



ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

28th PLENARY MEETING, BRUSSELS

16-17 December 2010

Minutes of the meeting

Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order): Dr. Claudio BORDIGNON, Prof. Sierd CLOETINGH, Prof. Mathias DEWATRIPONT, Dr. Daniel ESTEVE, Prof. Pavel EXNER, Prof. Hans-Joachim FREUND, Prof. Wendy HALL, Prof. Carl-Henrik HELDIN, Prof. Michal KLEIBER, Prof. Norbert KROÓ, Prof. Maria Teresa LAGO, Dr. Oscar MARÍN PARRA, Prof. Henrietta MOORE, Prof. Helga NOWOTNY, Prof. Alain PEYRAUBE, Dr. Jens ROSTRUP-NIELSEN, Prof. Salvatore SETTIS, Prof. Rolf ZINKERNAGEL

Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order): Prof. Carlos DUARTE, Prof. Fotis C. KAFATOS, Prof. Christiane NÜSSLEIN-VOLHARD

ERC Executive Agency staff present: Jack METTHEY, Pablo AMOR, Yves PATERNOSTER, Gabor NAGY, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Massimo GAUDINA, Maria OLIVAN AVILES, Theodore PAPAZOGLU, Benjamin TURNER, Elisabeth SJOSTEDT, Laura PONTIGGIA, Severina SHOPOVA, Marie ROBERTI

Chair of the meeting: Prof. Helga NOWOTNY, ERC Scientific Council

Advisor of the Chair: Dr. Thomas KÖENIG

Rapporteur: Severina SHOPOVA, ERC Executive Agency

THURSDAY 16 December 2010

Session 1

- 1. Welcome, plans and goals of meeting**
- 2. Adoption of agenda of the 28th plenary meeting in Brussels and point summary of the 27th plenary meeting of the ERC ScC in Luxembourg on 28 and 29 October 2010**
 - The draft agenda of the 28th plenary meeting was adopted with a small change since the participation of the Court of Auditors (CoA) representative was cancelled due to the difficult weather conditions.
 - The minutes of the 27th plenary session of the ERC Scientific Council (ScC) were adopted.
 - The Scientific Council confirmed the election of Prof. Carl-Henrik Heldin to the position of ScC Vice-Chair.

3. Update on recent meetings and activities

3.1 ERC Board meeting on 23 November 2010; Working group on Relations with Industry and Working Group on Gender Balance on 27 October 2010

Working group on Relations with Industry

Dr. Rostrup-Nielsen (Working group Chair) gave an update on the activities of the Working group (WG), including the state of play of the Proof of Concept option. It has been inserted into the revised Work Programme 2011, which is in the process to be adopted by the Commission. Dr. Rostrup-Nielsen also reported on his participation in a number of events where he presented the Proof of Concept. The WG is also working on identifying more panel members into the ERC evaluation panels.

Working group on Gender Balance

Prof. Teresa Lago (Working group Chair) reported on the recent activities of the WG. Furthermore, a "Gender Equality Plan" was presented by the WG and adopted. It will soon be published on the ERC website and a press release from the ScC will be prepared.

4. Work programme 2012

4.1 ERC⁺ grant scheme

A discussion on a new ERC scheme took place. While maintaining as main features being bottom up and focusing on excellence, it was noted that the scheme would target a small group of PIs, with one lead PI, who are spending core time working together on a project. The discussion will be continued at the next plenary session of the ScC in February 2011, aiming to introduce the scheme on a pilot basis in 2012.

Session 2

4.2 Suggested modifications for the Work Programme 2012

An update was given by the ERC Executive Agency (ERCEA) on the timetable for the Work Programme 2012. In addition, a discussion on possible further adjustments to be introduced in WP2012 took place.

5. ScC Standing Committees update

The Standing Committee on Panels reported on its recent activities, including a discussion on the possibility to appoint deputy panel chairs to the ERC evaluation panels.

In the future, the Committee on Panels will aim to meet in Brussels, either in conjunction with ScC plenaries or ERC board meetings.

Session 3

6. Court of Auditors

This agenda item was cancelled at the last minute due to the to the difficult weather conditions, which did not allow the member of the CoA to travel to Brussels. He will be invited to attend another plenary session of the ScC or a Board meeting.

Session 4

7. ERC Review follow-up

The ERCEA reported that revised Rules of Submission have been adopted by the Commission. Moreover, the ScC members were briefed on the deliberations of the meeting of the Task Force on ERC future (established by DG Research), which took place on 14 December 2010.

8. FP8 preparation

A discussion took place on the next Framework Programme preparation. The ERC Scientific Council is expected to contribute to the preparatory consultation in early 2011.

The ScC held a closed session after the agenda item FP8 preparation.

FRIDAY 17 December 2010

Session 5

9. Operational issues

9.1 ERC Executive Agency update

The ERCEA gave an update on the state of play with respect to the ERC Executive agency's recruitment, including the selection of the Head of Unit A1 and the ongoing selection of the Head of the Scientific Department B. Moreover, it was reported that an agreement has been reached between the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers for the EU budget for 2011, which will allow for the normal execution of the operational and administrative budgets of the ERCEA next year.

9.2 State of play: ERC-2010-AdG call/ ERC-2011-AdG call/ERC-2011-StG call

Update on the ERC-2010-AdG call/ ERC-2011-AdG call

The ERCEA gave an update on the ERC-2010-AdG call. Moreover, the state of play of the recruitment of panel members for the ERC-2011-AdG call was reported, together with the planning of call deadlines and panel meetings.

Update on the ERC-2011-StG call

An update was given by the ERCEA on the ERC-2011-StG call. Moreover, attention was drawn to the new provisions of the Conflict of Interest rules, which will take effect as of 1 January 2011.

In addition, a brief account was also given of the Workshop on "Best Practices in Starting Grants", organised by the ERCEA and attended by representatives from 13 funding agencies in Europe and a representative from the NSF.

9.3 State of play: Granting

The ERCEA gave an update on the granting processes for the ERC schemes, including the overall budget implementation of the WP2010 and the state of play of grant agreements.

In addition, a discussion on Principal Investigators (PIs) and Host institutions (HIs) and their respective administrative responsibilities also took place. A need to improve knowledge on rights, obligations and means of action for the PIs has been identified. Prof. Nowotny noted that mechanisms need to be set up and best practices to be established with HIs.

9.4 Update on communication activities

The ERCEA gave an update on Communication activities, press releases and recent events which took place. The publication of a brochure on "ERC striking projects" was also mentioned. Moreover, it was reported that a new ERC website will be established in 2011.

The ERCEA reported on the participation of ERC in a number of events in the USA (presentations and/or ERC booth), including the San Diego Annual Conference of the Society for Neuroscience, the American Anthropological Annual meeting and the American Geophysical Union fall meeting.

With respect to outreach events planned for 2011, ERC representatives will be present at the Indian Science Congress in January, at the AAAS 2011 in Washington in February and at the International Political Science Association and the European Consortium of Political Research in Sao Paolo also in February.

A number of countries have been identified for 2011 for new ERC awareness raising events at national levels, namely Poland and Hungary, during their respective EU Presidencies, as well as Austria and Latvia.

10. Any other business