

ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

29th PLENARY MEETING, BRUSSELS

8-9 February 2011

Minutes of the meeting

Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order): Dr. Claudio BORDIGNON, Prof. Nicholas CANNY, Prof. Mathias DEWATRIPONT, Prof. Tomasz DIETL, Prof. Carlos DUARTE, Dr. Daniel ESTEVE, Prof. Pavel EXNER, Prof. Hans-Joachim FREUND, Prof. Carl-Henrik HELDIN, Prof. Norbert KROÓ, Prof. Maria Teresa LAGO, Prof. Henrietta MOORE, Prof. Helga NOWOTNY, Prof. Christiane NÜSSLEIN-VOLHARD, Prof. Alain PEYRAUBE, Dr. Jens ROSTRUP-NIELSEN, Prof. Isabelle VERNOS, Prof. Anna TRAMONTANO

Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order): Prof. Sierd CLOETINGH, Prof. Daniel DOLEV, Prof. Mart SAARMA, Dr. Tim HUNT

Court of Auditors: Mr. Ladislav BALKO (Member of Chamber IV “Revenue, Research and internal policies, and Institutions and bodies of the European Union”), Mr. Branislav URBANIC, Mr. Zacharias KOLIAS

ERC Executive Agency staff present: Pablo AMOR, Yves PATERNOSTER, Gabor NAGY, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Massimo GAUDINA, Maria OLIVAN AVILES, Theodore PAPAZOGLOU, Marja HENNESSY, Jochen BRODERSEN, Benjamin TURNER, Elisabeth SJOSTEDT, 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

TUESDAY 8 February 2011

Session 1

- 1. Welcome, plans and goals of meeting**
- 2. Adoption of agenda of the 29th plenary meeting in Brussels and point summary of the 28th plenary meeting of the ERC ScC in Brussels on 16 and 17 December 2010**
 - The draft agenda of the 29th plenary meeting was adopted.
 - The Minutes of the 28th plenary session of the ERC Scientific Council (ScC) were adopted without any changes.

3. Introduction/welcome of new ScC members

The ScC President welcomed the new members of the ScC and a short presentation was given by the ERCEA Director Ad Interim of the Agency's Management. Moreover, Prof. Nowotny will contact the new ScC members in order to ask them which ScC Standing Committees and Working groups they would like to join.

3.1 Adoption of revised ScC Rules of Procedure

The ScC adopted a revised version of its Rules of Procedure.

The ScC President announced that there will be an election for the Vice-Chair position currently held by Dr. Daniel Estève as his term is coming to an end. She also thanked Dr. Estève for his dedicated work and noted that she will contact the ScC members asking for nominations (including self-nominations) from the PE domain for the vacant position. After that a vote will be organised.

4. Update on recent meetings and activities

4.1 ERC Board meeting on 24 January 2011; Working group on Third countries' recruitment on 17 December 2010

An update was given on recent meetings, such as the last Board meeting on 24 January 2011.

Working group on Third countries' recruitment

Prof. Peyraube (WG Chair) gave an update on the activities of the WG, including discussions on career development and paths of researchers, awareness raising events and third country successful PIs. Some background was also given for the new ScC members on the main tasks of the group.

5. Work programme 2012

The ScC had a discussion on the Draft Work Programme 2012, which is to be adopted on 19 July 2011.

In discussion a number of issues were raised. Those included the way in which cross panel and cross domain proposals would be treated during evaluation in future, how to best present the outcome of the evaluation to applicants, the operational implications and implementation of the new ERC⁺ scheme, and the overall budget breakdown.

Session 2

6. ERC Review follow-up

A discussion took place on the Green paper on research and innovation funding issued by the Commission and the open consultation launched on radical changes to create more growth and jobs, to which the ScC will be contributing.

7. ScC Standing Committees update

Dr. Estève (Chair of the ScC Standing Committee on Panels) reported on the work of the Committee on Panels (CoP). A set of issues were presented, such as criteria for ERC

panels, profile of panel members and panel chairs, re-invitation of panel members and panel chairs mandate period.

8. Update on communication activities

The ERCEA/A2 gave an update on Communication activities, press releases and recent events. Moreover, the ERCEA/A2 reported on the participation of the ERC in a number of events, including the MIT-European Career Fair in Boston in January 2011. The forthcoming AAAS 2011 in Washington was also mentioned together with the foreseen press briefing with Prof. Nowotny, the participation of ERC grantees and an ERC booth.

Furthermore, a Communication strategy 2011 was adopted by the ScC. The strategy takes into account issues, such as promoting ERC funding opportunities outside Europe, communicating success stories and results, promoting the Proof of Concept option, preparations for the next Framework Programme and the partial renewal of the ERC ScC.

WEDNESDAY 9 February 2011

Session 3

9. Operational issues

9.1 ERC Executive Agency update

The ERCEA/Department D informed the ScC on the state of play with respect to the ERC Executive agency's recruitment, administrative budget spending, including IT, building, audits and communication expenditure.

9.2 State of play: Granting

The ERCEA/Department C gave an update on the granting processes for the ERC schemes, including an overview of the total budget implementation for 2010. It was also noted that 100% of payments were executed at the end of 2010.

Session 4

10. Court of Auditors

The representative of the Court of Auditors (CoA), Mr. Ladislav Balko (member of Chamber IV "Revenue, Research and internal policies, and Institutions and bodies of the European Union") gave a speech to the ScC members on the invitation of the ScC President, Prof. Nowotny. He provided an overview of the Court's activities and how they fit within the general framework of the EU 2020 objectives and the European Councils' recent conclusions. Mr. Balko also took the opportunity to invite the ScC members to collaborate in future and provide feedback, while aiming at achieving more simplification, which is a main objective of the Commission.

9. Operational issues (continued)

9.3 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

An update was given by the ERCEA on the ERC-2011-AdG call, including the state of play of the panel chairs' and panel members' recruitment and the timetable of the forthcoming panel meetings.

Update on the ERC-2011-StG call

The ERCEA gave an update on the state of play of the ERC-2011-StG call and reported that things are running smoothly. It was also noted that the new provisions of the Conflict of Interest rules have entered into force as of 1 January 2011 but have not been used yet.

11. Any other business