



EUROPEAN
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EU AT

IMPROVING RESEARCH POLICIES IN EUROPE THROUGH THE OPEN METHOD OF COORDINATION

Brussels 18 May 2006

PROGRAMME

Conference on

IMPROVING RESEARCH POLICIES IN EUROPE THROUGH THE OPEN METHOD OF COORDINATION

Thursday, 18 May 2006, Brussels

Venue: Centre Albert Borschette, rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels

Organisation: opening session, thematic panel sessions and concluding roundtable.

Introduction:

This conference on “Improving Research Policies in Europe through the Open Method of Coordination” has been organised by the Austrian Presidency in cooperation with the Directorate General for Research of the European Commission. The objective of the conference is to raise awareness of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) and to increase its effectiveness with a view to improving policies for more and better investment in research.

This event comes at a time when, in the context of the renewed Lisbon Strategy, all member States have recognised research and innovation as a main priority for reform in their National Reform Programmes.

The conference will provide an excellent opportunity to discuss the benefits of improved R&D policy coordination. Several issues will be the focus of discussion, such as the integration of R&D policies in the national Lisbon Strategies, the take up of the OMC results in Member States and the ways to strengthen the application of the OMC into R&D policies.

The conference will target an audience of national and regional policy makers, industrialists, academics, representatives of CSO, journalists, etc... Approximately, 200 participants from different European countries are expected to take part.

Background:

To support growth and job creation, the EU Member States decided at the Barcelona European Council in 2002 that investment in research should be increased and approach 3% of GDP by 2010, out of which 2/3 of this investment should be financed by the private sector. This 3% objective was reconfirmed at the 2006 Spring European Summit.

At the Spring European Council of March 2003 a decision was taken to apply the OMC in support of the 3% research investment target. The OMC is a method designed to help Member States progress jointly in the reforms they need to reach the Lisbon goals.

The European Commission, in April 2003, identified in the Action Plan "Investing in Research", 25 actions for which the main competence lies with the Member States and where the OMC could be applied. The Committee for Scientific and Technical Research (CREST), whose role is to advise the Council and the Commission on research matters, was given the task to oversee its application. Since 2003, CREST has offered Member States a platform to learn from each other and share their experiences with a view to improving policies for more and better investment in research.

The 'OMC 3%' process is expected to produce the following outcomes:

- Enhanced mutual learning, peer review and identification of good practices
- Development of joint policy initiatives among several Member States and regions
- Identification of areas where Community initiatives could reinforce actions at Member State level.

Over the two cycles of operation of the OMC 3% (2003-2006), there have been significant achievements. In October 2004, the CREST report "on the application of the OMC in favour of the Barcelona research investment objective" containing 30 policy recommendations was adopted and later on submitted to the Council (the report can be found at: http://europa.eu.int/invest-in-research/coordination/coordination01_en.htm#1). A second report is currently being prepared by CREST.

The National Reform Programmes provided a very valuable complement to the OMC 3% process. While National Reform Programmes concentrate on broad policy developments, the OMC 3% focuses on R&D policies. CREST has also intended to use the National Reform Programmes as a basis for mutual learning.

The challenge to be addressed at this conference is how the OMC process can be strengthened further. The integration of national R&D policies into the national Lisbon strategies will be of central importance to the conference.

The conference and the speakers:

High ranking officials, with different backgrounds both from the public and the private sector will discuss these issues in four panels and a roundtable session.

Keynote speeches about the improvement of national Research Policies through the Open Method of Coordination and the Lisbon Strategy will be presented by the Austrian Minister Mrs. Gehrler and Commissioner Potočnik. During the morning sessions, starting from a broad perspective on the need for better coordination and integration, industrialists- the main contributors to the Barcelona target - and National Lisbon Coordinators will exchange views in a debate on how to increase common ownership. In the afternoon, the sessions will focus on the OMC process itself and panellists, who were directly involved in the process, will take stock of the impact of the OMC on national policies and evaluate how the efficiency of the OMC in the field of research policies can be improved. A final roundtable discussion will summarize the possible ways to strengthen the OMC process in the renewed Lisbon Strategy.

The conference will have an interactive character where participants will be invited to contribute as much as possible in the various panel discussions to enrich the outcomes of the conference.



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PROGRAMME

9.30 – 10.00

Welcome coffee

10.00 – 10.50

Welcome and opening:

- Welcome by the Chair, *Mr. Christian Seiser*, Deputy Director General of the Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture, member of CREST.
- Opening by *Mrs. Elisabeth Gehrler*, Austrian Federal Minister for Education, Science and Culture.
- Keynote speech by *Mr. Janez Potočnik*, European Commissioner for Research.

10.50 – 11.45

Session 1 :

The need for better R&D policy coordination

- Panel:
Ms. Fientje Moerman, Minister of Economy, Science and Innovation of Flanders.
Mr. Erkki Ormala, Vice President, Technology Policy, Nokia Corporation
Mr. Jan van den Biesen, Vice President Public R&D programmes, Philips Research

Panellists will present and discuss their views about the need to improve coordination of national R&D policies, the expectations, the benefits and the obstacles to achieve more effective and coherent national R&D policies.

- Discussion open to participants

11.45- 12.45

Session 2 : Integrating R&D policies into national Lisbon Strategies

- Panel:
Mr. Ilkka Kajaste, Acting Lisbon coordinator in Finland, Director General, Economic Department of the Ministry of Finance
Mr. Raoul Kneucker, former Director General of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture.
Mr. Salvador Ordóñez, State Secretary of Universities and R&D in Spain

Panellists will present and discuss their experience of integrating R&D in other policies. They will address in particular, the coordination aspects, the setting of targets and the lessons for the preparation of the National Reform Programmes and their implementation reports.

- Discussion open to participants

12.45–14.15

Lunch break

14.15- 14.50

Session 3 : The impact of the 3% OMC on national policy making

- Panel:
Mrs. Rolanda Predescu, Deputy Director of the Ministry of Education and Research in Romania, member of CREST
Mr. Holger Rasmussen, Senior Adviser of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation in Denmark, member of CREST
Mr. Jacques Serris, Deputy Director for Technology of the Directorate for technology, Ministry of Education and Research in France, member of CREST

Panellists will take stock of the outcomes achieved so far and the impact of the OMC into national policy making. They will highlight success factors and difficulties based on their experience.

- Discussion open to participants

14.50–15.40

Session 4 : Strengthening the 3% OMC process

- Panel:
 - Mr. Chris Darby*, Deputy Director (Global Strategy), International Directorate, Office of Science and Innovation of United Kingdom, member of CREST
 - Mr. Declan Hughes*, Manager, Policy and Planning Department, S&T Division FORFAS, Ireland, member of CREST
 - Mr. Theo Roelandt*, Director of Strategy Research and International Affairs of the Ministry of Economic Affairs in Netherlands
 - Mr. Xabier Goenaga Beldarrain*, Head of Unit Open Coordination of Research Policies, Directorate General for Research, European Commission.

Panellists will present and discuss their experience of integrating R&D in to other policy areas. They will address in particular, the coordination aspects, the setting of targets and the lessons for the preparation of the National Reform Programmes and their implementation reports.

- Discussion open to participants

15.40–16.05

Coffee break

16.05–16.45

Session 5 : Round table

- Mr. Erkki Ormala*, Vice President, Technology Policy, Nokia Corporation
- Mr. Koen Verlaeckt*, Chief of Cabinet of the Minister of Economy, Science and Innovation of Flanders.
- Mr. Chris Darby*, Deputy Director (Global Strategy), International Directorate, Office of Science and Innovation of United Kingdom, member of CREST
- Mr. Isi Saragossi*, Director Investment in Research and links with other policies, Directorate General for Research, European Commission

Building on the discussions held during the conference, a round table made up of some of the previous panellists will summarize the possible ways to improve the integration of R&D policy in the NRPs and to make the OMC 3% more efficient and effective.

16.45–17.00

Concluding remarks

Concluding remarks from the Chair.



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SPEAKERS



Elisabeth Gehrler

Elisabeth Gehrler is the Austrian Federal Minister for Education Science and Culture. Born in Vienna, she attended teacher training college in Innsbruck and spent several years working as a teacher before entering politics in the 1980s as a member of the Bregenz town council. From 1984 to 1990, she was a member of the Vorarlberg legislature and from 1990 to 1995 was a government member in the same state. She became Federal Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs in 1995 and took on her current title as Federal Minister for Education, Science and Culture in 2000.



Janez Potočnik

Janez Potočnik has been European Commissioner for Science and Research since 2004. As a Ph.D graduate in Economics, from the University of Ljubljana, he spent the early part of his career working in economic research at the Institute for Economic Research and at the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development, both in Ljubljana.

A native of Slovenia, Commissioner Potočnik served as Slovenia's Minister for European affairs from 2002-2004 after working as the head of Slovenia's Negotiation Team for the Accession of Slovenia to the EU.



Christian Seiser (Chair)

Christian Seiser is Deputy Director General for EU Research Policy at the Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture and a member of CREST. He holds a doctoral degree in political science from the University of Vienna. Mr. Seiser worked as Austria's Scientific Attaché to the European Union in Brussels from 1999 to 2001, was head of the department for the coordination of European research policy at the Federal Ministry and was also in charge of the overall planning for the Austrian Presidency in the field of Research.



Fientje Moerman

Fientje Moerman is Vice-Minister-President of the Flemish Government and Flemish Minister for Economy, Enterprise, Science, Innovation and Foreign Trade. Born in Ghent, she completed qualifications in law from Ghent and Harvard universities. She subsequently worked as a lawyer and a journalist, as well as an adviser to former President of France, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

Ms. Moerman is a member of the Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten party. Prior to taking up her current office, she also served as Secretary General of the VLD.



Erkki Ormala

Dr. Ormala is Vice President, Technology Policy, Corporate Relations and Responsibility at the Nokia Corporation.

He received an M.Eng. degree in 1974 and his Dr.Tech. degree in 1986 from the Helsinki University of Technology and was a visiting scholar at Stanford University in the USA and at the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis in Austria. From 1974 to 1987 he worked as a research engineer at the Technical Research Centre of Finland. From 1987 to 1999 he was the Secretary of the Science and Technology Policy Council of Finland. In 1999 he joined the Nokia Group as Vice President, Technology Policy. Dr. Ormala has published over fifty papers on evaluation and innovation policies. He has been a consultant to a number of industrial companies, international organisations and European governments. In 1996-1999 he was the chairman of the OECD Working Group for Technology and Innovation Policy. In 2004 he chaired the Five-Year-Assessment group of the EU Research Programmes covering years 1999-2003.



Jan J.H. van den Biesen

Jan van den Biesen is Vice President of Philips Research and Director of Public R&D Programmes. In this capacity he coordinates Philips' participation in public programmes for R&D partnerships in Europe. In addition, he represents Philips' R&D interests with public authorities in Europe.

Educated as a physicist at Leiden University, Mr. van den Biesen spent one year as a postdoc at the University of California in Berkeley before joining Philips in 1983 to work on semiconductor research. After a one-year secondment to Hitachi's Central Research Laboratory in Tokyo in 1986/7, he held various R&D-related staff positions within Philips Research and Corporate Headquarters. He also complemented his education with an MBA.



Ilkka Kajaste

Ilkka Kajaste has been Deputy Director General in the Finnish Ministry of Finance, Economics Department, since 2003. He served as a Financial Counsellor with the Finnish Permanent Representation to the European Union from 1995 to 1997. From 1997 to 2001 he was a member of the Economic Policy Committee of the EU and in 2001 he became the Finnish alternate member of the Economic and Financial Committee of the EU.



Raoul Kneucker

Raoul Kneucker is Former Director General and Head of Division "Scientific Research and International Affairs" and Coordinator of Austrian RTD policies at European level in the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. He is currently Honorary Professor of Political Science at Innsbruck University and Honorary Professor of Ecclesiastical Law at Vienna University.

Mr. Kneucker received his doctoral degree in law from the University of Graz and studied political Science at Brandeis University in Massachusetts as a Fulbright and Wien Scholar. He has taught at the University of Vienna, the University of Economics in Vienna, the University of Klagenfurt, Webster University/ Vienna Campus, the University of Nebraska and at the Diplomatic Academy Vienna and the Federal Academy of In-Service-Training. He has also worked as a consultant for several governments and organisations and was Secretary General of the Austrian National Science Foundation from 1978 to 1989.



Salvador Ordóñez

Professor Salvador Ordóñez is the Secretary of State for Universities and Research in the Government of Spain. He earned both his undergraduate degree and his Doctorate degree in geology from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid in 1971 and 1974, respectively. After a postdoctoral period as a Fellow of the Foundation Juan March for specialising in bauxite deposits, he subsequently held positions at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and Universidad de Alicante. Professor Ordóñez served as the Rector of the Universidad de Alicante from 2001 to 2004.

His main research fields of interest relate to geochemistry, sedimentary rocks and ornamental rocks. Professor Ordóñez, through his many publications, books, students and collaborators, has built a unified view of the structural principles dictating the broad dominion of applied petrology.



Rolanda Predescu

Dr. Rolanda Predescu is Deputy Director for R&D policies and strategies at the R&D Programmes Division of the National Authority for Scientific Research in Romania (NASR). Romania's CREST representative since 2001, she has been directly and permanently involved in the development of policies supporting the harmonization of the Romanian R&D and innovation system with EU R&D policy orientations. Mrs. Predescu graduated with a doctoral degree from the Faculty of Mathematics at the University of Bucharest in 1976. The first part of her career was dedicated to research in the field of computer science, at the National R&D Institute for

Informatics in Bucharest. In 1993 Dr. Predescu began work as a senior S&T policies expert at the Ministry of Research and Technology. In 2001 she was appointed to high level management positions at the Ministry of Education and Research – MER (uniting the former ministries of education and of research), and then at NASR. Her principle responsibilities include the coordination of activities related to the formulation of national R&D policies and strategies and to the elaboration of R&D programmes.



Holger Rasmussen

Holger Rasmussen is Chief Adviser at the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation in Denmark and a member of CREST.

He trained as an economist at the Danish Agricultural and Veterinary University in Copenhagen and went on to work as manager of the Agricultural and Veterinary Research Council from 1976 to 1985. After joining the Danish civil service in 1985, he became head of his section in the Danish Ministry of Education and also served as Research Councillor at the Danish Permanent Representation in Brussels from 1988-1992.



Jacques Serris

Since 2000, Jacques Serris has been Deputy Director for Technology of the Directorate for technology, Ministry of Education and Research in France.

Mr. Serris is a graduate of the Ecole Normale Supérieure in mathematics and the Ecole Nationale des Telecommunication in telecom engineering. He worked for France Telecom, in a regional commercial department then in international affairs. In 1989, he joined the ministry of Post, Telecom and Space, in charge of the development of space policy. In 1991, he moved to the ministry of Industry, and later the ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry, where he was in charge of innovation, standardization and quality policy for industry. In 2000, he was named deputy director for technology in the ministry of research. He sits in the board of several research organisations, including CNES, BRGM and IFREMER. He is currently chairman of the OECD committee for science and technology policy (CSTP).



Chris Darby

Chris Darby is Deputy Director of the International Directorate in the UK's Office of Science and Innovation (OSI). He currently has responsibility for developing and implementing the international policy strand of the UK's ten-year science and investment framework (2004-2014) and for the interface between the policies underpinning that framework and the Lisbon process at the European level. Chris has been a member of CREST since 2001 and has supported the evolution of the open method of coordination (as applied to RTD policy) since its inception. He coordinated the first CREST report on OMC, published in 2004. Before joining OSI, Chris was Executive Secretary of a UK-based learned society. Chris has also worked as a research manager for the UK government and as an active researcher in the field of biochemistry.



Declan Hughes

Declan Hughes is Manager of the National and EU S&T Policy Department in Forfás, the Irish national policy advisory board for enterprise, trade, science, technology and innovation. He was project manager and rapporteur for the preparation of the Irish R&D Action Plan, 'Building Ireland's Knowledge Economy, The Irish Action Plan for Promoting Investment in R&D to 2010' (2004), developed under the auspices of the Inter-Departmental Committee on STI. He is Secretary to the Irish Advisory Science Council. On behalf of the Ministry for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Forfás co-ordinates and monitors Irish participation in the CREST OMC process. As part of the first cycle of CREST OMC, Mr Hughes was a member of the Policy Mix Working Group. He was also rapporteur to the CREST sub-Group that completed a review of the Modus Operandi for Application of OMC to Research Policy (December 2004). He is a member of the group of rapporteurs preparing the CREST report on the Second Cycle of OMC.



Theo J.A Roelandt

Theo J.A. Roelandt is Director of Strategy , Policy Research and International Affairs at the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs. Mr. Roelandt studied economics at Erasmus University Rotterdam and graduated in 1986 with an M.A. thesis on “Clusters in the Dutch Economic Structure”. In 1994 his Ph.D thesis on “Ethnic Stratification and the Underclass” was published. He worked at the Institute for Social and Economic Research at Erasmus University from 1986 to 1994, the TNO Centre for Technology and Policy Studies from 1994 to 1995, at the Research Centre for Economic Policy at Erasmus University from 1995 to 1997. Since 1996 he has worked in several positions in the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs (Economic Policy Directorate, Industrial Policy Directorate with a focus on R&D). In 2001 he has become Chairman of the OECD working party on Technology & Innovation Policy at OECD in Paris which has Innovation Policy Peer Reviews as one of its main activities. In 2006 he chaired the OMC CREST Expert Group on policy mixes.



Xabier Goenaga Beldarrain

Xabier Goenaga is Head of the Unit "Open Coordination of Research Policies" in charge of monitoring progress towards the 3% objective and of the assessment of the research part of the National Reform Programmes. The Unit also supports CREST in the implementation of the Open Method of Coordination in the context of the 3% objective and produces the annual ' Key figures of EU Science and Technology Indicators ' . He joined the Directorate General for Research at the European Commission in 1990 and has held management positions in DG Research in the fields of SMEs and Research and in Agriculture and Agro-Industrial research. He worked for a year for a consultancy firm in Barcelona in the design of wastewater treatment plants. He received PhD and MSc degrees in Chemical Engineering from the University of Wales, UK, after having graduated at the University of the Basque Country. He also received a Masters degree in Public Administration from the Ecole Solvay, Brussels, in 1993.



Koen Verlaeckt

Since 1 March 2006, Koen Verlaeckt has been Chief of Cabinet for Science and Innovation Policy in the Cabinet of Mrs. Fientje Moerman, the Flemish Minister for Economy, Enterprise, Science, Innovation and Foreign Trade.

He studied at the University of Ghent, where he obtained his degree in history in 1988 and his Ph.D. in archaeology in 1995. After a short research career at the University of Ghent, he started working for the Flemish Government in 1997. He worked first as a senior expert in the Science division of the Science and Innovation administration, and then as head of division of the same administration's Technology and Innovation division. He has been very much involved with the international dimension of science and innovation policy and has contributed to European initiatives dealing with large-scale research infrastructure, human research potential and the international mobility of researchers, women and science, and the social sciences and the humanities.



Isi Saragossi

Isi Saragossi is Director of the Directorate "Investing in Research and Links with other Policies".

He is in charge of the development and implementation of policies and measures to boost EU investment in research. Specific areas of activity include the coordination of national policies, cooperation with the EIB Group, intellectual property systems and their use, competition and regional aspects of research policy and the management of the SME specific research activities.

He has occupied several management positions at DG Research in policy development and implementation in specific areas such as space strategy, defence related policy issues, actions in favour SMEs and to promote industrial competitiveness and sustainable growth.

He joined the Directorate General for Research at the European Commission in 1981 after studying physics and engineering at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and gaining a Ph.D in Energy Technology and Economics at MIT, Boston USA.

IMPROVING RESEARCH POLICIES IN EUROPE THROUGH THE OPEN METHOD OF COORDINATION

MODERATORS

SESSIONS 1 & 2



Ann Mettler

Ann Mettler is Executive Director and Co-Founder of The Lisbon Council, an advocacy group and policy network committed to raising European competitiveness, encouraging economic growth, promoting structural reform, creating jobs and working towards a better, more prosperous future. Incorporated in Belgium as an independent, non-profit and non-partisan association, the Lisbon Council is among Europe's most authoritative and thoughtful voices on economic reform and social renewal.

From 2000-2003, Ms. Mettler worked at the World Economic Forum, where she served as Director for Europe. Prior to this appointment, she was responsible for the World Economic Forum's activities in the United States and Canada.

From 1997-2000, Ms. Mettler held positions on the Governmental Affairs Committee of the United States Senate, a strategic communications firm in Washington, DC and the Foreign Policy Division of the European Commission, Brussels.

A dual citizen of Germany and Sweden, Ms. Mettler has lived and worked in Greece, the United States, Switzerland and Belgium. She holds Masters degrees in political science and European law and economics, and graduated with distinction from the University of New Mexico, USA, and the Center for European Integration Studies (ZEI) in Bonn, Germany.

SESSIONS 3 to 5



Willy De Backer

Willy De Backer is Editor-in-chief at Euractiv.com, an independent online media resource for European Policy. He is responsible for overall editorial guidance for a content team of 8 journalists/online writers in the following areas: Innovation, EU Enlargement, Future EU, Trade, Governance, Environment, Sustainable Development, Health&Pharma, Education, Information Society, Transport, Science, Justice and Home Affairs, Sports and others. He also works as a consultant and lecturer, with organisations such as the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), European Round Table of Industrialists, CORDIS and the European

Institute for Public Administration, Maastricht (EIPA), on various aspects of internet communication and research, Mr De Backer began his career in European affairs as an assistant to Green Party MEP Paul Staes in the mid-80s and went on to work as International Secretary and Local Support administrator from the Green Group at the European Parliament before founded Polis.net, another online news service, in 1996. Mr de Backer holds qualifications from the Ghent University (BA in German and English language and literature) and from the Free University of Brussels (Political Science).



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