



European Research Council
Scientific Council

Established by the European Commission

ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

55th PLENARY MEETING, COPENHAGEN

14-15 April 2016

MINUTES

Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order): Prof. Klaus BOCK, Prof. Athene DONALD, Dr. Barbara ENSOLI, Prof. Tomas JUNGWIRTH, Prof. Mattias KLEINER, Prof. Mart SAARMA, Prof. Michael KRAMER, Prof. Nuria SEBASTIAN GALLES, Prof. Nils Christian STENSETH, Prof. Martin STOKHOF, Prof. Janet THORNTON, Prof. Isabelle VERNOS, Prof. Michel WIEVIORKA, Prof. Fabio ZWIRNER

Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order): Prof. Reinhilde VEUGELERS, Prof. Eva KONDOROSI, Prof. Margaret Buckingham

ERC Executive Agency staff present: Pablo AMOR, Theodore PAPAZOGLU, Massimo GAUDINA, Jose LABASTIDA, Mechtild MAY, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Severina SHOPOVA, Marie ROBERTI

Chair of the meeting: Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON, ERC President

Rapporteur: Severina SHOPOVA, ERC Executive Agency

THURSDAY 14 April 2016

Session 1

1. Welcome of Scientific Council (ScC) Members, Plans and Goals of Meeting

Prof. Bourguignon welcomed everyone to the meeting and held a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks in Brussels on 22 March 2016 and in particular of Patricia Rizzo, a member of the European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA) staff, who lost her life.

Prof. Bourguignon excused the ScC members who could not attend the meeting, namely Prof. Veugelers, Prof. Kondorosi.

Prof. Bourguignon outlined the goals of the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The draft agenda of the 55th plenary meeting was adopted.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the 54th Plenary Meeting of the ERC Scientific Council in Brussels on 16-17 February 2016

The Minutes of the 54th plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council were adopted without any changes.

4. Action Points Summary of the 54th Plenary Meeting of the ERC Scientific Council

Prof. Bourguignon checked the state of play of the action points from the last ScC meeting.

5. Update on recent Meetings and Activities

5.1 ERC Board meetings on 15 March 2016

A short report was given on recent meetings, including the last Board meeting. Prof. Bourguignon also circulated a list of his recent trips and meetings, which included, among others the Next Einstein Forum in Dakar and the Dutch Presidency event on Open Science.

6. Update on the preparations of the H2020 Mid-term evaluation and on the future framework programme.

The ERCEA reminded the ScC of the ERC budget distribution until 2020 and gave an overview of the next framework programme timetable. In addition, a historical perspective of the framework programme was presented, also outlining its growth along with the evolution of the overall EU budget for the periods 2007-2013 and 2014-2020.

The ScC had a preliminary discussion on various scenarios with respect to the ERC beyond 2020 and possible portfolio of types of grants.

Furthermore, the ScC was informed on the state of play of the discussions and work done so far regarding the creation of an European Innovation Council (EIC), including the expected timeline.

7. Presentation of ERIS: a research information system to support monitoring and evaluation

The ERCEA showed an online demonstration of the functionalities of ERIS, a research information system to support monitoring and evaluation of the ERC supported projects.

Session 2

8. ERC budget until 2020

This point was covered under agenda item 6.

9. Work Programme 2017

The ScC had a discussion on the Draft Work Programme 2017, including on some remaining issues that required a decision.

10. Operational issues Reporting: Evaluation and Granting Processes

Update on Evaluation

The ERCEA gave an overview of the state of play of the evaluations for the AdG2015 (Advanced Grants), StG2016 (Starting Grants), CoG2016 (Consolidator Grants) and PoC-2016 (Proof of Concept) deadline 1 calls.

Update on granting

The ERCEA gave an update on the state of play of the granting processes, including payment credits consumption for FP7 (Seventh Framework Programme) and Horizon 2020 projects.

11. Communication Activities Update

The ERCEA gave an update on recent communication activities, including an overview of media coverage between January and December 2015 with over 7,400 articles. Also presented were recent ERC projects in the press, ERC press releases and recent publications.

An update was given on the campaigns highlighting ERC results and in particular the two projects that have been selected to that end, namely ERCcOMICS (Visual storytelling) and ERC=Science² (The power of tomorrow's science).

As far as upcoming events were concerned, the GRC meeting in New Delhi, India, the 500th Dutch ERC grant in Maastricht, The Netherlands, the Annual meeting of New Champions in Tianjin, China and ESOF 2106 in Manchester, were mentioned, among others. The new slogan, "*ERC - Open to the World*", has also been launched.

12. Three years assessment of the ERCEA

The ERCEA gave an update on the three years assessment of the Agency, an evaluation of the operations of the ERCEA between 2012 and 2015. For the purposes of the evaluation, the evaluators conducted an extensive documents review and desk research, interviewed various Commission and ERCEA officials, as well as the ERC President and one of the Vice-Presidents, conducted surveys of FP7 and Horizon 2020 beneficiaries and a survey of independent experts.

In terms of conclusions, it was noted that the ERCEA continues being highly efficient and cost-effective. In addition, the evaluation concluded a highly efficient performance in terms of the ratio between administrative and operational budget.

Also, the survey of the ERCEA beneficiaries and experts indicated a very high level of satisfaction with regard to the ERCEA's service.

13. ScC Standing Committees Reporting and Update

Committee on Panels (CoP)

The Chair of the CoP, Prof. Bourguignon, noted that the Committee will be meeting after the plenary meeting.

Committee on Conflicts of Interest, Scientific Misconduct and Ethical Issues (CoIME)

The Chair of the CoIME, Prof. Sebastian Galles, gave an update on the activities of the Committee, including a recent case of alleged scientific misconduct that the Committee is dealing with.

FRIDAY 15 April 2016

Session 3

14. Working Groups Reporting and Update

The Chairs of the various Working groups (WG) reported on their activities.

Working Group on Gender Balance

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Vernos reported on recent activities of the WG, including discussions on a text with relevance to gender balance for the Work Programme 2017.

Working group on Widening European Participation

In the absence of the Chair of the WG, Prof. Kondorosi, Prof. Bourguignon reported on recent activities of the WG and plans for future widening events.

Working group on Open Access

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Stokhof, reported from recent meetings in The Netherlands on open access, which he attended together with Prof. Bourguignon. He also noted that it has been decided to incorporate into the WG's remit open data, as it is tackling those issues too.

Working Group on Increasing International Participation

The acting Chair of the WG, Prof. Bourguignon, noted that the WG needs to meet in the near future and elect a Chair. He therefore urged the ScC members to come forth as candidates for the position of Chair. Moreover, Prof. Bourguignon gave an update on the implementing arrangements that the ERC has signed so far and those in the pipeline.

Working group on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

The Chair of the KPIs WG, Prof. Veugelers (via conference call) noted that the WG reported at the last plenary meeting and there are no further updates currently.

Working group on Innovation and relations with industry

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Bock, reported from the last WG meeting. He noted that the WG discussed the forthcoming evaluation of the PoC scheme, as well as recent meetings and discussions with EBAN (European Business Angels Network) on collaboration with the ERC.

Working Group on Science behind the projects

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Stenseth reminded the ScC members that a half day workshop will be organised by the WG at the ScC June plenary meeting with the full ScC and scientific officers attending.

Task force for Synergy preparation and follow up of the Interdisciplinary taskforce

The Chair of the Task force, Prof. Bock reported from the last meeting of the Task force, including discussions on possible future scenarios, while taking into consideration the available budget and resources.

15. Any other business

ScC Plenary Meetings in 2017

Prof. Bourguignon reminded the ScC that he has received various invitations to host a meeting of the ScC in 2017. One of those is from Malta where the ScC has not been as yet. Therefore, he proposed to accept it for the ScC October 2017 plenary meeting. One of the other invitations is from the University of Padova with endorsement by the Italian Ministry, and Prof. Bourguignon proposed to accept it, a proposal endorsed by the ScC. Therefore, the ScC April 2017 plenary meeting will take place in Padova, Italy. Finally, Prof. Bourguignon will enquire with CERN in Switzerland whether the ScC July 2017 plenary meeting could take place there.