Chandigarh, India, the Christian Medical College in Vellore and the All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi.

Experts estimate that 600 million people suffer from streptococcal infections each year, with around two million of these cases having potentially serious complications such as rheumatic fever, which can lead to cardiac arrest. This is a particular problem for India, where six million children suffer from rheumatic heart disease. The project is currently examining a process to identify specific surface molecules or genes that only appear in the dangerous streptococcal strains. It will then look at the dispositions that make people more susceptible to dangerous pathogens and collect information on the strains found in India.

#### **Further information**

Further details of the project are available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/headlines/news/article\\_07\\_03\\_23\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/headlines/news/article_07_03_23_en.html)

## **Education, Training and Culture**

#### **EP's provisional report on the European Institute of Technology**

The EP has published its provisional report on the EC's proposal for a regulation establishing a European Institute of Technology (EIT). The report was written by the rapporteur Mr Reino Paasilinna MEP. It proposes 32 amendments, most of which are related to governance, funding, and mission. The report proposes that the EIT is firstly introduced as a 'pilot project' and is subject to a mid-term review before being established as a permanent institution. The rapporteur suggests that the EIT should focus on innovation rather than working equally on research, education and innovation. The report recommends that the triennial work programme be approved by the Council and EP. It also suggests the introduction of an annual work programme but does not suggest that this require approval at Council and Parliament level. Concerning IPR, it suggests that the principles should be based on those governing FP7. The EP's ITRE will consider the report over the coming months, with the vote expected in Committee in June and plenary in early autumn 2007.

The EC put forward its proposal for a regulation of the EP and of the Council establishing the European Institute of Technology on 18 October 2006. It is subject to the co-decision procedure and therefore needs to be considered by both the EP and the Council.

#### **Further information**

The provisional report on the EIT is available at:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004\\_2009/documents/pr/650/650590/650590en.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/pr/650/650590/650590en.pdf)

The EC's web pages on the EIT are available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/eit/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/eit/index_en.html)

### **EP feasibility and impact assessment of the EIT**

The report, 'European Institute of Technology: Assessment of the Feasibility and Possible Impact of the Establishment of a European Institute of Technology', commissioned by the EP's ITRE, was published on 27 March 2007. The main authors of the report were Dr Peter Tindemans, former Chair of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Megascience Forum, and Professor Luc Soete, Director of UNI-MERIT. The report analyses the feasibility of the EIT in the context of the current research, innovation and education landscape in Europe as well as comparing it to the situation in the US and Asia.

The independent report suggests that the EIT, as proposed in the November 2006 regulation, is in danger of suffering from too many constraints. It proposes another model of the EIT, the 'cluster EIT', that would strengthen local/regional collaborations in different research areas, making them more attractive centres for researchers. There would be a series of EITs, selected on the basis of proposals from strong regional or national consortia comprising of one or a very small number of universities or research centres. A third of the funding would come from core funding (from the proposed European Innovation Fund), a third from structural matching from regional or national sources and a third from public and private competitive sources

#### **Further information**

A copy of the feasibility and impact assessment is available at:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004\\_2009/documents/dv/ip\\_a\\_itre\\_st\\_2006/ip\\_a\\_itre\\_st\\_2006\\_11.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/dv/ip_a_itre_st_2006/ip_a_itre_st_2006_11.pdf)

### **Designing the new Tempus Programme 2007-13**

Delegates from 53 EU and Tempus partner countries from the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, North Africa and the Middle East, recently attended a conference in Brussels hosted by the EC. The aim of the conference was to discuss the design of the next phase of the Tempus programme (Tempus IV). A similar meeting with students who have benefited from Tempus is due to take place in April. Following these meetings, the EC will develop the programme's detailed features, and there are plans to launch the first call for proposals under Tempus IV in the second half of 2007.

Tempus is the only funding programme that deals with all aspects of higher education. It supports university reforms in partner countries, including the necessary curricular changes that are emerging from the Bologna process. Over the past 17 years, Tempus has funded 6,500 projects, involving 2,000 universities from the EU and its partner countries. Its strong focus on fostering institutional co-operation between European universities and their counterparts in our neighbouring countries sets Tempus apart from other international development initiatives. For the period 2007-13, the annual Tempus budget is expected to be in the order of €50 million.

#### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/07/273 of 2 March is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

Further details are also available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/tempus>

## External Collaboration

### EU and Egypt strengthen scientific and technological co-operation

The EU and Egypt have recently adopted an action plan under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), setting the agenda for co-operation between the two for the next three to five years. At the same time, under the EU-Egypt Association Agreement, several working groups have been set up to monitor the implementation of the action plan. The EU will contribute €558 million to support the action plan. The agreement sets out future co-operation spanning science and technology, politics, security, trade and investment, the economy and stability, and the prevention of conflicts. It will also look at fostering links in the fields of the information society and the audiovisual sector, innovation, education and culture, agriculture and fisheries, and justice and security.

#### Further information

EC Press Release IP/07/284 of 6 March 2007 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

More information on the EU's relations with Egypt is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external\\_relations/egypt/intro/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/egypt/intro/index.htm)

Further details of the European Neighbourhood Policy are available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm)

The S&T web pages of the EC's Delegation to Egypt are available at:

[http://www.delegy.ec.europa.eu/en/EU\\_EGYPT\\_Cooperation/Key\\_Developments\\_news.asp](http://www.delegy.ec.europa.eu/en/EU_EGYPT_Cooperation/Key_Developments_news.asp)

### Energy a key issue at EU-US meetings in Washington

The European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, attended an EU-US Ministerial Troika meeting in Washington last month, alongside High Representative Javier Solana and German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, representing the current EU Presidency. She expressed how the strategic partnership between the EU and the US continues to deepen and can maintain momentum towards greater stability in the world's most troubled regions.

The agenda covered the Middle East and the announcement of a new Palestinian Government of National Unity; Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, and Syria; the future of Kosovo; relations with Russia; and Sudan and Afghanistan. Preparations for the next EU-US Summit to take place on 30 April in Washington were also discussed. Following the Troika meeting, Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner attended a meeting of US and European companies to launch a US-EU Energy Tech CEO forum to intensify transatlantic energy technology development. Energy efficiency, renewables, clean technologies, nuclear safety, and advancing good practice in global energy markets are areas of close co-operation between the EU and the US.

#### Further information

EC Press Release IP/07/341 of 16 March 2007 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

More information on EU-US relations is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external\\_relations/us/intro/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/us/intro/index.htm)

## **EU relations with ASEAN shift up a gear**

EU Ministers and their ASEAN counterparts have recently endorsed a Vision Statement on an Enhanced EU-ASEAN Partnership, as a basis for closer political relations and co-operation in the future. The document calls for closer political relations at bilateral and multilateral level and lists areas for joint action, especially security, energy, environmental and development matters. The EU has expressed its commitment to support South East Asia in developing its own forms of regional integration. The 10 ASEAN countries are: Brunei, Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The EU is also supporting ASEAN's decision to establish an ASEAN charter, a kind of constitution for the Association – and the ambition to create a single market by 2015. Since 2000, the EC has committed €80 million to support technical assistance programmes, and regularly shares experience in regional integration on specific areas. The EC is currently seeking a negotiating mandate from the Council for a free trade agreement with ASEAN to increase bilateral trade.

### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/07/319 of 13 March 2007 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

Further information is also available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external\\_relations/asean/intro/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/asean/intro/index.htm)

## **Bosnia and Herzegovina: a year of opportunities in 2007**

The European Commissioner for Enlargement, Olli Rehn, spoke recently at the EP and the State Parliament in Sarajevo on the Stabilisation and Association Agreement talks. Bosnia and Herzegovina is part of the EU pre-accession process and, once signed, the Stabilisation and Association Agreement will form the first contractual relationship between Bosnia and Herzegovina for closer economic and political integration. 2006 was a difficult year and two major stumbling blocks in concluding the SAA negotiations remain: the need for concrete progress on police reform, and co-operation with the War Crimes Tribunal. Montenegro and the EU recently initiated the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

The EC gave a strong signal that it is ready to support progress with funds and experts and continues to promote people-to-people contacts. Visa facilitation and re-admission agreements should be in force with all Western Balkan countries before the end of this year. Visas for students and researchers will be free of charge. Other measures include scholarships through the Erasmus Mundus programme, and increased support for research, including participation in some Community programmes, education and civil society dialogue. At this stage, the international presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina is undergoing a transformation and the EC supports delaying the closure of the Office of the High Representative by 12 months. Slow progress has been made and 2007 can be a year of opportunities for Bosnia and Herzegovina's European future.

### **Further information**

EC Press Releases SPEECH/07/152 of 16 March 2007 and SPEECH/07/147 of 14 March 2007 are available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

More information on EU-Bosnia relations is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/bosnia\\_and\\_herzegovina/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/bosnia_and_herzegovina/index_en.htm)

# Events and Awards

## EU Presidency conference on the knowledge-based bio-economy

A high-level German Presidency conference on the knowledge-based bio-economy (KBBE) will take place on 30 May 2007 in Cologne, Germany. It will be followed by a two day bio-perspectives conference involving all stakeholders. At the event, high-ranking politicians and EC officials will address the topic and renowned experts from science and industry will present their views in lectures and a panel discussion. A Cologne Paper will be presented at the event, outlining the perspectives of a knowledge-based bio-economy and addressing decision-makers in business, politics and government. The paper is expected to provide insights into the ongoing transformation of major industries through biotechnology and to inspire fresh ideas for the future. It will also reflect aspects of the mid-term review of the EU biotechnology strategy.

The last KBBE conference held under the UK Presidency of the Council of the European Union saw discussions with stakeholders on issues from the Lisbon agenda and the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to food, fibre, fuel and feed. The conference drew several conclusions. These included establishing: that the KBBE is an integral part of the Lisbon Strategy; that combining biotechnology with other technological fields is the right way forward; that industry is active in pursuing the goals of the KBBE; that international co-operation is becoming an integral component of the biotechnology landscape; and that biotechnology needs to comply closely with the wishes and needs of society, with regulations, and with the requirements of the research system.

### Further information

Full details of the two events are available at:

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

## ESF exploratory workshops

The annual call for ESF exploratory workshops has opened. Each year, 50 such workshops are held covering all scientific domains. They generally last between one and three days and are small and interactive sessions, which aim to open up new directions in research and to explore new fields with a potential impact on developments in science. They are attended by young independent researchers and scholars with the potential to become leaders. As the number of participants at each workshop is relatively small, they act as an ideal platform for encouraging discussions and enabling collaborative follow-up work.

Proposals may be submitted under the following headings: biomedical sciences; life, earth and environmental sciences; physical and engineering sciences; social sciences; humanities; and science-driven issues of research infrastructures in any of the above fields. However, interdisciplinary topics are greatly encouraged. The current call is for workshops to be held in 2008 and the deadline for the submission of proposals is 27 April 2007.

### Further information

Further information is available at:

<http://www.esf.org/activities/exploratory-workshops/2007-call-for-proposals.html>

## Tempus student conference

From 19 to 21 April 2007, the EC is organising a conference in Brussels for students from member states and Tempus partner countries. A high-level EC representative is scheduled to attend this

event. The event will complement the work of a recent meeting attended by 53 delegates from the member states and Tempus partner countries to develop the 2007-13 Tempus programme. It is expected that approximately 150 students (from within and outside the European Union), selected by National Tempus Offices, will participate and exchange experiences and ideas. A questionnaire will be sent in advance and a summary of the responses will be presented during the conference.

This is the first ever conference with Tempus students and should be very significant in terms of gathering student feedback on the current programme and feeding their input into the next. Besides feedback on the current Tempus programme and suggestions for the new, the agenda will focus on student services, the organisation of students, and their contribution to the higher education systems in their countries. There will be workshops on mobility issues and recognition of degrees as well as discussions for planning future co-operation.

#### **Further information**

Further information will be posted on the following website in due course:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/tempus/events72\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/tempus/events72_en.html)

### **RegioStars 2008 awards are launched**

Danuta Hübner, Commissioner for DG Regio, has launched the RegioStars 2008 awards. These new annual awards will be targeted at innovative projects in regional development. The RegioStars awards will be significant to the 286 regions of the EU as they provide an opportunity to identify, highlight and share good practice in regional development. RegioStars will be open to all projects that have received funding through the European Regional Development Fund or through pre-accession aid instruments. Regions that fall under either the regional competitiveness and employment objectives or the convergence objective will be eligible for the award. The deadline for receipt of applications is 29 June 2007.

At the time of the launch, Danuta Hübner also introduced a publication containing the summaries of 40 experiences of regional innovation projects developed by regional authorities. The projects covered fields such as science and industry networking, enterprise clustering and delivering information communications technology to citizens.

#### **Further information**

EC press release IP/07/309 of 8 March 2007 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

Further details of RegioStars and the good practice guide are available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/regiostars\\_en.cfm?nmenu=4](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/regiostars_en.cfm?nmenu=4)

### **Winners of Descartes prize announced**

The winners of the Descartes awards for Research and Science Communication were announced at an awards ceremony in Brussels recently. The Science Communication award, for making science accessible and understandable, was presented to five winners: Wendy Sadler from Cardiff University for her 'Science Made Simple' project, which gets teenagers excited about science; Dr Sheila Donegan and Eoin Gill for the Eureka weekly science magazine aimed at children; the documentary series 'Europe, A Natural History' co-produced by ÖRF, BBC and ZDF; Professor Vittore Silverstrini for his Città della Scienza (City of Science) in Naples, a centre which unites an interactive science and technology museum with a business innovation centre; and Dr Odd Askel Bergstad and colleagues for the MAR-ECO network, involving the general public in the project's census of marine life.

The three winners of the Excellence in Science Collaboration award shared a prize of €1 million. The winners were as follows: the High Energy Stereoscopic System, a telescope system that revolutionises the current astronomical observation techniques; the Hydrosol project, which has developed a method of producing hydrogen from water-splitting by using the sun's energy; and APOPTOSIS, a project which has made great strides in our understanding of apoptosis (programmed cell death) and which will contribute to new developments in the treatment of cancer and AIDS. The winners were chosen by a grand jury of 22 eminent scientists covering all scientific disciplines. The jury was chaired by Claudie Haigneré, a former ESA Astronaut and French Minister for EU Affairs.

#### **Further information**

Full details of the Descartes Prize and all the winners are available online at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/descartes/news\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/descartes/news_en.htm)

### **Winners of 2007 European ICT Prize**

Earlier this month, the names of the 20 nominees for the European ICT prize were announced and three winners were awarded grand prizes of €200,000 each. The annual ICT prize is awarded to companies that have developed innovative ICT products with promising market potential. The 2007 prizes were presented by the European Commissioner for Information Society and Media, Viviane Reding, to the winning firms from the UK, Sweden and Austria. For the first time, the awards ceremony took place at CeBIT, the large ICT trade fair held in Hanover, Germany.

One grand prize went to the company Transitive Corporation for their work on QuickTransit, a software 'translator' that allows applications created for one processor and operating system to run on another platform without the need for programming. The Swedish company Telepo was also awarded a grand prize for their Business Communication Solution, which integrates fixed and mobile business communications. The final grand prize went to the Austrian company Treventus for their groundbreaking scanning concept, which can scan books at a rate of 40 pages per minute without manual intervention.

#### **Further information**

EC press release IP07/339 of 16 March 2007 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

### **Student to send experiment into space**

The winners of the European Space Agency (ESA) SUCCESS student contest were announced recently. For SUCCESS (Space station Utilisation Contest Calls for European Student initiatives), European university students were challenged to think of original ideas for an experiment to fly on the International Space Station (ISS). Over 80 entries were received from all over Europe, with proposals covering a wide variety of fields ranging from life and physical sciences to interior design and advanced robotics.

At the recent award ceremony held at the European Astronaut Centre (EAC) in Cologne, Germany, a scientific jury selected three prize winners. The first prize went to an investigation into cosmic radiation proposed by Norwegian student Haakon Lindekleiv. His experiment will investigate the unexpected visual sensations, known as 'light flashes', that have been reported by many astronauts during space missions. As part of the prize, Lindekleiv will also have the opportunity to spend one year working at ESA's research and technology centre, ESTEC, in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, where he will prepare his experiment for flight on the ISS.

The second prize was awarded to Daniel Brandt from the University of Leicester, in the UK, for his proposal for a passive low-cost nanometeoroid detector for the ISS. Brandt's monitor would detect the very smallest items of debris and help improve models for debris and nanometeoroid

distribution at the altitudes of the International Space Station's orbit. The third prize went to Cornelia Meyer, who studied at the Institute of Mineralogy at Humboldt University, in Berlin, Germany. A new SUCCESS student contest will start in mid-2007.

#### **Further information**

Further information on SUCCESS is available at:

[http://www.esa.int/esaHS/SEMU9TGHZTD\\_education\\_0.html](http://www.esa.int/esaHS/SEMU9TGHZTD_education_0.html)

Further information on this year's winners and on the prize ceremony is available at:

[http://www.esa.int/esaCP/SEMZHTQ08ZE\\_index\\_0.html](http://www.esa.int/esaCP/SEMZHTQ08ZE_index_0.html)

## **New Publications and Online Resources**

### **Web resources for the ICT priority in FP7**

DG Information Society has provided further information on each of the 'challenges' in the work programme for the ICT theme of FP7. A website dedicated to the ICT priority provides the name of a contact person within the EC for different parts of the ICT calls. It is hoped that these web resources will help to assist potential applicants in this area. The introductory pages provide links to relevant policy documents and other websites, including the i2010 initiative, the IST Advisory Group, previous EC consultations, and links to the European Technology Platforms in the IST area. The pages are then broken down into further sections on each of the seven challenges (and Future and Emerging Technologies - FET).

In each section there is an overview of why the area is a priority for the EC; what the current state-of-play is; what the objectives for the future are; and what the impact of funded projects in this area should be. EC PowerPoint presentations which have been delivered at relevant information days can also be accessed online. The website provides a contact name for different objectives under each of the challenges. Applicants can then contact the relevant person by filling out an online form. For some challenges, contact details are not listed and, in these cases, an online form can be submitted to the ICT helpdesk.

#### **Further information**

The FP7 ICT website is available at: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/programme/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/programme/home_en.html)

### **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>

### **CORDIS**

CORDIS is the official COmmunity Research and Development Information Service 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's research programmes.

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

## IGLO Project Search

The IGLO Project Service offers a forum for publishing and disseminating details of proposed FP7 projects and/or research skills offered. The service enables 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 EU treaties and recent copies of the Official Journal of the European Communities (OJ). The OJ, published daily in 11 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 co-ordination 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](http://consilium.europa.eu/cms3_fo/showPage.ASP?lang=en)

## **Culture 2000**

First European Community Framework Programme in support of culture, which ran from 2000 to 2004 (inclusive).

[http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/index_en.html)

## **EC**

The European Commission - made up of 27 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](http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm)

## **eEurope**

A political initiative of the EC to allow Europe to benefit fully from the information society.

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/eeurope/2005/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/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](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](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](http://eesc.europa.eu/index_en.asp)

Press releases:

[http://eesc.europa.eu/activities/press/cp/index\\_en.asp](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](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 then running from 2002 to 2006, and FP7 running from 2007 to 2013.

Further information on the thematic and horizontal programme composition of FP6 is available at:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp6>

Further information on FP7 can be found 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 (FP7)

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/itre\\_home\\_en.htm](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 EC's Joint Research Centre acts 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 Programme aims to strengthen the competitiveness of the European audiovisual industry.

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/avpolicy/media/index\\_en.html](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](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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