



European  
Commission

# ERA CONFERENCE 2012

Fostering Efficiency,  
Excellence and Growth

*From the public consultation  
to the completion of ERA*

# Programme

Brussels,  
Charlemagne building,  
**30 January 2012**



European Research Area

8:30

**Registration**

8:45 – 9:00

**Welcome Coffee**

9:00 – 9:45

**OPENING SESSION** (ROOM: ALCIDE DE GASPERI)

Welcome by: **Robert-Jan Smits**, *Director-General Research and Innovation, European Commission (Chair)*

- Keynote address by **Máire Geoghegan-Quinn**, *European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science*
- Address by **Morten Østergaard**, *Danish EU Presidency, Higher Education and Research Minister*
- Address by **Torsten Wiesel**, *President Emeritus Rockefeller University, New York, Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine, 1981*

9:45 – 11:00

**THE ERA PARTNERSHIP : PROGRESS TO DATE AND NEXT STEPS**

(ROOM: ALCIDE DE GASPERI)

Chair: **Anneli Pauli**, *Deputy Director General Research and Innovation, Innovation and ERA, European Commission*

Speakers:

- **Bjarne Kirsebom**, *Vice-Chair European Research Area Committee (ERAC)*
- **Volker Rieke**, *Director General for European and International cooperation in Education and Research, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany*
- **Keith O’Nions**, *Rector of Imperial College London*
- **Paul Boyle**, *President of Science Europe*
- **Anna Sjöström Douagi**, *Director of Swedish Young Academy*
- **Luiza Bara**, *Director of Policy and Strategy, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)*

Discussion

11:00 – 11:15

**Coffee Break**

11:15 – 12:15

**PANEL DISCUSSION : RELEVANCE OF ERA FOR INNOVATION AND GROWTH**

(ROOM: ALCIDE DE GASPERI)

Moderator: **Achilleas Mitsos**, *Chair of the Economists group assessing the socio-economic impact of ERA*

Panellists:

- **Andrea Bonaccorsi**, *Professor of Economics and Management at the University of Pisa, National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes (ANVUR) member of the board*
- **Mariana Mazzucato**, *Economist and RM Phillips Professor in Science and Technology Policy, University of Sussex (SPRU)*
- **Daria Tataj**, *Member of EIT Executive Committee, Founder EMF Consultancy and Professor at Warsaw University of Technology Business School*
- **Jan van den Biesen**, *Vice President & Director Public R&D Programs at Philips, representing BusinessEurope*

Discussion

**PARALLEL SESSIONS****12:15-13:15 Cross-border operation of research actors**

(Room: Alcide de Gasperi)

Moderator: **Hans Müller Pedersen**, *Chair of the High Level Group for Joint Programming, Deputy Director General, Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation, Denmark*

Speakers:

- **Octavi Quintana Trias**, *Director European Research Area, European Commission: outcome of the consultation / key messages*
- **Wolfgang Marquardt**, *Chair of the German Council of Science and Humanities (The Wissenschaftsrat)*
- **Tatjana Volkova**, *former Rector BA School of Business and Finance, former President of Rector’s Conference of Latvia*

Discussion

**12:15- 13:15 Research Infrastructures** (Room: Jean Durieux)

Moderator: **Beatrix Vierkorn-Rudolph**, *Chair of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)*

Speakers:

- **Ruxandra Draghia-Akli**, *Director Health, European Commission : outcome of the consultation/ key messages*
- **Rolf-Dieter Heuer**, *Director General of CERN*
- **Gudmund Host**, *e-Infrastructures Reflection Group (e-IRG) Chair*

Discussion

13:15-14:30

## Lunch (hot and cold buffet)

## 14:30-15:45 Researchers – Why the European Research Area?

(Room: Alcide de Gasperi)

Moderator: **Martin Hynes**,  
CEO of European Science Foundation (ESF)

Speakers:

- **Stefaan Hermans**, Head of Unit Skills, European Commission : outcome of the consultation / key messages
- **Vanessa Díaz**, University College London, Department for Mechanical Engineering
- **Marisa Alonso Núñez**, EURODOC (European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers)
- EURAXESS Ambassadors :
  - **Karin Kase**, Head of Communications, Archimedes Foundation, EURAXESS, Estonia
  - **Neven Duic**, Head of Power Engineering and Energy Management Chair Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Zagreb. Euraxess Ambassador, Croatia

Discussion

## 14:30-15:45 Knowledge circulation: Knowledge Transfer (Room: Jean Durieux)

Moderator: **Georg Buchtela**,  
Chair of the ERAC Group on Knowledge Transfer

Speakers:

- **Kirsi Haavisto**, Deputy Head of Unit Innovation Policy, European Commission: outcome of the consultation / key messages
- **Pat Frain**, ProTon Europe member of the board
- **Helena Malmqvist**, Head of external research collaborations, ABB Corporate Research Center, Sweden
- **Lena Tsipouri**, University of Athens, member of Innovation for Growth group (I4G)

Discussion

15:45-16:00

## Coffee Break

## 16:00 – 17:00 International dimension of ERA : need to tackle jointly the societal challenges?

(Room: Alcide de Gasperi)

Moderator: **Riitta Mustonen**, Chair of Forum for International Science and Technology Cooperation (SFIC)

Speakers:

- **Sigi Gruber**, Head of Unit Relations with third countries, European Commission: outcome of the consultation / key messages
- **Charles Mgone**, Executive Director, European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP)
- **Sylvia Schwaag Serger**, Executive Director International Strategy & Networks, Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA)

Discussion

## 16:00 – 17:00 Knowledge circulation : Open access

(Room: Jean Durieux)

Moderator: **Sijbolt Noorda**, President of the Association of Universities in the Netherlands

Speakers:

- **Gilles Laroche**, Head of Unit Ethics and Gender, European Commission: outcome of the consultation / key messages
- **Ilaria Capua**, Director of Virology Department and of International Reference Laboratories, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie
- **Alma Swan**, Director Key Perspectives Ltd., UK

Discussion

17:00 – 18:00

## CONCLUDING SESSION (ROOM: ALCIDE DE GASPERI)

Moderator: **Robert-Jan Smits**, Director-General Research and Innovation, European Commission

Speakers:

- **Olli Rehn**, Vice-President of the European Commission, European Commissioner for Economic and monetary affairs and the Euro
- **Anne Glover**, European Commission's Chief Scientific Adviser
- **Maria Da Graça Carvalho**, European Parliament, member of ITRE
- **Costas Iacovou**, Director of Planning at Planning Bureau, Cyprus

18:00

## Networking cocktail



**The ERA CONFERENCE 2012 is an important milestone in the ongoing preparations of the European Research Area (ERA) Framework. It provides a platform to present and discuss the responses to the public consultation which ended on 30 November 2011 and their implications.**

**The conference is a one-day event, composed of both plenary and parallel issue-specific sessions, which brings together prominent scientists, research institutions and research stakeholder organisations from across all research sectors, including representatives from private firms.**

# Outline of the Sessions

## **The ERA partnership: progress to date and next steps**

*The aim of this session is to discuss how a new ERA Framework should build on progress to date and result in a focused strategic approach to complete ERA and bring the ERA partnership to a higher and more effective level in the evolving socio-economic, legal and policy context.*

## **Relevance of ERA for innovation and growth**

*A discussion on the socio-economic benefits expected from a fully functioning European Research Area and the role of ERA in supporting innovation and economic growth.*

## **Cross-border operation of research actors**

*The need for structured cross-border operation of national programmes and coordination with European policies and programmes in view of raising scientific quality, mobilising critical mass of human and financial resources to tackle societal challenges, and reducing fragmentation.*

## **Research Infrastructures**

*Endowing Europe with a full range of state-of-the-art research infrastructures for researchers to carry out high quality research in all fields of science and across all innovation platforms from basic to applied research. It will relate this to improving the S&T competitive standing of Europe in the world and its ability to meet global challenges.*

## **Researchers – Why the European Research Area?**

*Obstacles to researchers mobility linked to working conditions, the attractiveness of the research profession, recruitment, portability of, and access to, research grants and the attractiveness of Europe for third country researchers.*

## **Knowledge circulation (I): Knowledge Transfer**

*Issues related to Knowledge Transfer from the perspectives of industry, knowledge transfer organizations and academia.*

## **Knowledge circulation (II): Open access**

*Knowledge circulation from the perspective of improving access to, and dissemination of, publicly-funded research results through open access as a means of helping to optimise conditions for science and innovation in the EU.*

## **International dimension of ERA: need to tackle jointly the societal challenges?**

*The priority issues for improving international S&T cooperation between the EU and third countries - such as information sharing between the EU Member States and with the EU, coordination of international policies and programmes, a common strategy and priorities for EU-MS international policies and actions; a coherent & coordinated European voice internationally.*