



Press release

15 September 2010

Top scientists to identify new members of the European Research Council's governing body

Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, has appointed a European Research Council Identification Committee, tasked with identifying future ERC Scientific Council members.

The mandate of this independent Committee is twofold. Firstly, it will identify new members for the staged renewal of the Scientific Council membership due in February 2011. Secondly, it will maintain a pool of candidates for future replacements of Scientific Council members thereafter.

The Committee consists of six highly respected personalities from the research scene:

- **Prof. Eero Vuorio** (chair), Director of Biocenter Finland
- **Prof. Ann Dowling**, Head of the Department of Engineering, University of Cambridge
- **Prof. Andreu Mas-Colell**, Economist, Department of Economics and Business, Pompeu Fabra University
- **Prof. Greta Mirdal**, Clinical Psychologist, Department of Psychology, University of Copenhagen
- **Prof. Arnold Schmidt**, Professor Emeritus at the Photonics Institute of the TU-Wien
- **Prof. Maciej Zylicz**, Head of the Department of Molecular Biology, International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw

ERC President Helga Nowotny said: "*We welcome the setting up of this independent high-level Committee, which is crucial to the continued credibility and high standing of the ERC's Scientific Council.*".



The Identification Committee met for the first time on 14 September and agreed on an initial statement on the methodology it will adopt. The Committee is consulting the main representative organisations of the European research community and invites other representative organisations, who wish to propose names of candidates, to send their contributions to the following email address: rtd-erc-id@ec.europa.eu. Such contributions should follow the guidance provided in the [Initial Statement on Methodology](#) and should arrive before the 29 October 2010.

The Committee will meet throughout this autumn and its report will be sent to the European Parliament and to the Council of the European Union. The appointments of the new Scientific Council members are foreseen for February 2011.

Background information

New Scientific Council members are appointed by the Commission following an independent and transparent procedure for their identification, including a consultation of the scientific community. Members are identified on the basis of the criteria set out in the Commission Decision establishing the ERC of 2 February 2008 (2007/134/EC, Annex I).

The European Research Council (ERC) is the newest, pioneering component of the EU's Seventh Research Framework Programme. The ERC has a total budget of € 7.5 billion (2007-2013). Set up in 2007 by the European Commission, the ERC is the first pan-European research funding organisation for frontier research. It aims to stimulate scientific excellence in Europe by supporting the very best, creative researchers. The ERC funds both top senior scientists ("ERC Advanced Grants") and younger, early-career researchers ("ERC Starting Grants"). Scientific excellence is the only selection criterion in the ERC's peer reviewed grant competitions. The ERC operates according to an "investigator-driven", or "bottom-up", approach.

The Scientific Council, the governing body of the ERC, defines the scientific funding strategy and methodologies. It is presently chaired by Prof. Helga Nowotny and is composed of 22 eminent European scientists and scholars, including some Nobel Prize winners.

More on the ERC Scientific Council:

<http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.display&topicID=15>

Commission Decision establishing the ERC:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/l_057/l_05720070224en00140019.pdf

ERC website

<http://erc.europa.eu>



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