



ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

36th PLENARY MEETING, BRUSSELS

20-21 June 2012

MINUTES

Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order): Dr. Claudio BORDIGNON, Prof. Nicholas CANNY, Prof. Sierd CLOETINGH, Prof. Tomasz DIETL, Prof. Daniel DOLEV, Prof. Carlos M. DUARTE, Dr. Daniel ESTEVE, Prof. Pavel EXNER, Prof. Hans-Joachim FREUND, Prof. Carl-Henrik HELDIN, Dr. Tim HUNT, Prof. Norbert KROÓ, Prof. Maria Teresa LAGO, Prof. Henrietta MOORE, Prof. Helga NOWOTNY, Prof. Alain PEYRAUBE, Dr. Jens ROSTRUP-NIELSEN, Prof. Mart SAARMA, Prof. Anna TRAMONTANO, Prof. Isabelle VERNOS

Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order): Prof. Mathias DEWATRIPONT, Prof. Christiane NÜSSLEIN-VOLHARD

ERC Secretary General: Prof. Donald DINGWELL

ERC Executive Agency staff present: Pablo AMOR, José LABASTIDA, Theodore PAPAZOGLU, Yves PATERNOSTER, Mechtild MAY, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Massimo GAUDINA, Maria OLIVAN AVILES, Ben TURNER, Alexis-Michel MUGABUSHAKA, Severina SHOPOVA, Marie ROBERTI, Laura PONTIGGIA, KAINZ-FERNANDEZ DE LA REGUERA Ulrike, Manuel FERNANDEZ CRUZ

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

Advisor of the Chair: Dr. Thomas KÖENIG

Rapporteur: Severina SHOPOVA, ERC Executive Agency

WEDNESDAY 20 June 2012

Session 1

1. Welcome, introduction of new members, plans and goals of meeting

- Prof. Nowotny welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Prof. Dingwell, the ERC Secretary General, for his recent recognition by the University of Alberta as Doctor of Science *honoris causa* (D.Sc. h.c.). In September he will receive the same title from the University College London.

2. Update on the state of play of Horizon 2020

An update was given by DG RTD on the state of play of the Horizon 2020 negotiations. An overview of the legislative text and procedures followed was

presented as well as the various amendments proposed by the European Parliament's ITRE Committee "rapporteurs". The main outstanding issues currently were the ITER budget, the funding of research involving the use of human stem cells, the Rules of Participation and issues related to "widening participation". The calendar for the discussions and adoption of Horizon 2020 was also presented.

3. Adoption of agenda of the 36th plenary meeting in Brussels and the point summary of the 35th plenary meeting of the ERC ScC in Sofia on 26 and 27 April 2012

- The draft agenda of the 36th plenary meeting were adopted.
- The Minutes of the 35th plenary session of the ERC Scientific Council (ScC) were adopted without any changes.

4. Update on recent meetings and activities

4.1 ERC Board meetings on 8 May and 4 June 2012

An update was given on recent meetings, including the Board meetings on 8 May and 4 June 2012, and the discussions that took place.

5. Working groups (WGs) update

5.1 Working group on Innovation and relations with industry

The Chair of the WG on Innovation and relations with industry, Prof. Rostrup-Nielsen, gave a short report on on-going work and forthcoming meetings.

5.2 Working group on Gender balance

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Lago, reported on recent activities. Also an update on the state of play of the Gender CSA 2012 was given.

5.3 Working group on Internationalisation strategy

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Peyraube gave an update on recent activities, including the last meeting of the WG on 11 June 2012 and presented the main discussion points from it. In addition, Prof. Dingwell gave a short report from his travels in the context of the ERC Global campaign.

5.4 Working group on Open access

The Chair of the WG, Dr. Tim Hunt, gave an update of the on-going work of the WG.

Session 2

6. ScC Standing Committees update

The Chair of the Committee on Panels, Prof. Heldin, gave a short report on ongoing activities.

The Chair of the Committee on Conflict of Interest, Ethics and Scientific Misconduct, Prof. Exner, reported on work in progress.

7. Report from the Global Summit on Merit Review and the establishment of the Global Research Council (GRC)

Prof. Nowotny reported from her participation in the Global Summit on Merit Review in Washington in May 2012 hosted by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Heads of research councils from about 50 countries agreed upon a set of merit review principles ("Statement of Principle for Scientific Merit Review") and established a Global Research Council (GRC). A discussion on the use of the NSF term "merit review" took place. Due to prior consultation with the ERC and other European research councils, a footnote had been included in the document clarifying that the terms Merit Review and Peer Review are used interchangeably in the context of the Statement of Principles. Prof. Nowotny noted that the GRC will be meeting every year, discussing two predetermined topics. The next meeting will be organized by Brazil and Germany and will take place in Berlin between 27 and 29 May 2013. The two issues to be discussed will be open access and scientific integrity.

8. Communication activities update

The ERCEA gave an update on recent activities, including press coverage of ERC activities, success stories publications and the ERC website. The ScC was also informed about "aggressive marketing" practices by online media outlets and publishing houses making profit out of publishing articles/interviews with ERC grantees. An update was also given on participation in recent and forthcoming events, including the Global Campaign. Possible reinforcement of the national contact points (NCPs) in Horizon2020 was mentioned as well.

THURSDAY 21 June 2012

Session 3

9. Operational issues

9.1 State of play: Granting

The ERCEA gave an update on the granting processes and performance.

9.2 State of play: ERC Synergy grant

As the panel meetings were scheduled for 25-28 June 2012 no new updates were given on the SyG.

9.3 State of play: ERC-2012-StG call

An update was given by the ERCEA on the evaluation of the StG2012 call. The 2012 call was the largest one since 2007. Also there was an increase of the call budget with around 10% and an increase in the number of proposals (compared to StG2011) of around 20%. Moreover, the number of expected mid-term reports for StG and AdG between June 2012 and December 2013 was discussed. Also, an update was given on the status of the recruitment of panel members for the 2013 calls.

9.4 State of play: ERC-2012-AdG call

An update was given by the ERCEA on the state of play of the evaluation of the AdG 2012 call.

9.5 Proof of Concept

An update was given by the ERCEA on the Proof of Concept first deadline in 2012.

9.6 Other issues from Department B

The ERCEA gave an update on the forthcoming reorganization of the scientific department, including information on the envisaged governance structure and units functioning.

10. Any other business

Work programme 2014

The tentative calendar for discussion and adoption of the Work programme 2014 was discussed.

NSF proposed initiative for hosting American-based researchers in Europe

The ERCEA reported on the progress in the preparation of the "implementing arrangement" (terminology is compliant with the EU-US Science and Technology Agreement) to be signed between the European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn and the NSF Director, Dr. Subra Suresh. This initiative will enable US-based researchers to visit and become members for limited time of the teams led by ERC-funded PIs.