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A decorative graphic consisting of numerous thin, wavy lines in various colors (grey, blue, green, yellow, red, purple) that flow from the left side of the slide towards the right, ending near the ERA logo.

European
Research
Area

Next steps for the European Research Area and the role of policy coordination

Cyril Robin-Champigneul, European Commission
*Information day on bottom-up policy coordination
and its role in building up the ERA*

22 January 2008

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Green Paper: The European Research Area: New Perspectives

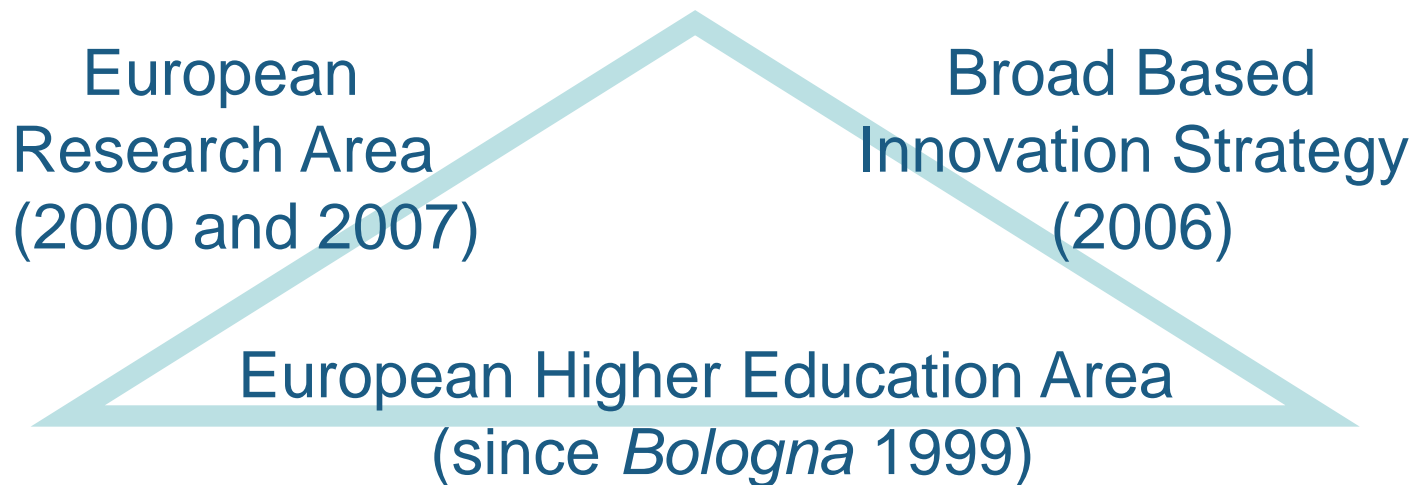
- Re-launching ERA: why and what?
- Results of the consultation
- Next steps

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Why relaunch ERA (1/2)?

- *The Research branch of a European Knowledge Area...*



*...which is a central priority for the **Lisbon strategy** (new cycle 2008-2010)*

Why relaunch ERA (2/2)?

■ *Challenges requiring a new impetus*

- ✓ **Internationalisation** of research and **global issues**
(climate change, energy security, health...)
- ✓ Despite progress of EU, national and regional reforms, **fragmentation** of R&D systems, policies and programmes remains

The Green Paper: Vision & Questions

■ *To free Europe's knowledge potential...*

A "Fifth Freedom" for Knowledge

...in all its dimensions:

1. A single labour market for researchers
2. World-class research infrastructures
3. Excellent research institutions
4. Effective knowledge sharing
5. Well co-ordinated research programmes and priorities
6. A wide opening of ERA to the world

The Green Paper: consultation process

- European institutions Council, EP, CoR, EESC (until Dec 07)
 - Member States National contributions (until Dec 07)
 - Regions
 - Researchers
 - Research institutions
 - Business
 - Citizens
 - Experts, academics Expert groups July 07-Jan 08
- Online consultation
- Free-form contributions
- Lisbon Conference
8-10 Oct 07

→ **Consultation report early 2008**

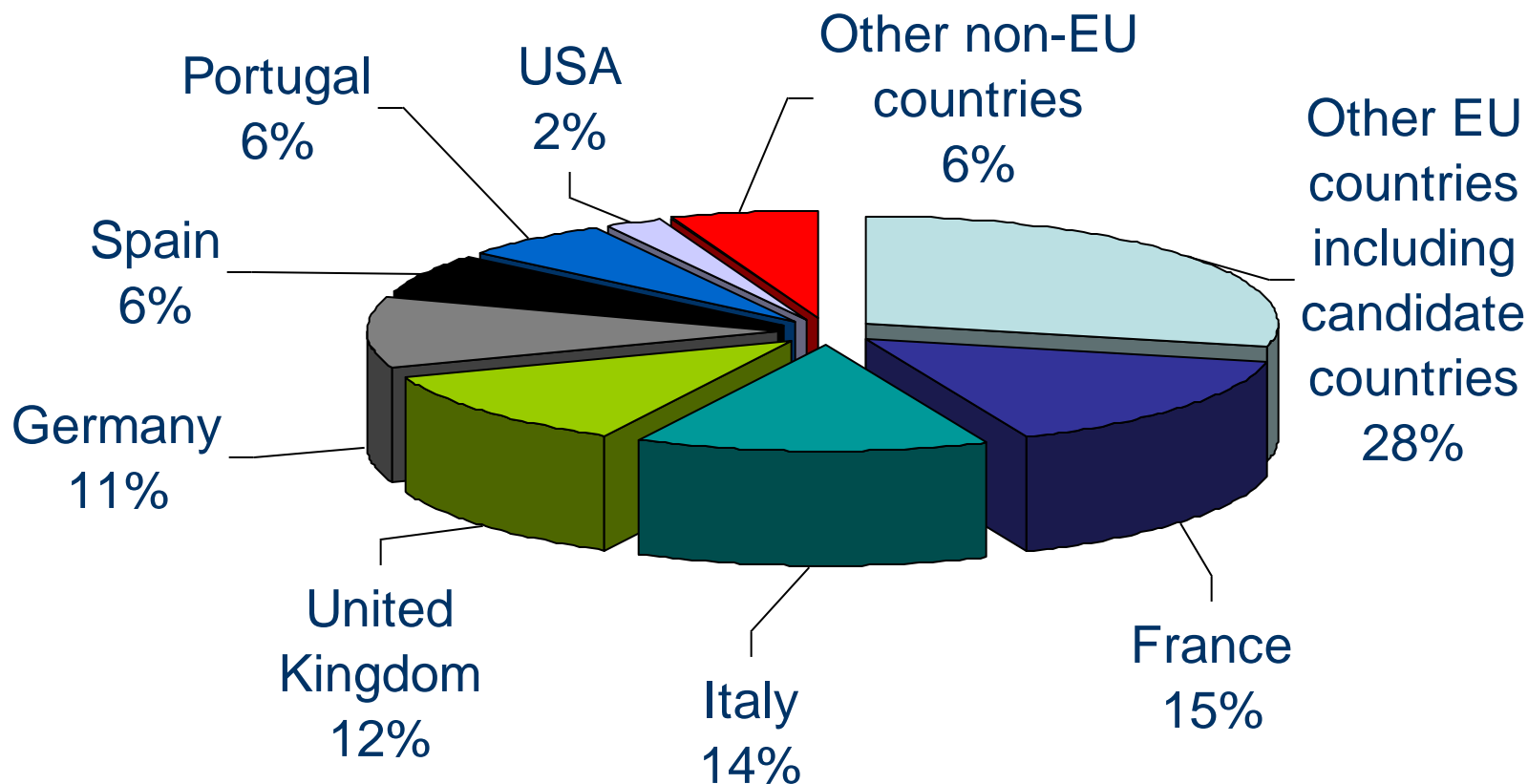
Contributions received

- ~470 individuals (online contributions)
- ~340 organisations (online and free-form)
- 14 Member States + 3 Associated States:
BE, CZ*, DE, DK*, EE, ES, FI, FR, IE*, IT, NL, PL, SE*, UK
CH, NO, TR **based on national consultations*
- Parallel work of 7 Expert Groups
- Portuguese Presidency conference 'The Future of Science and Technology in Europe'

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Online contributions by country



Organisations having contributed

- Higher education institutions
- Public research organisations
- Research funding organisations
- **Regional / local authorities and bodies**
- Large companies and industrial associations
- European Technology Platforms
- Scientific and professional associations
- Civil society organisations

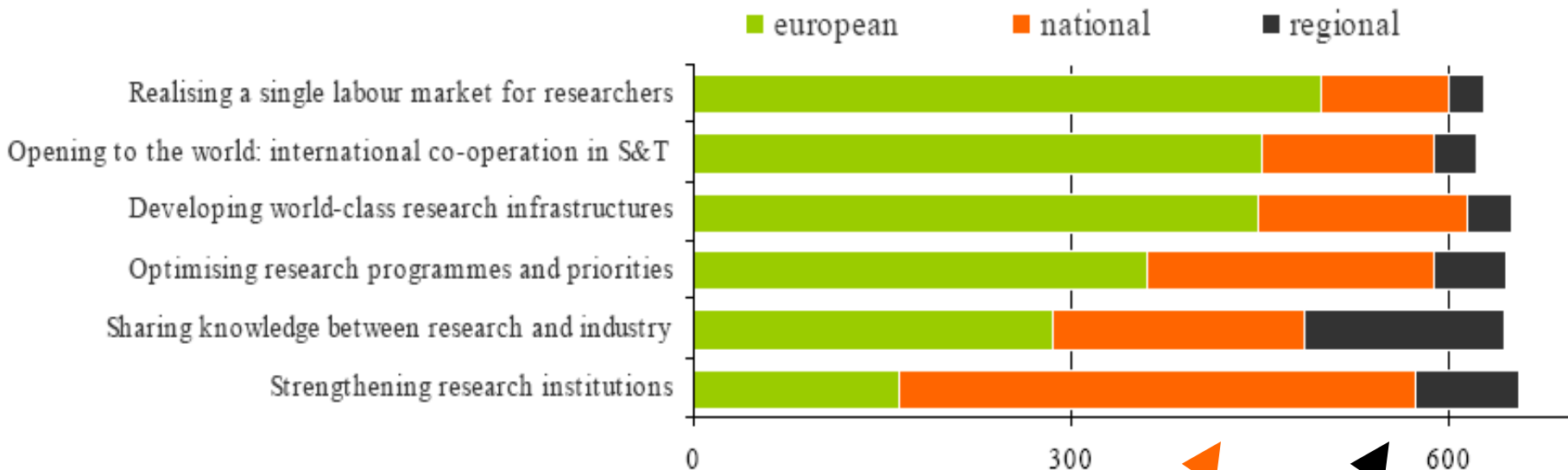
*CoR
ERRIN =50 R's
SALAR
Scotland
Yorkshire
Lower Saxony
Wallonia
Ile de France
CCIP (Paris)
Piemont
Catalonia
Basilicata*

Broad analysis of contributions (1/3)

- **Broad support** for coordinated EU and national action
- **On all six ERA dimensions**
 - ✓ « knowledge sharing » coming on top overall
 - ✓ « researchers » coming on top for EU action
- Preference for a **flexible approach**
based on voluntary measures and variable geometry
- Need for **regional / local action** perceived primarily for **knowledge-sharing** and **research institutions**

Broad analysis of contributions (2/3)

Expected level of action for ERA Areas ...



 /  *National / regional levels perceived as most appropriate for action*

Broad analysis of contributions (3/3)

■ *Points to watch*

- ✓ Links and synergies with education and innovation
- ✓ Governance of ERA
- ✓ Role of regions
- ✓ Role and requirements of industry
- ✓ Role of research performing organisations, other than Universities

Detailed analysis of contributions

- *Read first draft report at*

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/era>

- *Summary in the next slides*
- *Full analysis coming soon*

1. Single labour market for researchers

- Strong support for **accelerating the implementation of the Charter and Code (C&C)** but the majority of free-format contributors, especially from the private sector, do not favour binding rules
- **Statutory pension rights, health and unemployment benefits** seem to be the **most problematic** social security areas for mobile researchers within the EU. As such there is broad support for actions to develop common rules on the acquisition, preservation and transferability of supplementary pension rights for researchers
- An overwhelming majority (87%) of the respondents are in favour of **offering end-of-career researchers new job opportunities to make best use of their expertise**
- The majority favour **strengthening European fellowship funding programmes** to attract the EU "scientific diaspora" and the best non-EU talent

2. World-class research infrastructures

- Great majority (82%) agree that a common approach is required to **develop the research infrastructures identified by ESFRI** and that leadership should be at the EU level
- Majority feel that a new, European **legal framework or set of guidelines** should be developed **to facilitate the creation and operation of new infrastructures**
- Majority of respondents agree that an **international forum is needed to create research infrastructures addressing global needs** - the most best approach would be mixed MS / EU representation (involving ESFRI)

3. Strengthening research institutions

- The majority of institutions ask for **more funds, more autonomy and more links with industry**, recognising that sustainable partnerships with industry are needed to create European world-class virtual centres of excellence
- Differences of opinion exist as regards the need, at EU level, for **shared principles to enhance the autonomy of research institutions** and to assess academic achievement. The need to go further with the **modernisation of universities** (based on mutual learning) is, however, not disputed
- Most respondents believe that the EU and MS should **promote the emergence of global research communities** and that this will require **investment in ICT infrastructures**
- The majority believes that **public-private partnerships work best when created in a "bottom-up" manner** and are voluntary (**no EU legal framework is required**)

4. Sharing knowledge

- Over 90% agree that **cultural differences** between the business and science communities and a lack of incentives remain major obstacles to efficient knowledge transfer
- Respondents favour the promotion of **common principles for Sharing Knowledge at EU level**, but the preferred method varies: there is significant support for a **European Charter**
- Most individual respondents and PRO call for **open access** to scientific data and publications; Industry cautions that **commercial sensitivity** must, however, be taken into account

5. Optimising programmes and priorities

- Most respondents (77%) agree that **addressing resource-intensive and complex scientific challenges requires cross-border cooperation between public authorities**
- Different mechanisms to achieve **trans-national co-operation** have similar, significant levels of support (>70%), implying that respondents favour a range of mechanisms.
 - Co-operative research projects
 - Joint public programmes (e.g. article 169)
 - ERA-net type projects
 - The majority also supports cooperation through public private partnerships
- **Foresight and peer review evaluation of publicly funded research programmes** are considered the most **important** areas for closer EU-wide collaboration with the majority also supporting joint programming and evaluation

6. Opening to the world

- Large majority support the EC and MS working together to:
 - define **common European priorities**
 - ensure a coordinated and efficient use of instruments and resources
 - enhance coherence of programmes and promote synergies
- Most respondents (80%) are in favour of Europe taking a more active approach to define the **global S&T agenda**
- Most respondents wish that Europe should "speak with one voice" (75%) and emphasis is on a small number of high-priority global themes (69%)

Lisbon Conference – 8-10 October 2007

- **Large convergence** with replies to Green Paper:
- Knowledge policy central to deliver on the **Lisbon agenda**
- **Commitment of Member States and regions is key to progress**
 - Integrate European dimension in national / regional policies
- Commission role is to **catalyse, facilitate and support**
- Support for a **broad policy approach**, linking research, innovation education and other policies.

Next steps (1/2)

- Closely linked to the **next Lisbon cycle**
- **Step by step approach** to build momentum...
(no definitive “white paper”)
- ...in systematic **partnership with MS, regions and stakeholders**
- Start in 2008 with **concrete proposals** in selected areas to encourage / facilitate / support actions at national and regional levels, with
 - ✓ more consistency, coherence and joint action
 - ✓ stronger and sustained commitment

Next steps (2/2)

■ Proposals planned for 2008

- ✓ Framework / partnership focussing on key issues to improve **researchers' career prospects and mobility** (virtual researchers' passport)
- ✓ Community legal framework to facilitate the construction and operation of **new pan-European infrastructures**
- ✓ Recommendation & code of conduct for **knowledge transfer between universities and industry** (IP charter)
- ✓ **Joint programming** process to increase pooling of public efforts in relevant areas – bottom up and variable geometry
- ✓ European strategy for enhanced and coherent **international S&T co-operation**

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*The Commission will not build the ERA alone,
neither by law nor by wishful thinking.
A genuine European Research Area will only be created
if all researchers, their institutions and companies,
the Member States and regions as well as the Commission
work together in partnership,
with each accepting their responsibility for making it happen.*

Janez Potočnik

Lisbon conference, October 2007

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/era>