



European Research Council
Scientific Council

Established by the European Commission

ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

50th PLENARY MEETING, BRUSSELS 22-23 April 2015

MINUTES¹

Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order): Prof. Klaus BOCK, Prof. Nicholas CANNY, Prof. Athene DONALD, Dr. Barbara ENSOLI, Prof. Thomas JUNGWIRTH, Prof. Nuria SEBASTIAN GALLES, Prof. Mart SAARMA, Prof. Nils Christian STENSETH, Prof. Martin STOKHOF, Prof. Janet THORNTON, Prof. Reinhilde VEUGELERS, Prof. Michel WIEVIORKA, Prof. Fabio ZWIRNER

Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order): Prof. Sierd A.P.L. CLOETINGH, Prof. Reinhard GENZEL, Prof. Mattias KLEINER, Prof. Eva KONDOROSI, Dr Tim HUNT

ERC Executive Agency staff present: Pablo AMOR, Theodore PAPAZOGLU, Massimo GAUDINA, Jose LABASTIDA, George TE KOLSTE, Mechtild MAY, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Anna LONNROTH, Martin PENNY, Angela LIBERATORE, Marja HENNESSY, Maria OLIVAN AVILES, Ms. Sari VARTIAINEN, Severina SHOPOVA, Marie ROBERTI

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

Rapporteur: Severina SHOPOVA, ERC Executive Agency

WEDNESDAY 22 April 2015

Session 1

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

Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon welcomed everyone to the meeting, and in particular Prof. Dame Janet Thornton, who attended a ScC plenary meeting for the first time. Prof. Dame Janet Thornton shortly introduced herself. Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon also outlined the goals of the meeting.

Pablo Amor introduced Ms Angela Liberatore, the new Head of the Social Sciences and Humanities Unit who recently joined the Agency. She briefly introduced herself.

Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon took a moment to pay tribute to Prof. José Mariano Gago, an icon of Portuguese science policy and one of the ERC founding fathers, who recently passed away.

2. Adoption of agenda and point summary of the 49th plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council in Brussels on 24-25 February 2015

- The draft agenda of the 50th plenary meeting was adopted.
- The Minutes of the 49th plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council (ScC) were adopted without any changes.

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

3. Action points summary of the 49th plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council

The ERCEA reported that all action points have been followed up.

4. Update on recent meetings and activities

Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon reported on his recent meetings with members of the European Parliament and Commission Vice-Presidents. Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon noted that he had a very good meeting with the Commission's Vice-President Kristalina Georgieva.

Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon welcomed Mr Jack Metthey, Director of Directorate A/DG RTD who gave an update on the work of the Identification Committee.

4.1 ERC Board meeting on 16 March 2015

An update was given on recent meetings, including the last Board meeting.

5. ScC Standing Committees' update and ScC WGs reporting and update

ScC Standing Committees update

Committee on Panels (CoP)

The Chair of the CoP, Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, emphasized how important it is that all ScC members contribute to the constitution of the evaluation panels by suggesting names. He also mentioned a complaint that he received from an unsuccessful applicant.

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

The Chair of the CoIME, Prof. Nuria Sebastian Galles, reported on on-going cases that the Committee is following.

ScC Working groups reporting

Working group on Open Access

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Nicholas Canny, reported on recent activities. The WG has also been actively working on encouraging the ERC grantees to provide open access not only to their journal articles but also to their monographs and other publications.

Working group on Widening European Participation

In the absence of the Chair of the WG, Prof. Eva Kondorosi, Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon reported on recent activities.

Working group on Increasing International Participation

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, gave an update on the state of play of the ERC implementing arrangements with third countries. He noted that the one with Argentina has been signed in March. Furthermore, the arrangement with South Africa is expected to be signed in the near future.

Working group on Innovation and Relations with Industry

In the absence of the Chair of the WG, Prof. Sierd Cloetingh, the ERCEA Secretariat of the WG gave an update on recent activities. An event is planned to take place on 6-7 May in Eindhoven, Holland, the 2015 Angel Summit organised by European Business Angels Network (EBAN). Two ERC PoC grantees will pitch their projects in front of a large audience of potential investors and Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon will give a keynote speech.

Session 2

6. Operational issues reporting: Evaluation processes

The ERCEA/Department B gave an overview of the evaluations of the AdG2014, CoG2015 and PoC2015 calls.

AdG2014 call

The ERCEA reported on the AdG2014 call evaluation final results.

CoG2015 call

The ERCEA reported on the CoG2015 submissions (provisional data).

PoC2015 call

The ERCEA reported on the PoC2015 deadline 1 results.

7. Dealing with conflict of interest of members of the Scientific Council

The ScC discussed how to deal with cases of conflict of interest (Col) of its members. As a result, the ScC Rules of Procedure are expected to be revised.

8. Communication activities update

The ERCEA gave an update on recent communication activities.

An overview of ERC's recent participation at events was presented. One of those was the International Convention of Psychological Science in March, in Amsterdam where an ERC workshop was organised with around 70 participants. Furthermore, the ERC was present at Destination Europe events and at the MIT Career Fair in Boston as well as at the AAAS 2015 in San Jose. The ERC President gave a keynote speech at the MIT Career Fair.

The CoG 2014 results were published and received significant media attention. Examples of a number of ERC projects were also highlighted in the press. In addition, the ERC Newsletter was issued in March with a focus on research in Latvia and an editorial by Prof. Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, former President of Latvia.

A report was given on the preparations around the ERC 5000th grantee event to take place on 16 June at the Solvay Library in Brussels. About 200 people are expected to attend. Among the invited guests will be Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), public authorities among which Commissioner Moedas and research organisations representatives, scientists, NCPs and media.

9. Preparation of the ScC Retreat on 30-31 May in Oberwolfach

The ScC discussed the logistics related to the Retreat preparation and topics for discussion.

THURSDAY 23 April 2015

Session 3

10. Science behind the projects

The ERCEA reminded the ScC of the "*Science behind the projects*" initiative, which was conducted last year and covered ERC 7th Framework Programme projects. The ScC discussed its outcome and how to communicate it to the scientific community. Also discussed was how to continue such an exercise during Horizon 2020.

11. MERCI CSA project presentation

Prof. Dr. Stefan Hornbostel, member of the MERCI (Monitoring European Research Council's Implementation of Excellence) CSA (Coordination and Support Action) project gave a presentation on the findings. The project looked into the motivation to apply for ERC Starting Grants (StGs) and the effects of such funding, as well as the development of skills and competencies of the grantees, among other things.

12. Any other business

- *ScC plenary meetings in 2016*

Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon informed the ScC members that a calendar with proposed dates for the ScC plenary meetings in 2016 has been prepared and will be sent to the ScC members shortly for their consideration. He also mentioned a number of invitations to host ScC plenary meetings, which he has received from different countries/institutions.

- *ScC Working groups*

Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon asked the ERCEA ScC Secretariat to recirculate the list with the Standing Committees and WGs membership to all ScC members.