

# Forward-looking Activities and ERA

## CONCLUSIONS

- Foresight and more generally Forward-looking is essential for the definition of the majority of policies, both European and national; this statement was presented last week by Luke Georghiou at the Sustainable Development Conference organised by DG Research; it has been repeated today by Luke regarding the Research policy in particular.
- Foresight and Forward-looking Activities should help to have a shared vision about the identification and an in-depth analyze of the "great societal challenges" which should be drivers of the European and national research agendas.

This is the aim of the Ljubljana process and the new ERA strategy.

- The 5 priorities of ERA can be subject of Forward Looking; Joint Programming is the most urgent one to be addressed.
- The FP7 has initiated projects which could be used for this purpose. They could help also the preparation of the next Framework Programme.
- The task is now to organise the process:
  - ✓ national organisms or groups of experts should be identified and invited to build a "shared vision" about great societal challenges and their implications for research;
  - ✓ research actors (universities, industries, ministries) and existing appropriate structures for defining research agendas (technological and social platforms) should be consulted; stocktaking of existing experiences in Europe and in the World should be taken on board;
  - ✓ Commission should provide to Member States information and guidance about outcomes of the EU research and about existing experiences;
  - ✓ Commission will engage also parallel efforts about "thematic foresight" (environment, energy, agriculture...);
  - ✓ Application of Forward Looking Activities to other priorities of ERA should follow in parallel;
- Time scheduled discussions about "great societal challenges" could start soon at the end of 2008 on the basis of the first outcome of the FARE HORIZON managed by Luke Georghiou.
- Discussion about Forward Looking methodologies could be also subject of seminars at the end of 2009.
- Application to Joint Programming itself could then take place in 2010.