



## **ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL**

### **26<sup>th</sup> PLENARY MEETING, SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, SPAIN**

**29– 30 JUNE 2010**

#### **Minutes of the Meeting**

**Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order):** Prof. Sierd CLOETINGH, Prof. Mathias DEWATRIPONT, Prof. Carlos DUARTE, Dr. Daniel ESTEVE, Prof. Pavel EXNER, Prof. Hans-Joachim FREUND, Prof. Fotis C. KAFATOS, Prof. Michal KLEIBER, Prof. Norbert KROÓ, Prof. Maria Teresa LAGO, Dr. Oscar MARIN PARRA, Prof. Helga NOWOTNY, Dr. Jens ROSTRUP-NIELSEN, Prof. Salvatore SETTIS and Prof. Andreu MAS-COLELL (Scientific Council Secretary General)

**Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order):** Dr. Claudio BORDIGNON, Prof. Wendy HALL, Prof. Carl-Henrik HELDIN, Prof. Henrietta MOORE, Prof. Christiane NÜSSLEIN-VOLHARD, Prof. Alain PEYRAUBE, Prof. Rolf ZINKERNAGEL

**ERC Executive Agency staff present:** Jack METTHEY, Pablo AMOR, Bernardus TUBBING, Alejandro MARTIN HOBDEY, Maria OLIVAN AVILES, Theodore PAPAZOGLOU, Benjamin TURNER, Laura PONTIGGIA, Jens HEMMELSKAMP, Severina SHOPOVA, Marie ROBERTI, Anne BERGER

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

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

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

### **TUESDAY 29 June 2010**

#### **Session 1**

- 1. Welcome, plans and goals of meeting**
- 2. Adoption of agenda of the 26<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting in Brussels and point summary of the 25<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the ERC ScC in Brussels on 29-30 April 2010**
  - The draft agenda of the 26<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting and the minutes of the 25<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 meetings on 5 May 2010 and 8 June 2010**

### **3.2 Working Group (WG) Relations with industry**

An update was given on the activities of the WG. The WG presented a proposal for a "proof-of-concept" funding option for the ERC-supported projects. The WG would like to explore the possibility to activate this option in the Work Programme 2011. The ScC broadly agreed with the proposed add-on option.

The WG reported that it is continuing its dialogue with industry and is identifying priorities to focus on. Moreover, the WG is also looking into the possibility to organise a conference under the Hungarian Presidency of the EU in Budapest on frontier research and innovation.

### **3.3 Working Group (WG) Third countries recruitment**

The WG gave an update on its work including some initial analysis on the performance of applicants of the StG 2009 PE panels with previous working experience in the USA.

### **3.4 Update on communication activities**

The ERC Executive Agency (ERCEA) gave an update on Communication activities, including on the ERC 1000<sup>th</sup> grantee event, which took place in Munich on 24 June. The Commissioner for Research and Innovation, the German Minister for Research, the ERC ScC (Scientific Council) leadership, and the ERCEA Director *Ad Interim* were present for the event. The 1000<sup>th</sup> grantee is an AdG 2009 grant holder, Prof Erika von Mutius and will be hosted by the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich.

Updates on other events included:

- The Nobel Laureates' Week (ULB), Brussels, 3-7 May with the participation of Prof. Zinkernagel and Prof. Dewatripont and an ERC press with the Prof. Nowotny, Jack Metthey and Prof. A. Mas-Colell;
- ERC participation at the ISE Conference organised in Barcelona on 28 May 2010;
- ERC participation at the World Expo in Shanghai, China between 14 and 17 June 2010, including the participation of ERC grantees and a number of satellite events being organised;
- Visits to Brazilian Universities by Prof. Peyraube.

The presentation by Prof. Nowotny to Tokyo University foreseen in August 2010 and the ERC participation at the European Science Open Forum (ESOF) taking place in Torino between 2 and 7 July 2010 were noted as forthcoming events.

## **Session 2**

### **4. ERC future possible funding schemes**

This was a follow-up of the discussion during the last plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council and which addressed future funding schemes. It appears that there is a demand, which is first and foremost scientific, based on the growing need for multidisciplinary, joint collaborative work among individual top-level scientists who work in small and agile clusters. At the same time the ERC's bottom-up, excellence only and PI driven mode must be maintained.

The ScC members agreed in principle that there would be a new funding scheme, to be introduced in the Work Programme 2012. Further work is needed in order to define its exact parameters including its operational implementation.

## **5. ERC Review follow-up**

An update was given by the ERCEA on the state of play of the recruitment process for the post of the Director. The deadline for applications was 5 March 2010. The process of pre-selection is ongoing. A short list of candidates has been established after interviews were conducted by the selection panel. The short listed candidates would be going through further assessment.

Moreover, a short update was given on the revision of the ERC Establishment Decision as well as the ERC Rules of Submission, which are to incorporate several of the ERC review panel recommendations.

Finally, the ScC unanimously agreed to renew the mandate of Prof. Dewatripoint to the ERCEA Steering Committee that will be renewed shortly due to changes in the parent DG of the ERCEA.

## **WEDNESDAY 30 June 2010**

### **Session 3**

#### **6. Operational issues**

##### **6.1 ERC Executive Agency update**

The ERCEA Director *Ad Interim* informed the ScC on the state of play with respect to the ERCEA's recruitment, particularly for the Director's post and the 2 management positions left (post of the Head of Unit A1 already published and Head of Department B to be published in autumn), as well as the logistics arrangements and the training opportunities offered to the staff.

##### **6.2 State of play: ERC-2010-AdG call/ ERC-2010-StG call**

###### **Update on the ERC-2010-StG call**

An update was made by the ERCEA on the ERC-2010-StG call, including Conflict of Interest discussions and projections for the expected higher workload in 2011. Moreover, the commitment and efficiency of the ERCEA's scientific personnel during the volcano eruption, which delayed the evaluation, was acknowledged by the ScC members.

###### **Update on the ERC-2010-AdG call**

The ERCEA gave an update on the ERC-2010-AdG call, including feedback from the panel members, the panel meetings schedule and the timing of the feedback to the applicants.

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

The ERCEA gave an update on the granting processes for the StG and AdG 2009, including information on the operational budget execution and payments activities for the first half of 2010.

#### **6.4 Update on ERC Monitoring and Evaluation CSAs**

The ERCEA gave an update on the Monitoring and Evaluation CSAs in terms of the work delivered by the four projects so far.

#### **7. ScC (Scientific Council) Standing Committees update**

The Standing Committee on Conflict of Interest met for the first time on 28 June 2010 in Santiago de Compostela. The Committee is expected to report on its work on the occasion of the next ScC plenary meeting in October 2010.

#### **8. Any other business**

- ***Planning of 2011 Board and ScC (Scientific Council) plenary meetings***

The ScC Chair, Prof. Nowotny noted that the dates for the Board and ScC plenary meetings in 2011 will be finalised shortly. In terms of the locations of the meetings it was confirmed that the June 2011 plenary meeting will be held in Budapest, Hungary and the October plenary meeting in Riga, Latvia.

- ***ERC Reviewers***

Prof. Nowotny requested that a letter is sent to all reviewers as well as to panel chairs with a reinforced message outlining what the ScC is expecting from them.