ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL
60th PLENARY MEETING, PADOVA (IT)
25-26 April 2017

MINUTES

Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order): Prof. Klaus BOCK, Prof. Paola BOVOLENTA, Prof. Margaret BUCKINGHAM, Prof. Christopher CLARK, Prof. Athene DONALD, Prof. Andrzej JAJSZCZYK, Prof. Tomas JUNGWIRTH, Prof. Eva KONDOROSI, Prof. Kurt MEHLHORN, Prof. Barbara ROMANOWICZ, Prof. Martin STOKHOF, Prof. Giulio SUPERTI-FURGA, Prof. Nektarios TAVERNARAKIS, Prof. Janet THORNTON, Prof. Isabelle VERNOS, Prof. Reinhilde VEUGELERS, Prof. Michel WIEVIORKA, Prof. Fabio ZWIRNER

Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order): Prof. Nils STENSETH, Prof. Michael KRAMER, Prof. Eveline CRONE

ERC Executive Agency staff present: Pablo AMOR, Theodore PAPAZOGLOU, Massimo GAUDINA, Jose LABASTIDA, Mechtild MAY, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Anna LONNROTH, Martin PENNY, Angela LIBERATORE, Laurence MOREAU, Ben TURNER, Francesca SGRITTA, Sabine SIMMROSS, Stefania ZANINELLO, Christine SCHIEL, Diane BASTIANELLI

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

Rapporteur: Stefania ZANINELLO, ERC Executive Agency

Tuesday 25 April 2017

Session 1 – Morning 9:00 – 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. He excused Prof. Nils STENSETH, Prof. Michael KRAMER and Prof. Eveline CRONE who could not attend.

Rector Rosario RIZZUTO welcomed the ERC Scientific Council to the University of Padova and wished a fruitful meeting.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The draft agenda and annotated agenda of the 60th plenary meeting were adopted.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the 59th Plenary Meeting of the ERC Scientific Council in Brussels on 9-10 February 2017

The "annotated minutes" and "minutes for publication on the ERC website" of the 59th plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council (ScC) were adopted without any changes.

4. Action Points Summary of the 59th Plenary Meeting of the ERC Scientific Council

Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON checked the state of play of the action points from the last ScC meeting.

5. Update on Recent Meetings and Activities

5.1 ERC Board meeting on 2 March

A short report was given from recent meetings, including the last Board meeting.

The minutes of the Board meeting of 4 April will be tabled at the next Plenary meeting, pending the agreement of DG R&I for the part in which the Director of Dir A/DG RTD attended.

Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON also circulated a list of his recent trips and meetings, which included, among others, various events related to the ERC 10th Anniversary. He highlighted especially the one in Rome, which was combined also with a high level celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Rome Treaties. He also mentioned his trip with Commissioner MOEDAS to Pittsburgh, for the visit of the Carnegie Mellon University and the participation at the North American Higher Education Summit.

Prof. Eva KONDOROSI reported from the ERC event organised in Tbilisi (Georgia), which aimed at strengthening Eastern Partnership participation in ERC calls and provided information to potential applicants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The event went very well and raised a lot of interest in these countries and among the scientific diaspora community potential candidates.
Prof. Martin STOKHOF reported from events he participated in, including the national Dutch ERC 10th anniversary in The Hague.

Prof. Andrzej JAJSZCZYK reported that the event Prof. BOURGUIGNON attended in Poznan has been one of a series of events organised across Poland to discuss new reforms to be introduced to the Polish Higher Education system.

6. Panel Recruitment Process and PAN (nomination of experts platform)

The ERCEA/Dept B made a presentation on the panel recruitment process and the web-based platform used to nominate experts (PAN). The overall state of play of the panel recruitment process was described and specific information on the tasks and scale of the operation provided. The main players and main steps, as well as the basic rules, were reminded. The presentation concluded with some best practices learnt over the years and an online presentation of the PAN tool. The presentation also gave an overview of the main steps of the process in terms of tasks and time line to be followed.

The PAN – Panel Nomination Tool - was then presented with an online demonstration. The tool was created for the ERC Scientific Council and it is a joint platform for overview, nomination, and invitation of panel members. It contains real-time information and ensures data security. Searches and download functions, as well as recruitment status view, are possible.

7. Peer Review for Long Text Publications and Final Update on Standing Committees and Working Groups Membership

Following a discussion at the Open Access Working Group, the ScC adopted a short text on "peer review for long text publications" to be added to the Annotated Grant Agreement.

In addition, a final discussion on the membership of the various Standing Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups took place. Some changes and modifications were accepted and the final version of the membership will be circulated after the meeting and uploaded on website.

8. Communication Activities Update

An update on recent communication activities and the ERC 10th Anniversary events in Brussels and in the rest of the world was given by the ERCEA/A2. Two videos were shown: the first one on the 10th Anniversary event in Brussels on 21 March and the second on the impact of the ERC 10th Anniversary worldwide.

In total, over 140 events were or will be organised in more than 38 countries, also outside EU (Brazil, China, India, Indonesia/ASEAN, Israel, Japan, Taiwan, and the US). In 18 countries national events have been organised: BE, HR, DK, FR, IT, NL, NO, PT, ES, DE, HU, ISL, PL, SE, CH, FI, AT, LU, and in some countries more than one event, such as in IT (20), FR (18), ES (15), DE (6), NL (6), etc. So far, 16 ScC members and 20 members of the Agency staff have been involved or plan to participate in these events.

Session 2 – Afternoon 14:00 – 18:00

9. ERC ScC Position Paper on FP9 Discussion (session B)

The main agenda item of the plenary meeting was the ERC ScC's position on the ERC in the next Framework Programme (FP9), which was discussed during both days. The President introduced the agenda point by explaining that the ScC needed to adopt its position on the ERC in FP9 by the end of the following week, in order to submit it to the Lamy High Level Group before the Group finalised its key messages.
As a basis for discussion, ScC Members had received in advance of the plenary meeting two draft ScC statements prepared by the ERC President with the support of ERCEA A1.

The public statement that was circulated ahead of the plenary meeting recalled the ERC's undisputed achievements in its first 10 years and its contributions to the EU research funding landscape. It underlined the conditions that enabled its success and called for them to be preserved and enhanced in the future. In particular, the paper argued that in relation to the inclusion of the ERC in the next Framework Programme, policy makers should ensure the ERC programme's:
- Continuity – by safeguarding the ERC's autonomy as laid out in the current legal framework;
- Agility – by enhancing the ERC's operational freedom and ability to address new and emerging challenges;
- Scale-up – by increasing its budget to reach at least 4 billion Euro per year.

The members of the ScC expressed their full agreement with and support of the paper's key messages, structure, argumentation and political line, and found it to be of high quality and in line with the ScC's previous deliberations on the matter. The ScC's in-depth discussion that followed focused on a series of issues with direct ramifications on the text of the statement.

Wednesday 26 April 2017

Session 3 – Morning 9:00 – 12:30

10. Operational Issues Reporting: Evaluation and Granting Processes

A first report for the 2017 granting processes and a report on the state of play of the concluded evaluation processes were provided by the ERCEA/Dept C and Dept B respectively.

Granting Processes

The ERCEA/Dept C gave an update on the grant management, including a brief state of play of the granting and financial operations and of the support provided to PIs to facilitate their research and implementation of grants. The ERCEA/Dept C currently manages a portfolio of 5356 ongoing projects (as for March 2017), 2655 under FP7 (49.6%) and 2701 under Horizon 2020 (50.4%).

Evaluation Processes

The ERCEA/Dept. B sent in advance a comprehensive presentation on the updates concerning various calls. At the plenary meeting a shorter presentation was given with the final results of the **AdG 2016 call**, an **overview of all the 2016 calls**, some information on

the first results of **StG 2017 Step 1**. Also, an update was given on the submissions' state of play of **CoG 2017** and the **2017 call calendar**.

12. Any Other Business

- ScC plenary meetings in 2018

Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON reminded the ScC of the dates for next year ScC Plenary meeting and asked to confirm availability at the earliest convenience. He also suggested some countries where the ScC could meet, such as Greece (Crete), Bulgaria, Austria, Portugal and Poland.