



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

**ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL  
40<sup>th</sup> PLENARY MEETING, BRUSSELS  
19-20 March 2013**

**MINUTES**

**TUESDAY 19 March 2013**

**Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order):** Prof. Klaus BOCK, Prof. Nicholas CANNY, Prof. Sierd CLOETINGH, Prof. Tomasz DIETL, Prof. Athene DONALD (partially), Prof. Daniel DOLEV, Prof. Barbara ENSOLI (partially), Dr. Daniel ESTEVE, Prof. Pavel EXNER, Prof. Reinhard GENZEL, Prof. Carl-Henrik HELDIN, Dr. Tim HUNT, Prof. Matthias KLEINER, Prof. Eva KONDOROSI, Prof. Henrietta MOORE (partially) Prof. Helga NOWOTNY, Prof. Alain PEYRAUBE, Prof. Mart SAARMA, Prof. Reinhilde VEUGELERS Prof. Anna TRAMONTANO

**Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order):** Prof. Carlos M. DUARTE, Prof. Isabelle VERNOS

**ERC Secretary General:** Prof. Donald DINGWELL

**New Scientific Council members invited as observers (in alphabetical order):** Prof. Nuria SEBASTIAN GALLES

**ERC Executive Agency staff present:** Pablo AMOR, Theodore PAPAZOGLU, Massimo GAUDINA, José LABASTIDA, Bernardus TUBBING, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, May MECHTILD, George TE KOLSTE, Richard FRIZON, VANBIERVLIET Michel, Carina LENARDUZZI, Maria OLIVAN AVILES, Ben TURNER, Severina SHOPOVA, Marie ROBERTI, Laura PONTIGGIA, Dagmar MEYER, Elena TOMA, Sabine SIMMROSS, Ulrike KAINZ-FERNANDEZ DE LA REGUERA, Monique SMAIHI, Fiona KERNAN

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

**Advisor of the Chair:** Dr. Thomas KÖENIG

**Rapporteur:** Severina SHOPOVA, ERC Executive Agency

**Session 1**

**1. Welcome of ScC members, plans and goals of meeting**

Prof. Nowotny welcomed everyone and outlined the main expectations of the meeting.

## **2. Adoption of agenda and point summary of the 39<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council in Brussels on 29 and 30 January 2013<sup>1</sup>**

- The draft agenda of the 40<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting was adopted.
- The Minutes of the 39<sup>th</sup> plenary session of the ERC Scientific Council (ScC) were adopted without any changes.

## **3. Update on recent meetings and activities**

### **3.1 ERC Board meeting on 25 February 2013**

An update was given on recent meetings, such as the Board meeting on 25 February 2013 and the discussions that took place.

## **4. Working groups**

### **4.1 Proposal for revised composition of Standing Committees and Working Groups**

The final revised composition and remits of the Standing Committees and Working Groups was discussed and adopted by the ScC.

### **4.2 Working groups reporting**

#### **Working group on Gender balance**

In the absence of the Chair of the WG, Prof. Vernos, Prof. Tramontano reminded the ScC of the recently published article by Prof. Vernos in *Nature*, "*Research management: Quotas are questionable*". She also noted that the WG is preparing a Workshop which will take place in December 2013.

#### **Working group on Innovation and relations with industry**

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Cloetingh gave a short report on recent activities. Moreover, ERCEA gave a report from the workshop organised on 5 February 2013 in collaboration with Science Business and with the participation of ERC PoC grantees, under the title: "*New technologies from the European Research Council: meet the ERC's Proof of Concept grantees*". The event was seen to be a great success by representatives from industry and by the ERC PoC grantees. The grantees were trained the day before on how to present their pitches in 3 minutes. At the day of the event an introduction was given by Prof. Nowonty and Prof. Anne Glover (Chief Scientific Advisor of President Barroso). The event was recorded and some videos have been produced. There were also interviews with industry in support of the ERC.

#### **Working group on Widening Participation (former Internationalisation strategy)**

Prof. Exner gave an overview of the recent discussions on widening participation. Moreover, participants from the ScC and ERCEA at the ERC widening participation event in Vienna on 28 February and 1 March 2013 gave very positive feedback from the operational and scientific sessions that were organised, as well as from the networking part.

It was stressed that despite the change of name of the WG and the extension of its remit, the internationalisation dimension will continue to be an important pillar that will be further developed.

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<sup>1</sup> If any necessary changes in the point summary are proposed, a written proposal in advance will be appreciated.

## **Working group on Open Access**

The Chair of the WG, Dr. Tim Hunt, gave an overview of recent activities. This general overview was followed by a report from the ERCEA from a Workshop on Open Access Infrastructures in the Social Sciences and Humanities which took place on 6 and 7 February 2013. Also noted were the state-of-play of the ERC's participation in the Europe PubMed Central initiative, Open access to publications in Horizon 2020 and an update on international developments.

## **5. ScC Standing Committees update**

The Chair of the Committee on Panels (CoP), Prof. Heldin, gave a report from the meeting of the CoP on 18 March 2013 in Brussels. Among the discussions which took place he noted panel recruitment, ERC grantees serving as experts on evaluation panels and remote reviewers.

The Chair of the CoIME, Prof. Exner gave a report on recent activities and cases of misconduct and conflict of interest (CoI) brought to the attention of the Committee.

## **Session 2**

### **6. Communication activities update**

The ERCEA gave an update on past and forthcoming communication activities/events. A report was given from the Widening participation event in Vienna on 28 February and 1 March 2013, including press coverage and videos shown on the occasion. Also a report was noted from AAAS in Boston on 14-18 February 2013, including the press and social media coverage of the ERC's participation.

In terms of the "ERC Goes Global" 2013 campaign the forthcoming trips were outlined. Prof. Dingwell noted that the last trip to India had very good media coverage and included visits to several institutes in five different cities.

Audio-visual and dissemination activities in the pipeline were mentioned as well as ERC developments on Twitter and Facebook.

### **7. Implications of MFF on Work programme 2014**

The ERCEA gave an overview of the agreement reached on 8 February 2013 by the EU Heads of Government on the MFF (multiannual financial framework), including a comparison with the last MFF. It was noted that on 13 March 2013 the European Parliament (EP) rejected the MFF. An overview was also given on the state of play in the Horizon 2020 negotiations and the main differences between the Commission's original proposal and the positions of the EP's ITRE (industry, research and energy) Committee and the Council's partial agreement. Moreover, the ERCEA noted options for the call planning for 2014/2015 following the recent developments.

### **8. Meeting with Mr Waldemar Kütt, Deputy Head of Cabinet of the Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science**

The ScC met with Mr Waldemar Kütt, Deputy Head of Cabinet of the Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science. A discussion took place on the current political landscape in research, the overall budgetary discussions and Horizon 2020 negotiations, as well as the priorities/key issues to be addressed in future. The ScC noted that it has set up a number of WGs and Standing Committees on various topics and their relevance was confirmed in the discussion with Mr. Kütt.

## **WEDNESDAY 20 March 2013**

### **Session 3**

#### **9. ERCEA state of play**

The ERCEA gave an update on the various activities of the Department dealing with Resources and Support.

##### **Administrative budget (D0)**

An overview of the administrative budget management was given.

##### **IT tools development and management (D1)**

An update was given on IT infrastructure, governance and methodology, and information systems.

##### **Human Resources, Infrastructure and document management (D2)**

An overview was given on the mission and tasks of the Unit, which include recruitment, training, career development opportunities and logistics, among others.

##### **Programming, monitoring, legal matters and risk management (D3)**

The Unit's activities were presented, including legal matters, procurement, and programming, monitoring and risk assessment.

#### **10. Operational issues reporting**

##### **State of play: Granting**

The ERCEA gave an update on the granting processes, including number of grant agreements signed so far and expected final scientific and financial reports on ERC projects.

##### **State of play: ERC-2013-StG call**

The ERCEA gave an update on the StG2013 call evaluation, which was reported to be on track.

##### **State of play: ERC-2013-CoG call**

The ERCEA gave an update on the CoG2013 call evaluation.

##### **State of play: ERC-2013-AdG call**

The ERCEA gave an update on the AdG2013 call evaluation.

#### **11. Any other business**

No items were discussed under this point.