



European Research Council
Scientific Council

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ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL 64th PLENARY MEETING, HEIDELBERG (DE) 1-2 March 2018

MINUTES

Thursday 1 March 2018

Session 1 – Morning 9-12:30

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

Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON welcomed everyone and outlined the goals of the meeting.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The draft agenda of the 64th plenary meeting was adopted with a small change. The agenda item 'Report from the Ethics Task Force and first recommendations' was swapped with item 'Recommendations of the PoC Assessment discussion'.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the 63rd Plenary Meeting of the ERC Scientific Council in Brussels (BE) in December 2017

The Minutes of the 63rd plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council (ScC) were adopted without any changes.

4. Action Points Summary of the 63rd Plenary Meeting of the ERC Scientific Council

ERCEA provided an overview of the follow-up given to action points from the previous meeting.

5. Update on Recent Meetings and Activities

A short report was given from recent meetings, including the last Board meeting. The ERC President reported, among other, from the ERC participation at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos and the first "Gago Conference" in Porto centred on Cancer Research. In addition, he went through other exchanges, including the one with S. SURESH (new President of the Nanyang Technical University in Singapore) and the developments around the World Alliance for Efficient Solutions.

6. Standing Committees and Working Groups Reporting

Report from the ScC Ethics Task Force and first recommendations

The agenda item was opened with a report by Prof. Giulio SUPERTI-FURGA on the work done by the recently established Ethics Task Force. The Task Force's mandate included discussing the ethics review process of the applications and coming forth with several recommendations.

Reporting from Working Groups

Some Working Group Chairs reported from their recent meetings.

Prof. Eva KONDOROSI reported that the Widening European Participation Working Group discussed the participation to some of the 2018 COST Association Info Days. Prof. KONDOROSI also mentioned some WG discussions regarding the reimbursement of researchers' salaries under the provisions of the Framework Programme.

Prof. Reinhilde VEUGELERS reported that the Key Performance Indicators WG is reviewing the ERC Scientific Council's monitoring and evaluation strategy.

Prof. Martin STOKHOF reported he had called a meeting on the Task Force on inter-disciplinarity to explore with ScC Members the idea of targeted funding for interdisciplinary initiatives.

Recommendations of the PoC Assessment Discussion

The agenda item was introduced by Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON who had chaired the meeting of the ScC WG on Innovation and Relations with Industry on the previous day in the absence of Prof. Klaus BOCK. The ERC President noted that the external experts' report produced on the PoC grants would be considered for publication, accompanied by a shorter document containing the comments of the ScC on the results and recommendations.

7. Follow up of the Preparation of Framework Programme 9

ERCEA recapped the state of play of the preparations of the next Framework Programme by the European Commission. The proposal for the EU's long term budget would now be adopted on 2 May, with the proposals for the next Framework Programme to be adopted slightly later.

Session 2 – Afternoon 13:45-17:15

8. Work Programme 2019

This agenda item was split between session two in the afternoon of 1 March and session three in the morning of 2 March, however full account is given in this section for expediency.

ERCEA summarised the state of play of the preparation of the Work Programme and the next steps. The European Commission is aiming to adopt the Work Programme 2019 in July 2018, following the usual inter-service consultation to be launched at the end of April. In order to give sufficient time to the Commission services to scrutinise the draft, the Scientific Council needs to send DG RTD a stable version of the Work Programme in early March, incorporating the outcomes of the plenary meeting's discussion. In its discussions on the Work Programme 2019, the ScC considered various topics, such as eligibility windows and budget distributions, among other things.

Friday 2 March 2018

Session 3 – Morning 9:00 – 12:30

9. Operational Issues Reporting: Evaluation and Granting Processes

The ERCEA Scientific Department gave an update on the ongoing evaluations for the ERC calls.

The ERCEA Granting Department gave an update on the main achievements of 2017 regarding granting and an overview of 2018 activities.

10. Communication Activity Update

The ERCEA Communications Unit provided an update on communication activities since the last ScC plenary meeting in December. These included the announcement of call results for CoG and PoC, the release of science stories related to ERC projects, and the ERC representation in important international events and conferences (AAAS followed by a US tour, and WEF at Davos). It was reported that the participation of the ERC at Davos with 14 dedicated sessions and 11 grantees and the ERC President in attendance generated some 24 media interviews and much social media attention.

An update on important events ahead was also provided. On 30-31 May the European Parliament "Science and Technology Options Assessment" (STOA) and the ERC are jointly organising, during a plenary meeting of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, an event which aims to position the ERC and increase its visibility with policy-makers and link them with top scientists.

11. Any Other Business

The ScC discussed the need to preserve and archive documents related to the historical memory of the ERC.