



European Research Council
Scientific Council

Established by the European Commission

ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

51st PLENARY MEETING, STRASBOURG

2-3 June 2015

MINUTES¹

Scientific Council members present (in alphabetical order): Prof. Klaus BOCK, Prof. Nicholas CANNY, Prof. Sierd A.P.L. CLOETINGH, Prof. Thomas JUNGWIRTH, Prof. Eva KONDOROSI, Dr Tim HUNT, Prof. Nuria SEBASTIAN GALLES, Prof. Mart SAARMA, Prof. Nils Christian STENSETH, Prof. Martin STOKHOF, Prof. Reinhilde VEUGELERS, Prof. Michel WIEVIORKA, Prof. Fabio ZWIRNER

Scientific Council members excused (in alphabetical order): Prof. Athene DONALD, Dr. Barbara ENSOLI, Prof. Mattias KLEINER, Prof. Janet THORNTON

New Scientific Council members not yet appointed present (in alphabetical order): Prof. Michael KRAMER, Prof. Isabelle VERNOS

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, Maria OLIVAN AVILES, Thierry PROST, Severina SHOPOVA, Marie ROBERTI

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

Rapporteur: Severina SHOPOVA, ERC Executive Agency

TUESDAY 2 June 2015

Session 1

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

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

2. Adoption of agenda

- The draft agenda of the 51st plenary meeting was adopted.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the 50th plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council in Brussels on 22-23 April 2015

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

4. Action points summary of the 50th plenary meeting of the ERC Scientific Council

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

¹ If any change in the point summary is proposed, a written proposal in advance will be appreciated.

5. Update on recent meetings and activities

Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon reported on his recent contacts with various political stakeholders, mostly in connection with the now finalized discussions of the trilogue on the financing of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI).

5.1 ERC Board meeting on 20 May 2015

A report was given from the last Board meeting.

6. 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, reported from the last meeting of the CoP and the recent activities of the Committee. In addition, the three ScC Vice-Presidents gave an update on the state of play of the panels' recruitment per domain.

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

The Chair of the CoIME, Prof. Nuria Sebastian Galles, reported on the discussions that took place at the last CoIME meeting on 1 June 2015 where the work of the CoIME since 2012 was presented summarising its mandate, its role in cases of scientific misconduct as prescribed in the ERCEA procedure on scientific misconduct, as well as in cases of conflict of interest involving evaluators.

The presentation also included data and details of cases of both scientific misconduct and conflict of interest dealt with and the results of case assessments since 2012.

ScC Working groups reporting

Working group on Innovation and Relations with Industry

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Sierd Cloetingh, reported from the last meeting of the WG, including past meetings and forthcoming events.

Working group on Open Access

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Nicholas Canny, reported from the last meeting of the WG and recent activities. He also noted a presentation by an external speaker from the 'Knowledge Exchange' initiative on what had been done so far to promote open scholarship and various practices of this nature in different countries.

Working group on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Reinhilde Veugelers, reported on the WG's recent activities, including a report from the last meeting of the WG and the on-going impact studies steered by it.

Working group on Widening European Participation

The Chair of the WG, Prof. Eva Kondorosi, reported from the last WG meeting and recent events/activities.

7. Exchange with the ERC Identification Committee Chair, Sir Leszek Borysiewicz

The ScC welcomed the ERC Identification Committee Chair, Sir Leszek Borysiewicz and had an extended exchange with him. Sir Leszek started with an introduction on the vision he had of his job followed by a number of key points he outlined. He started with stressing the importance of having a stable Scientific Council in place. Moreover, Sir Leszek Borysiewicz spoke about the renewal process and the consultation of the scientific community he insisted on having. The Identification Committee is planning to meet again in September and will try and deal with the question of the renewal of ScC members, in order to get quickly their re-nomination by the European Commission, therefore easing the handover and ensuring continuity in particular with respect to the ScC Vice-Presidents.

At the end of the meeting both the ScC members and Sir Leszek Borysiewicz expressed their satisfaction with the discussion.

8. Communication activities update

The ERCEA/A2 gave an update on recent communication activities, including those in support of widening participation

In addition, an overview of the ERC participation in international events was given. Those included the American Association for Cancer Research, where an ERC workshop with three grantees took place and the International Conference on Robotics and Automation, at which ERC representatives were present at a session, including two grantees. Both events were in the US and an ERC stand was available.

In terms of press highlights, the signature of the implementing arrangement between the Commission and the JSPS, Japan was noted. It was signed just before the EU-Japan Summit in Tokyo in presence of the ERC President

Examples on ERC projects in the press, ERC overall in the press and ScC members at events were highlighted, together with information on the next issue of the ERC Newsletter, which will come out in June 2015.

Last but not least, 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 are Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), public authorities and research organisations representatives, scientists, NCPs and media.

Also, an exchange of views with ERC will take place at the European Parliament's ITRE Committee with the participation of the ERC President and two ERC grantees. Those will be followed by a formal celebration ceremony and a cocktail. An ERC booth will be placed at the European Parliament between 15 and 17 June 2015 involving some grantees demonstrating their work.

Session 2

9. Conclusions and road map from the ScC Retreat on 30-31 May in Oberwolfach

The ERC President noted a number of topics covered during the discussions which took place during the ScC Retreat. Those covered interdisciplinarity, widening participation, the functioning of the ScC and other scientific issues. The ERC President will draft a summary of the retreat on the basis of the input provided by the participants. This summary will be circulated to the members of the Scientific Council.

10. Measures for a common approach on breach of obligations under the ERC Grant Agreement

The ERCEA brought to the attention of the ScC measures for a common approach on breach of obligations under the ERC model grant agreement, which are currently being discussed. They are linked to the current revision of the Financial Regulation regarding the implementation of penalties. Discussions are on-going in the Commission and further update will be provided to the ScC at a later stage.

WEDNESDAY 3 June 2015

Session 3

11. Distribution of additional budget (Associated countries contribution) to the 2015 calls

The ScC was asked to decide on how to distribute the additional funds that the ERC received from the contributions of the countries associated to the Framework Programme between the 2015 calls. The ScC decided to allocate as much funds as possible to the 2015 Starting Grant call (StG), to also increase the 2015 Proof of Concept (PoC) budget and to transfer the amount remaining to the Advanced Grant call (AdG).

12. ERCEA State of Play

The ERCEA gave an overview of the ERCEA and its activities, including the new "management modes" in Horizon2020. The ScC was also informed about how the tasks were shared between the European Commission and Executive Agencies. Moreover, the ScC was reminded of the structure, mission and role of the ERCEA, as well as of the specific tasks of the various departments.

13. Operational issues reporting: Evaluation and granting processes

Update on evaluation

The ERCEA gave an update on the state of play of the on-going evaluations.

Starting Grant (StG) 2015 call Step 1

The ERCEA reported on the StG2015 Step 1 evaluation results. The ScC was also reminded of the overall evaluation calendar for the StG2015.

Proof of Concept (PoC) 2015 call

The ERCEA reported on the PoC2015 deadline 1 results and the ScC was informed that the eligibility check for the deadline 2 proposals has already started. Also, the evaluation by the experts will be launched next week.

Update on granting

The ERCEA gave an update on the state of play of the granting processes, including a simulation for the 2015 voted payment credits. Also, the ScC was informed that the bulk of payments is still to come within the next five years.

14. Any other business

ScC plenary meetings invitations

Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon informed the ScC that he has so far received three invitations to hold plenary meetings outside Brussels in 2015. Moreover two other invitations to host ScC plenary meetings may be expected to come soon.