

*Press release issued by the Panel for the Review of the Structures and Mechanisms of the European Research Council - 31 March 2009*

## **Review Panel on the European Research Council's structures and mechanisms launches consultation**

*The ERC Review Panel, recently established by the European Commission and tasked with analysing the structures and mechanisms of the European Research Council (ERC), has started its work and launched an open consultation. Under the chair of Professor Vaira Vike-Freiberga, former President of Latvia, the Panel seeks the views of representative organisations in European science on the structures and mechanisms of the ERC.*

The chair, Vaira Vike-Freiberga said: *“The review of the structures and mechanisms is a crucial step in the development of the ERC, and beyond that for the future excellence and competitiveness of Europe. The Panel is keen to know the views of key stakeholders on this important matter and we have therefore written to the main representative research organisations in Europe to invite their input. We would also be pleased to hear from other groups representing European research.”.*

The tasks of the independent ERC Review Panel are to:

- analyse the ERC's structures and mechanisms against criteria of scientific excellence, autonomy, efficiency and transparency, and with the full involvement of the Scientific Council;
- consider the process and criteria for the selection of the members of the Scientific Council;
- consider the advantages and disadvantages of a structure based on an Executive Agency and a structure based on Article 171 of the EC Treaty;

The Panel is consulting the main representative organisations for research in Europe. It welcomes inputs from other representative organisations and stakeholders on the three abovementioned questions as soon as possible and preferably before **24 April 2009**. Responses should be sent to the following address: [rtd-erc-review@ec.europa.eu](mailto:rtd-erc-review@ec.europa.eu)

The Panel's work will continue until July when it is expected to report to the European Commission.

### Note to the Editors

The European Research Council was set up under the Seventh Framework Programme's "Ideas" specific programme with an independent Scientific Council and a dedicated implementation structure, to be established in the form of an Executive Agency. At the same time it was agreed that, in the context of the mid-term evaluation of the Seventh Framework Programme, an independent review of the ERC's structures and mechanisms would be carried out.

The independent ERC Review Panel, established by the European Commission, is composed of six eminent experts with an experience in research policy and management at the highest national, European and international level. All have held top positions in national government, research institutes, or prestigious European academic establishments.

The Panel is chaired by **Vaira Vike-Freiberga**, former President of Latvia (1999-2007) and former Professor of Psychology at the University of Montreal; since December 2007 she is also the Vice-president of the Reflection Group on the long-term future of the European Union.

The other members are:

- **Lord (David) Sainsbury** (Vice-Chair), Former Under Secretary of State at UK Department of Trade and Industry with responsibility for Science & Innovation; Head of Gatsby Charitable Foundation;
- **Yves Mény** (Rapporteur), President of the European University Institute, Florence;
- **Fiorella Kostoris Padoa Schioppa**, Professor of Economics at "La Sapienza", Rome; former President of ISAE (Istituto di Studi e Analisi Economica), Rome;
- **Lars-Hendrik Röller**, President of European School of Management and Technology, Berlin; Professor of Economics, Humboldt University, Berlin;
- **Elias Zerhouni**, Former Director of National Institutes of Health, USA (until Oct 2008); previous executive Vice-dean of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, USA.

### **More information**

European Commission Press release, Brussels, 24/02/2009

*Leading experts to carry out the European Research Council review*

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/307&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

Review webpage: <http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.display&topicID=158>

Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the methodology and terms of reference to be used for the review to be carried out by independent experts concerning the European Research Council structures and mechanisms, 26 August 2008: COM/2008/0526 final [http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/COM\\_2008\\_0526\\_F\\_EN\\_COMMUNICATION.pdf](http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/COM_2008_0526_F_EN_COMMUNICATION.pdf)

Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament explaining the European Research Council operations and realisation of the objectives set out in the Specific Programme "Ideas" in 2007, 18 July 2008: COM/2008/0473 final

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52008DC0473:EN:HTML>

### **Contact**

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