



Press Release

**ERC Executive Agency reaches autonomy**

15 July 2009

The European Research Council (ERC) Executive Agency reached administrative autonomy today. Since the launch of the ERC in February 2007, its dedicated implementation structure operated under the Research Directorate-General as part of the European Commission. This structure has now been transformed into an autonomous Executive Agency with, currently, 200 staff members. The transition has been progressive and the Executive Agency was already formally established in December 2007.

Director (*ad int.*) Jack Metthey, said: *"The ERC is reaching a new degree of maturity as its implementation structure today becomes an autonomous Executive Agency. This is a landmark in the history of the ERC. We are confident that the success of the ERC, which has already funded some 600 outstanding frontier research projects, will be well served by this new structure and its staff, who is fully committed to this great endeavour."*

The Executive Agency implements the Seventh Framework Programme's "Ideas" specific programme according to the strategies and methodologies defined by the independent ERC Scientific Council. The Executive Agency operates on the basis of the powers delegated to it by the European Commission, which has the ultimate political responsibility for the implementation of the specific "Ideas" programme.

**Further information:**

Commission Decision on the setting up the European Research Council Executive Agency, 14 December 2007 [http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/Establishing\\_Act.pdf](http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/Establishing_Act.pdf)

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