



ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

27th PLENARY MEETING, LUXEMBOURG

28– 29 OCTOBER 2010

Minutes of the Meeting

Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order): Dr. Claudio BORDIGNON, Prof. Sierd CLOETINGH, Prof. Mathias DEWATRIPONT, Prof. Carlos DUARTE, Dr. Daniel ESTÈVE, Prof. Pavel EXNER, Prof. Hans-Joachim FREUND, Prof. Carl-Henrik HELDIN, Prof. Fotis C. KAFATOS, Prof. Michal KLEIBER, Prof. Norbert KROÓ, Prof. Maria Teresa LAGO, Dr. Oscar MARIN PARRA, Prof. Henrietta MOORE, Prof. Helga NOWOTNY, Prof. Christiane NÜSSLEIN-VOLHARD, Prof. Alain PEYRAUBE, Dr. Jens ROSTRUP-NIELSEN, Prof. Salvatore SETTIS, Prof. Rolf ZINKERNAGEL

Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order): Prof. Wendy HALL

ERC Executive Agency staff present: Jack METTHEY, Pablo AMOR, Gabor NAGY, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Maria OLIVAN AVILES, Massimo GAUDINA, Theodore PAPAZOGLOU, Benjamin TURNER, Laura PONTIGGIA, Jens HEMMELSKAMP, Elisabeth SJOSTEDT, Severina SHOPOVA, Marie ROBERTI

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

Advisor of the Chair: Dr. Thomas KÖNIG

Rapporteur: Severina SHOPOVA, ERC Executive Agency

THURSDAY 28 October 2010

Session 1

1. Closed session

The ERC Scientific Council held a closed session in the morning of 28 October 2010.

Session 2

2. Welcome, plans and goals of meeting

3. Adoption of agenda of the 27th plenary meeting in Brussels and point summary of the 26th plenary meeting of the ERC ScC in Santiago de Compostela on 29-30 June 2010

- The draft agenda and annotated agenda of the 27th plenary meeting and the annotated minutes and minutes for publication on the ERC website of the 26th plenary session of the ERC Scientific Council (ScC) were adopted without any changes.

4. Update on recent meetings and activities

4.1 ERC Board meeting on 20 July 2010; Informal ScC Meeting 7 September 2010; ERC Board meetings on 21 September 2010 and 5 October 2010; meeting with EU Commissioner for Energy, Günther Oettinger, on 22 September 2010

Prof. Nowotny informed the Scientific Council on the meeting with the EU Commissioner for Energy, Günther Oettinger. She reported on a discussion, which took place.

5. ERC⁺ grant scheme

This was a follow-up of previous discussions during plenary meetings of the ERC Scientific Council on the issue of possible new funding schemes. A number of aspects were discussed, including the possible profile of the PI and the size and nature of the projects.

Session 3

6. ERC Review follow-up

The ERCEA gave an update on the revision of the ERC Establishment Decision as well as the ERC Rules of Submission, which are in the process of being finalised and adopted by the Commission.

7. ScC Standing Committees update

The Standing Committee on Conflict of Interest reported on the conclusions of its previous meeting in Santiago de Compostela.

The Standing Committee on Panels (CoP) met before the Luxembourg plenary meeting. The Committee is expected to report on its work on the occasion of the next ScC plenary meeting in December 2010.

FRIDAY 29 October 2010

Session 4

8. Operational issues

8.1 ERC Executive Agency update

The ERCEA informed the ScC on the state of play with respect to the ERC Executive agency's recruitment, including the publication of the Head of the Scientific Department B post, the imminent appointment of the Head of Unit A1, as well as the logistics arrangements and staff-related issues.

8.2 State of play: ERC-2010-AdG call/ ERC-2010-StG call/ERC-2011-StG call

Update on the ERC-2010-StG call/ ERC-2011-StG call

An update was given by the ERC Executive agency on the ERC-2010-StG call, including information on the final panel chairs meeting. Moreover, an update on the ERC-2011-StG call was also given, including the panels recruitment state of play and logistics planned for interviews.

Furthermore, a discussion took place on the format of the final panel chairs' meeting and additional ways to further improve its efficiency.

The ScC also requested that a "thank you" note is sent on behalf of the ScC to the Chair of the Panel Chairs' meeting for the excellent work.

Update on the ERC-2010-AdG call

The ERCEA gave an update on the ERC-2010-AdG call, including information on the panel meetings and evaluators recruitment.

8.2.1 Excellence stamp

A presentation was given by ERCEA/Department B on the "ERC excellence stamp". The presentation was inspired by the initiatives by several funding organisations to support projects that have been marked over the quality threshold during the evaluations but can not be supported by the ERC. Several ways to produce useful data, following the evaluation, which could be meaningful for these initiatives, were discussed. In general, the consensus was that the ERCEA must deal with requests from national funding agencies on a case by case basis.

8.3 State of play: Granting

The ERCEA gave an update on the granting process for the ERC schemes, including the key performance indicators: time to grant, time to pay and time to amend. Moreover, the ScC was informed on the state of play of the operational budget execution.

8.4 Update on communication activities

The ERCEA gave an update on Communication activities and recent events across Europe in which ScC members have participated, including the mission of Prof. Nowotny and Jack Mettrey's to Japan. It was also reported that Prof. Alberto Broggi (ERC grantee) driverless car had arrived at the World Expo in Shanghai and his project has been covered by important media in Europe, US and China.

With respect to forthcoming events, the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting in San Diego, US (13-17 November 2010) and the Indian Science Congress in Chennai, India (3-7 January 2011), were mentioned as major scientific conferences where ERC will be present.

Finally, a proposal for a series of events to be organised in the EU Member States was accepted by the ScC. The idea of the events is to give higher visibility to the ERC. A number of countries have been identified for 2011, namely Poland and Hungary, during their EU Presidency, as well as Austria and Latvia.

9. Any other business

- **ERC Added value**

A discussion took place within the framework of FP8 preparations and the expected contribution of the ScC to it.

- **ScC Vice-Chair election**

It was decided that following a short period for nominations, there will be a vote for the vacant position of the ScC second Vice-Chair.