



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 27 June 2007**

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**RECH 200  
COMPET 205  
FSTR 19**

**NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat

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Subject: Outcome of proceedings of the Council (Competitiveness) on 25 June 2007 -  
Council Conclusions on More efficient support to research and innovation:  
Coordinating the use of the Research Framework Programme and the Structural  
Funds - Response to the CREST report

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Delegations will find attached the Council conclusions on More efficient support to research and innovation: Coordinating the use of the Research Framework Programme and the Structural Funds - Response to the CREST report, as adopted by the Competitiveness Council on 25 June 2007.

**COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON  
MORE EFFICIENT SUPPORT TO RESEARCH AND INNOVATION : COORDINATING  
THE USE OF THE RESEARCH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME AND THE  
STRUCTURAL FUNDS  
- RESPONSE TO THE CREST REPORT**

The COUNCIL

1. HAVING REGARD TO its Resolution of 28 September 1995 on CREST which defines the mandate of CREST as the European Community's high-level advisory body on strategic questions of research policy, serving both the Commission and the Council<sup>1</sup>;
2. ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of improving synergies and complementarity between large Community funding programmes, including in the area of research and innovation policy as well as regional policy, in light of their respective goals;
3. NOTING in this context, the conclusions of the Spring European Council 2007, in particular concerning strengthening innovation, research and education;<sup>2</sup>
4. RECOGNIZING the substantial work done by CREST in analysing the possibilities to better coordinate the use of the Research Framework Programme and the Structural Funds to support R&D, WELCOMES the guidelines document and the 14 recommendations adopted at the 314th CREST meeting on 7 May 2007;<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> O.J. C 264, 11/10/1995, p. 0004 - 0005.

<sup>2</sup> Doc. 7224/07.

<sup>3</sup> CREST 1203/07.

5. RECALLS the six priority domains identified in the CREST guidelines:
  - Develop RTDI strategies and strengthen the governance,
  - Strengthen and develop the RTDI basis,
  - Develop RTDI excellence,
  - Develop R&D cooperation at European and international level,
  - Strengthen exploitation and economic and social valorisation of R&D results,
  - Improve communication and information.
  
6. UNDERLINES the importance of improved communication between actors involved in FP and SF activities, and improved, easily available and targeted information about the opportunities offered by each instrument;
  
7. INVITES the MS to implement the guidelines at national and regional level on a voluntary basis; ENCOURAGES policy-makers to disseminate them widely in their area of responsibility; WELCOMES the Commission's intention to bring forward a Communication on Competitive European Regions Through Research and Innovation;
  
8. SUPPORTS the idea that the impetus created by the adoption of FP 7 should be used and that the subject merits further discussion and follow-up activities at a European, national and regional scale, for example through qualified bodies such as CREST, COCOF, EURAB, involving the Committee of the Regions and regional policy and research and innovation experts; UNDERLINES the particular importance of further discussion and follow-up activities on the development of RDTI strategies and the strengthening of governance and the development of RDTI excellence in this context; INTENDS to return to the topic in the light of new developments.