



European Research Council
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ERC Highlight:

ERC at the European Business Summit: How does Europe win the global race?

14 May 2014

To bring in the voice of science into the debate, the European Research Council (ERC) will for the first time take part in the European Business Summit. Beginning today in Brussels, it focuses on how to rebuild a competitive Europe. ERC President Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon is a speaker in tomorrow's plenary session "How Does Europe Win the Global Race", which will address Europe's competitiveness in a world of emerging economies.

Ahead of the event, President Jean-Pierre Bourguignon said: *"Europe needs to invest more in excellent "blue sky" research as a way towards more growth, jobs and solutions to societal challenges. This type of research often leads to unpredictable breakthroughs, sometimes only in the longer term, but that can trigger major innovations. The European Research Council plays a central role in supporting high-risk/high-gain science, which the private sector is less inclined to invest in as it cannot appropriate all the benefits. The ERC is keen to accompany its grant winners in their contacts with entrepreneurs."*

Other speakers in the plenary session, which will take place tomorrow 15 May from 9.00 to 10.30 am, include EU Commissioner for Internal Market and Services Michel Barnier and Minister-President of Flanders Kris Peeters, amongst others.

European research will also be represented at the summit by the Commission's Director General for Research and Innovation Robert-Jan Smits who will speak on 15 May in a session on "How Can We Finance Innovation".

ERC participation in the European Business Summit 2014

Thursday 15 May, 9.00– 10:30 am (Palais d'Egmont, Brussels)
Plenary Session: "How Does Europe Win the Global Race?"

Speakers: Michel Barnier, European Commissioner for Internal Market and Services; Kris Peeters, Minister-President of Flanders, Vanguard Initiative; Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, ERC President; Holger Schmieding, Chief Economist, Berenberg Bank; Markus Beyrer, Director General, BUSINESSEUROPE. Moderator: Sean Klein, Journalist (Former Brussels Bureau Chief, BBC)

For interviews with ERC President Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, please contact the ERC press advisors (see below).



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More Information

[ERC website](#)

[2014 European Business Summit](#)

[European Business Summit Programme](#)

Background

The **European Business Summit** (EBS) is an annual event which gathers influential individuals such as EU Commissioners, Prime Ministers, business leaders and policy makers to debate and develop business strategies that can help to shape Europe's future. More than 1500 high-ranking participants attend the meeting every year.

At this 12th edition of the summit, policy-makers and business leaders will present their ideas towards a more competitive and better-functioning Europe, and discuss possible political scenarios ahead of the European and national elections planned for this year. From the European Commission, President José Manuel Barroso and Commissioners Michel Barnier, Karel De Gucht, Kristalina Georgieva and Johannes Hahn will attend, amongst others.

Set up in 2007 by the EU, the **European Research Council** (ERC) is the first pan-European funding organisation for frontier research. It aims to stimulate scientific excellence in Europe by encouraging competition for funding between the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age. The ERC also strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe. From 2007 to 2013 under the seventh EU Research Framework Programme (FP7), the ERC's budget was €7.5 billion. Under the new Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020), Horizon 2020, the ERC has a substantially increased budget of over €13 billion. Since its launch, the ERC has selected over 4,500 researchers for funding.

The ERC consists of an independent Scientific Council and an Executive Agency. The Scientific Council, the ERC's governing body, is composed of 22 distinguished scientists and scholars, including the ERC President. They define the scientific funding strategy and methodologies, and act on behalf of the scientific community in Europe to promote creativity and innovative research. Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon has been the ERC President since 1 January 2014. The ERC Executive Agency implements the ERC component of the EU Programme Horizon 2020 and is led by Director Pablo Amor.

ERC Press contacts

Madeleine Drielsma (present at the event)

Communication and Press Adviser

M +32 (0)498 984397

T +32 (0)2 29 87631

E erc-press@ec.europa.eu

Maud Scelo

Communication and Press Adviser

T +32 (0)2 29 81521

E erc-press@ec.europa.eu