



European Research Council
Scientific Council

Established by the European Commission

ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

58th PLENARY MEETING, BRUSSELS

6-7 December 2016

MINUTES

Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order): Prof. Klaus BOCK, Prof. Margaret BUCKINGHAM, Prof. Christopher CLARK, Prof. Athene DONALD, Prof. Tomas JUNGWIRTH, Prof. Eva KONDOROSI, Prof. Mattias KLEINER, Prof. Michael KRAMER, Prof. Kurt MEHLHORN, Prof. Barbara ROMANOWICZ, Prof. Mart SAARMA, Prof. Nuria SEBASTIAN GALLES, Prof. Nils Christian STENSETH, Prof. Martin STOKHOF, Prof. Nektarios TAVERNARAKIS, Prof. Janet THORNTON, Prof. Isabelle VERNOS, Prof. Reinhilde VEUGELERS, Prof. Michel WIEVIORKA

Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order): Prof. Barbara ENSOLI, Prof. Fabio ZWIRNER

ERC Executive Agency staff present: Pablo AMOR, Theodore PAPAZOGLU, Massimo GAUDINA, Jose LABASTIDA, Mechtild MAY, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Anna LONNROTH, Martin PENNY, Angela LIBERATORE, Laurence MOREAU, Ben TURNER, Francesca SGRITTA, Sabine SIMMROSS, Severina SHOPOVA, Marie ROBERTI

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

Rapporteur: Severina SHOPOVA, ERC Executive Agency

TUESDAY 6 December 2016

Session 1

1. Welcome of ScC Members, Plans and Goals of Meeting

Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON welcomed everyone and outlined the goals of the meeting. He also excused Prof. Barbara ENSOLI and Prof. Fabio ZWIRNER who could not attend.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The draft agenda and annotated agenda of the 58th plenary meeting were adopted.

3. Visit by Kurt VANDENBERGHE on the Renewal of the Scientific Council membership

Mr Kurt VANDENBERGHE (DG-RTD) gave an update on the ScC membership renewal. He noted that the mandates of a few ScC members are coming to an end and cannot be extended any further according to the rules, while there are other members whose mandates can be renewed. Mr Kurt VANDENBERGHE also expressed the warm gratitude, on behalf of DG-RTD to the outgoing members of the ScC. Moreover, he noted that DG-RTD has valued enormously their input and their contributions and active involvement have been a fantastic asset for the ERC. In addition, four new ScC members had been recommended by the Identification Committee and they will start their term of office in 2017. Some of the ScC outgoing members congratulated DG-RTD and the Identification Committee for the excellent choice of new ScC members.

4. Adoption of the Minutes of the 57th Plenary Meeting of the ERC Scientific Council in Dublin on 11-12 October 2016

The Minutes of the 57th plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council (ScC) were adopted without any changes. During the process of adoption of the Minutes.

5. Action Points Summary of the 57th Plenary Meeting of the ERC Scientific Council

Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON checked, together with the secretariat, the state of play of the action points from the last ScC meeting.

Session 2

6. Future of the ERC Workshop on 8 February 2017

The ScC held a closed session in order to prepare the Workshop on the role of the ERC in the future European research landscape, which is planned to take place on 8 February 2017.

Session 3

7. Update on recent Meetings and Activities

7.1 ERC Board meeting on 17 November 2016

A short report was given from recent meetings, including the last Board meeting.

Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON reported from his various recent meetings. He noted in particular the hearing at the European Parliament's ITRE Committee and exchanges that he has had with various MEPs (Members of European Parliament). The hearing was well received. Moreover, Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON recently met with representatives from the Commission's DG-REGIO (Regional and Urban policy) and will continue the dialogue with them. Finally, he reported on a meeting with Commissioner Günther H. ÖTTINGER.

8. Activities and challenges of the ERCEA/Department D

The ERCEA Resources and Support Department presented their activities and challenges. The structure of the department was noted, together with an overview of its vision and goals.

9. ScC Standing Committees Reporting and Update

Committee on Panels (CoP)

The Chair of the CoP, Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON, noted that the Workshop, which took place on 5 December 2016 with the participation of ERCEA Scientific Officers and ScC members went very well. Various ScC members confirmed the importance of the Workshop and the discussions, in view of the selection of the next group of evaluators. During the Workshop some best practices of the various domains were presented.

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

The Chair of the CoIME, Prof. Nuria SEBASTIAN GALLES, gave an overview of the work of the CoIME in terms of cases of scientific misconduct, which the Committee has been dealing with throughout the year 2016.

As regards the membership of CoIME, Prof. Klaus BOCK was elected and confirmed by the ScC as the new Chair of the Committee, starting on 1 January 2017. Also, were confirmed by

the Council Prof. Michel WIEVIORKA as member of the Committee and as observer Prof. Nectarios TAVERNARAKIS.

10. Working Groups Reporting and Update

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

Working Group on Gender Balance

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Isabelle VERNOS reported on recent activities of the WG. She reported from her participation at the Gender Summit on 9 November 2016. Also, following the ScC's agreement at the Dublin plenary meeting, a gender-related video was shown at the AdG2017 panel chairs meeting and uploaded on the ERC website.

Working Group on Open Access

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Martin STOKHOF, reported from the last WG meeting on 5 December in Brussels, which included discussions on possible funding for grass root initiatives for Open Data and Open Science and future events.

Working Group on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

The Chair of the KPIs WG, Prof. Reinhilde VEUGELERS, reported from the last meeting of the WG, which took place on 5 December 2016. The WG members were informed about the developments regarding the Horizon 2020 Interim Evaluation and ongoing studies.

Working Group on Innovation and Relations with Industry

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Klaus BOCK, reported that the WG will be meeting after the plenary meeting on 7 December 2016. He noted that he gave a presentation on the WG's activities during the last Programme Committee meeting on 29 October 2016. He finally mentioned that the evaluation of the PoC scheme is ongoing.

Working Group on Science behind the Projects

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Nils C. STENSETH, noted that work is ongoing.

Working Group on Widening European Participation

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Eva KONDOROSI, gave an update on the recent activities of the WG and in particular the state of play of the 'Visiting Fellowship Programmes'. Moreover, she reported from the ERC Widening participation event, which took place on 2 December 2016 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Representatives of national research agencies from several neighbouring countries, namely Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, FYROM, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina took part. During the event various presentations were given, including by an ERC grantee from Serbia and an ERCEA staff member on the evaluation processes.

Working Group on Increasing International Participation

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON, gave an update on the implementing arrangements that the ERC has signed so far and those in the pipeline. He noted in particular the recent signatures of implementing arrangements with Canada and Brazil.

11. Horizon 2020 Interim Evaluation State of Play

The ScC was reminded by the ERCEA of the timeframe for the Horizon 2020 Interim Evaluation. Final drafts of thematic annexes were expected by the end of November 2016. Early December 2016, the work of the High Level Group (HLG) chaired by Mr Pascal LAMY on Horizon 2020 Interim Evaluation is starting. The HLG consists of 12 members whose names were shared with the ScC.

Session 4

12. Commissioner Carlos MOEDAS' Visit

Commissioner Carlos MOEDAS, in charge of Research, Science and Innovation, had to cancel his visit due to personal reasons.

WEDNESDAY 7 December 2016

Session 5

13. Communication Activities Update

The ERCEA gave an update on recent communication activities and events, as well as media coverage. An update was given on the projects promoting ERC, namely the ERCcOMICS and ERC=Science². In addition, the ScC was informed about the press coverage on the ERC grantee Bernard L. FERINGA, one of the Nobel Laureates in Chemistry for 2016. The media monitoring between 1 January and 30 November 2016 found a total coverage of around 9534 media items and a wide geographical spread. Other items in the press on ERC included coverage of the ERC President at the European Parliament and several ERC projects. The press has also been publishing pieces on the ERC's future structure and ERC and gender balance.

ERC Communication Strategy 2017

The ERCEA presented the ERC Communication Strategy for 2017, which was adopted by the ScC.

In terms of upcoming events, the following were highlighted, among others: Nobel Prize ceremony in Stockholm on 10 December, the World Economic Forum on 17-20 January 2017, the AAAS on 16-20 February 2017 in Boston and the European Career Fair (MIT) on 25 February 2017. The publication of forthcoming results for CoG2016 and PoC2016 third deadline were also noted. In addition, the ERC week will take place between 13-19 March 2017 and the ERC 10th Anniversary event in Brussels on 21 March 2017.

14. Operational Issues Reporting: Granting and Evaluation Processes

Granting Processes

The ERCEA gave an update on the granting processes, including the overall responsibilities of the Granting Department, ensuring the full administrative and financial management of ERC grants.

Evaluation Processes

The ERCEA Scientific Department gave an overview of the state of play of the CoG2016, AdG2016 and StG2017 evaluations.

15. State of Play of the ERC-2018-SyG Call Preparations

The ERCEA Scientific Department gave an update on the state of play of the ERC SyG2018 call preparations, including a summary of the main features of the Synergy Grant scheme.

16. Any Other Business

- Improving the Format of the ScC Plenary Meetings

Prof. Kurt MELHORN made some suggestions as regards the format of the plenary meetings, which could perhaps be further developed in future, mainly in terms of agenda items and length of discussion points and presentations. Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON took note and invited all ScC members to send him further ideas along those lines.

- Thank You Note from the Departing ScC Members

Prof. Nuria SEBASTIAN GALLES expressed on behalf of the departing ScC members their thanks to the ERCEA and in particular to the A1 Unit for all the precious support (both in terms of logistics and of support for the Working Groups and Committees).