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Working together to strengthen research in Europe

European Research Area Conference

21-23 October 2009 - Brussels



European
Research Area

09:30-10:30

Arrival and registration

10:30-11:00

OPENING SESSION

Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for Science and Research

Tobias Krantz, Minister for Higher Education and Research, Sweden (TBC)

11:15-13:00

PLENARY SESSION 1

What are the long term perspectives for research and researchers?

Scientific and technological research in Europe and worldwide is subject to many drivers of change, some subtle and unrelenting over the long-term, others new and rapidly evolving. The type of drivers include 'external' technical and organisational developments affecting the way in which research is conducted, 'internal' changes and developments within disciplines and sectors and overarching factors such as the rising internationalisation of research and innovation-based competition, global competition for talent, the development of open-access and open-innovation and so on.

This session will explore the implications of these and other drivers on researchers and the research system over the next 20 years. Key speakers from industry, public research organisations, academia and government will discuss possible changes to the research system and to researchers' careers by 2030, expressing views on what the determinants and measures of research excellence, productivity and relevance will be and how public policies should respond in anticipation. The session aims to identify policy priorities for the future development of open and competitive research systems worldwide through which research-based knowledge can maintain and reinforce long-term sustainable economic development.

This plenary session will set the tone for the other plenary and parallel sessions of the conference.

Chair **José Manuel Silva Rodriguez**, Director General, Directorate-General for Research (DG RTD)
Keynote Addresses **John Wood**, Chair, European Research Area Board (ERAB)
Norman Neureiter, Director, Center for Science, Technology and Security Policy, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
Speakers **Jan-Eric Sundgren**, Senior Vice President, Volvo Group
Jean Marc Rapp, President, European University Association (EUA)
Dieter Imboden, President, Eurohorcs (European Heads of Research Councils)

13:00-14:30

Lunch

14:30-17:30

PARALLEL SESSIONS (1.1 to 1.4)

Addressing the dimensions of ERA: how can we accelerate and monitor progress?

1.1 Research careers: how to improve social security coverage and working conditions in a borderless research area?

Social security and supplementary pension rights, and employment and working conditions are two areas which, though complex, require action to ensure that more people choose research careers, and that those who do enjoy fair and attractive conditions and unhindered mobility. These rights and conditions represent two important themes of the "European Partnership for Researchers: better careers and more mobility". The EU Competition and Employment Councils will, in 2010, debate these areas, with the aim of overcoming barriers to the achievement of the Partnership. Speakers will present and discuss their views on these topics and provide input for future decision making. Reference will be made to the optimal use of powerful information tools, such as the EURAXESS Services network, providing information and assistance to researchers. The European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for their Recruitment provide background and a foundation for the Partnership.

Chair **Emilio Gabaglio**, Chair, EU Employment Committee
Main speaker **Fulvio Esposito**, Chair, Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility and Rector, University of Camerino, Italy
Discussants **Janet Metcalfe**, Chair and Head, VITAE, United Kingdom
Three TBC
Rapporteur **TBC**

1.2 What are the next steps in developing world-class research infrastructures in Europe?

The findings of the World Class Research Infrastructures Expert Group (WCRIEG) will be presented and discussed in this session in the form of a draft report. The Group has assessed progress to date in addressing challenges (identified by a previous ERA expert group, (EUR 23320 – report presented at the SI Presidency conference on March 2008)) regarding research infrastructures and the implementation of ERA.

These challenges include:

- effective integration of existing research infrastructures (RI) and implementation of new RI of pan-European interest;
- prioritisation and decision making on the setting-up of new Research Infrastructures and their funding;
- improved environment to facilitate the emergence, management and operation of new pan-European RIs (e.g. legal framework, best management practices, access policy, etc.);
- role of e-infrastructures for implementation of ERA;
- measures needed to address the global challenges of research and the related RIs.

Session participants will draw on their own experience of these challenges in responding to the findings of the WCRIEG.

Chair **Carlo Rizzuto**, Chair, ESFRI (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures) and President, Sincrotrone Trieste S.c.p.A.-ELETTRA, Italy

Main speaker **Gonzalo Leon**, Vice President for Research, Polytechnic University of Madrid, Spain and Chair, WCRIEG

Discussants **Nadezda Witzanyova**, former Chair, ESFRI Regional Working Group, and Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Czech Republic

Jane Nicholson, Head of Research Infrastructure and International Policy, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, United Kingdom

Allan Larsson, Chairman of the Board, Lund University, Sweden

Iain Mattaj, Director General, EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany

Rapporteur **Peter Elias**, WCRIEG and University of Warwick, United Kingdom

1.3 How can funding conditions for European research institutions be improved?

Excellent research institutions are a key dimension of ERA yet their long term financial sustainability cannot be taken for granted. This session will entail a discussion by the various actors of their roles and responsibilities and the merits of different types of funding, in the drive towards financially sustainable and excellent institutions, post 2010.

It will contribute to the design of competitive research funding instruments, with a possible focus on drawing up common guidelines for external research funding requirements and conditions.

Chair **Carlos Martinez-Alonso**, Secretary of State for Science and Innovation, Spain

Main speaker **Sabine Herlitschka**, Director, Division of European and International Programmes (EIP), FFG Austrian Research Promotion Agency

Discussants **Babs Van Den Berghe**, Director, Research and Science Policy, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, The Netherlands

Howard Newby, Vice-Chancellor, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom

Erkki Leppävuori, Director General, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland and Chairman, EARTO

Tatjana Volkova, Rector, BA School of Business and Finance, President, Rector's Conference, Latvia

Arvid Hallen, Director General of Research Council Norway (RCN) and Chairman of TAFTIE (The Association for Technology Implementation in Europe)

Rapporteur **Pierre Espinasse**, Head, Research Services (Science Area) and Associate Director, Knowledge Exchange, University of Oxford

1.4 What can be done to improve international knowledge transfer?

This session will consider the risks and opportunities arising when engaging in international knowledge transfer and evaluate the potential for common guidelines to be drawn up at the Community level.

Chair **Klaus Uckel**, Chair, CREST (Scientific and Technical Research Committee) Working Group on Knowledge Transfer

Speakers **Peter Ganea**, Member, European Commission Knowledge Transfer Forum Expert Group

Zheng-Ping Liu, Coway International TechTrans Co. Ltd and International Technology Transfer Center, Tsinghua University, China

Discussants **Liisa Ewart**, Tekes (The Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation)

One TBC

Rapporteur **TBC**

09:30-12:30

PARALLEL SESSIONS (1.5 to 1.8)

Addressing the dimensions of ERA: how can we accelerate and monitor progress (continued)?

1.5 Open access and preservation: how can knowledge sharing be improved in ERA?

This session will examine the specific actions required to facilitate the implementation of policies in the area of access to scientific information – both peer reviewed publications and research data - in the digital age.

Concrete policy recommendations will be proposed at Member State or EU level.

- Chair** [Alma Swan](#), Director, Key Perspectives Ltd, United Kingdom
- Main speaker** [Jean-Claude Gu  don](#), Professor, Comparative Literature, University of Montreal, Canada and signatory, Budapest Open Access Initiative
- Discussants** [Sijbolt Noorda](#), President, Association of Research Universities (VSNU), The Netherlands and Member, Board of the European University Association
[Donatella Castelli](#), Senior Researcher, Institute of Information Science and Technologies, Italy and Technical Coordinator, EC-project DRIVER (Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for Europe)
Two TBC
- Rapporteur** [Johannes Fournier](#), Programme Director, German Research Foundation's Scientific Library Services and Information Systems Division

1.6 Towards Joint Programming in research – for whose benefit?

The session will compare the experience of those involved with ongoing and planned joint programming activities (both within and beyond the confines of that foreseen by the Commission Communication 'Towards Joint Programming') and provide feedback to the High Level Joint Programming Group (GPC).

- Chair** [Helena Acheson](#), Head of Division, Forf  s, Ireland
- Speakers** [Rolf Annerberg](#), Director General, Formas, Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning, Sweden and Chair, High Level Joint Programming Group
[Lena Gustafsson](#), Deputy Director General, VINNOVA, Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems, Sweden
[Andr   Syrota](#), Chairman and CEO, INSERM National Institute for Health and Medical Research, France
- Discussants** [Teresa Patr  cio](#), Lisbon University Institute, Portugal
[Peter Nijkamp](#), Department of Spatial Economics, VU University, The Netherlands
[Roland Brandenburg](#), FFG, Austrian Research Promotion Agency
- Rapporteur** [Patries Boekholt](#), Director, Technopolis, The Netherlands

1.7 How can the European partnership for international science and technology cooperation be driven forward?

Global challenges call for global responses. The successful implementation of the European Partnership for international science and technology cooperation requires that stakeholders define together, rather than in isolation, priority research and technology areas where a coherent EU effort would have more impact.

The session will bring together key stakeholders who will examine how to identify common research agendas and how to implement common initiatives. It will also consider how and when the EU can speak with a 'single voice' in different fora of global relevance.

Feedback will be provided to the Strategic Forum for International Cooperation.

- Chair** [Kerstin Eliasson](#), Director, Ministry of Education and Research, and Former Deputy Minister for Higher Education and Research, Sweden
- Main speaker** [Volker Rieke](#), Chair, Strategic Forum for International Cooperation and Deputy Director General, European and International Cooperation, BMBF, Germany
- Discussants** [Karin Metzloff](#), Executive Director of the European Plant Science Organisation
[Ian Halliday](#), President, European Science Foundation
[Angeles Rodriguez Pe  a](#), Deputy Director General, European Programmes - Ministry of Science and Innovation, Spain and Co-ordinator, INCO-net Latin-America
[Lesley Wilson](#), Secretary General, European University Association
- Rapporteur** [Manfred Horvat](#), Vienna University of Technology, Austria

1.8 Which indicators to measure progress?

The EU and Member States need a set of indicators to measure progress towards ERA, the level of integration of the European research system and its contribution to the knowledge-based economy.

A limited number of well designed indicators are required to measure parameters related to policy objectives, their implementation and impact (e.g. research input, output, efficiency and impact; interconnectivity between national systems, structural changes).

The session will aim to produce recommendations regarding potential indicators. Their use in setting common European targets will also be addressed.

Chair **Gilles Bloch**, Director General, Research and Innovation, Ministry for Higher Education and Research, France

Main speaker **Remi Barré**, Conservatoire National des Arts et Metiers (CNAM), France, and Chair, EC Expert Group on ERA monitoring and indicators

Discussants **Maria Anvret**, Confederation of Swedish Enterprise
Jose Ignacio Alonso, Deputy Director General, Planning, Studies and Monitoring, Ministry of Science and Innovation, Spain
Heike Belitz, German Institute for Economic Research
Terttu Luukkonen, Research Institute of the Finnish Economy

Rapporteur **Pierre Regibeau**, University of Essex, United Kingdom

12:30-14:00

Lunch

14:00-15:30

PLENARY SESSION 2 Research and Innovation in times of crisis

A number of sources indicate that private sector investment in research and innovation is being significantly reduced by the ongoing financial crisis.

In this session, six panellists from various types industry reliant on research and innovation will examine and discuss the ways in which the crisis influences the level and orientation of their companies' R&D activities and potential policy responses. Points to be discussed will include:

- How companies' R&D and innovation (RDI) strategies have changed since the end of 2008
- Which factors influence the decision to adjust RDI strategies?
- Which policy measures are appropriate to address these factors?
- How shorter term actions are reconciled with longer term goals.

Chair **Javier Vallés**, Head of the Economic Bureau of the Prime Minister and National Lisbon Coordinator, Spain

Speakers **Michel Cote**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Bouygues Construction, France
Anne Glover, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, Amadeus Capital Partners, United Kingdom
René Penning de Vries, Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, NXP, the Netherlands
Sten Tamkivi, Chief Evangelist and General Manager, Skype, Estonia
Gernot Klotz, Member, Expert Group "Strengthening the role of European Technology Platforms (ETPs) in Community Policy Making, Executive Director, Research and Innovation, CEFIC and Suschem (TBC)
One TBC

15:45-18:45

PARALLEL SESSIONS 2 (2.1 to 2.4) Towards 2020 ERA vision

2.1 Which priorities for national research policies post 2010?

This session will discuss and make recommendations on how national research policy objectives should change after 2010 – taking into account country-specific situations and the changing international context - in order to address more effectively common ERA objectives.

Discussion will focus on the common challenges to be addressed and the policy mix required to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of national research and innovation systems and efforts by:

- stimulating private investment and public-private partnerships;
- enhancing interconnectivity and synergies between national systems and alignment and coherence between national policies;
- setting common goals and targets (e.g. investment, output and impact targets) that could be used to guide and monitor national policies at EU level.

Chair **Carlos Zorrinho**, Portuguese National Lisbon (Growth and Jobs) Strategy Co-ordinator

Main speaker **Björn von Sydow**, Swedish Parliament, Swedish Research Council, and Chair, EU Expert Group on 3% objective

Discussants **Walter Mönig**, Member, CREST
Michael Tubbs, Innovomantex Limited, and advisor to EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard
Jan Van den Biesen, Vice President Philips Research, The Netherlands
Two TBC

Rapporteur **Jennifer Casingena Harper**, Science Council of Malta

2.2 Which priorities for Community research policies post 2010?

This session will discuss how Community research policy objectives should change after 2010. It will focus on important trends in how and where research is conducted, how knowledge is used and diffused and where economic value accrues and will look at how such trends should impact on a new, forward-looking and evidence-based approach to EU R&D policy. A number of conclusions will be drawn up including some tentative policy recommendations on the next stage of community research policy development.

- Chair** **Frieder Meyer-Krahmer**, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany
- Main speaker** **Luc Soete**, Chairman, EU Expert Group "The role of Community research policy in the knowledge-based economy", Director, UNU-MERIT (the United Nations University-Maastricht Economic and social research and training centre on Innovation and Technology), The Netherlands
- Discussants** **Paula Nybergh**, Head of Division, Innovation Department, Ministry of Employment and the Economy, Finland
Karin Markides, President, Chalmers University of Technology and Vice Chair, CESAER (The Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research), Sweden
Anton Anton, Vice Rector, Technical University of Civil Engineering, Bucharest, Romania
Martin Curley, Director, Intel IT Innovation and Research, Ireland
- Rapporteur** **Ken Guy**, Rapporteur, Expert Group "The role of the Community research policy in the knowledge-based economy", Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS), Spain

2.3 Which future for S&T specialisation?

Well-informed choices promote attractive locations for research and optimise the sectoral distribution of knowledge investments. This session will contribute to assessing the rationale for R&D and S&T specialisation in Europe at different levels. To this end, it will address the following issues:

- assessment of the risks and benefits of a specialisation and differentiation strategy at the national/regional level;
- identification of methods and criteria for guiding choices, while avoiding multiplication of non coordinated initiatives in the same domains at the national level or across the ERA;
- how to reconcile technological specialisation and access to diversified technologies and scientific resources;
- identification of good practices, including good policy mixes for specialisation; and
- identification of the most appropriate governance structures to carry out specialisation policies and make them evolve over time, including stakeholder involvement.

- Chair** **Ramon Marimon**, Member, Expert Group "Knowledge for Growth", Director, European University Institute, Florence, Italy and Professor, Department of Economics and Business, Pompeu Fabra University, Spain
- Speakers** **Martin Hinoul**, Business Development Manager, K.U.Leuven, Belgium
Philippe Pouletty, Co-founder and General Partner, Life Sciences, Truffle Capital, France, and Chairman, France Biotech
Emily Wise Hansson, External Consultant, FORA, the Research and Analysis Division under Enterprise and Construction Authority, Denmark, and participant, Baltic Sea Region Innovation Network, Lund University, Sweden
Constantin Ciupagea Director, Institute of World Economy, Bucharest, Romanian Academy
- One TBC**
One TBC
- Rapporteur** **One TBC**

2.4 Which forward looking activities can support the future development of ERA?

This session will discuss how to provide national and Community policy-makers and others with early warning of long-term challenges and areas of common interest that can help to formulate ERA policy initiatives.

Grand challenges and joint programming will be considered in this context.

The session will discuss: how a continuous process of forward-looking and horizon scanning activities for ERA could be organised in the future; how to ensure that this approach would lead to a better support and further integration of national research policies in ERA; and what could be the drivers to determine potential "grand challenges" and joint programming priorities.

- Chair** **TBC**
- Main speaker** **TBC**
- Discussants** **Luke Georghiou**, Manchester University, United Kingdom
Pantalis Capros, National Technical University of Athens, Greece
Paul Zagamé, Ecole Centrale de Paris, Paris I University, France
Lars Klüver, Parliament Office, Denmark
- One TBC**
One TBC
- Rapporteur** **TBC**

09:00-11:00

PLENARY FEEDBACK SESSION 1

Addressing the dimensions of ERA

Chair [Anneli Pauli](#), Deputy Director General DG RTD

Speakers Chairs of parallel sessions 1.1-1.8

11:15-12:15

PLENARY FEEDBACK SESSION 2

Towards the 2020 ERA vision

Chair [Anneli Pauli](#), Deputy Director General DG RTD

Speakers Chairs of parallel sessions 2.1-2.4

12:30-13:00

CLOSING SESSION

To be followed by closing drink (13:00-14:00)

[Janez Potočnik](#), European Commissioner for Science and Research

[Cristina Garmendia](#), Spanish Minister for Science and Innovation (tbc)

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

This first major conference on the European Research Area (ERA) since the 2007 ERA Green Paper consultation will contribute to the development of key ERA policy initiatives dealing with researchers, joint programming, knowledge transfer, infrastructures and international cooperation. It will also address issues such as open access, S&T specialisation, funding of research institutions, progress indicators, etc. as well consider how to strengthen research and research policies in the medium to long-term.

In keeping with the new partnership approach to EU research policy, the conference will engage a wide range of stakeholders - policy makers, industry, foundations, universities, other research institutions and researchers associations - in open, focused and action-orientated debate.

Parallel sessions will focus on accelerating or re-orientating ongoing work in the light of lessons learned and on identifying new issues for further development of the ERA policy agenda. Each session will give rise to a short set of conclusions which will be presented in a plenary feedback session. The plenary sessions focusing on the long term future for research and researchers and on research and innovation in times of crisis will follow a more exploratory and discursive format, from which conclusions will also be derived.

The expected outcomes of the conference are:

- Conclusions and recommendations for the further development of ERA policy
- Conference proceedings including the presentations and conclusions of the sessions
- Inputs for a European Commission report on ERA planned for 2010
- A deeper engagement of stakeholders in the efforts to realise ERA.

Wednesday 21.10.09

09:30-10:30

Arrival and registration

10:30-11:00

OPENING SESSION

11:15-13:00

PLENARY SESSION 1 : What are the long term perspectives for research and researchers?

13:00-14:30

Lunch

14:30-17:30

PARALLEL SESSIONS (1.1 to 1.4) : Addressing the dimensions of ERA: how can we accelerate and monitor progress?

1.1 Research careers: how to improve social security coverage and working conditions in a borderless research area? **1.2 What are the next steps in developing world-class research infrastructures in Europe?** **1.3 How can funding conditions for European research institutions be improved?** **1.4 What can be done to improve international knowledge transfer?**

19:00-22:00

Dinner at Piazza, Berlaymont

Thursday 22.10.09

09:30-12:30

PARALLEL SESSIONS (1.5 to 1.8) : Addressing the dimensions of ERA: how can we accelerate and monitor progress (continued)?

1.5 Open access and preservation: how can knowledge sharing be improved in ERA? **1.6 Towards Joint Programming in research – for whose benefit?** **1.7 How can the European partnership for international science and technology cooperation be driven forward?** **1.8 Which indicators to measure progress?**

12:30-14:00

Lunch

14:00-15:30

PLENARY SESSION 2 : Research and Innovation in times of crisis

15:45-18:45

PARALLEL SESSIONS (2.1 to 2.4) : Towards the 2020 ERA Vision

2.1 Which priorities for national research policies post 2010? **2.2 Which priorities for Community research policies post 2010?** **2.3 Which future for S&T specialisation?** **2.4 Which forward looking activities can support the future development of ERA?**

Friday 23.10.09

09:00-11:00

PLENARY FEEDBACK SESSION 1 : Addressing the dimensions of ERA

11:15-12:15

PLENARY FEEDBACK SESSION 2 : Towards the 2020 ERA vision

12:30-13:00

CLOSING SESSION : To be followed by closing drink (13:00-14:00)

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