

**SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
RESEARCH COMMITTEE
High Level Group for
Joint Programming**

Secretariat

CREST-GPC 1308/09

NOTE

Subject : **Summary conclusions of the 4th meeting of the High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC), held in Brussels on 14 and 15 September 2009**

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Rolf Annerberg, representative of the Swedish Presidency of the EU.

The High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC) drew the following conclusions:

1. Workshop on early suggestions for themes for Joint Programming initiatives

During the Workshop, held on 14 September, the following presentations were made:

1. City of the Future (Austria)
2. Climate Change (Austria)
3. The Transport System in 2025: Double Economic Performance and Half Environmental Impact (the Netherlands)
4. Food & Health (the Netherlands)
5. Agriculture and Climate Change (France)
6. Strengthening the European Union Energy Security (Slovakia)
7. Water: Challenges in a changing world (Spain)
8. Development of scientific software for petascale computing and beyond (UK)

9. Food security: Sustainable crop and livestock production (UK)
10. Inequalities in healthcare (UK)
11. Food security, quality, safety and sustainable production in a changing environment (Italy)
12. The challenge of cultural heritage: providing protection in response to major changes for Europe in a global context (Italy)
13. Development and optimization of diagnostic and therapeutic strategies for cancer patients with a poor prognosis (Italy)
14. Resolving disorders of chronic inflammation across Europe: Detection, Intervention and prevention (Ireland)
15. Virtual communities and ICT platforms for zero-tolerance of road fatalities and injuries (Ireland)
16. Nordic Top-Level Research Initiative in Climate Change (Norway)
17. Marine and maritime research (Norway)

2. Preliminary discussion on possible themes

On the basis of the presentations made during the Workshop, GPC supported the proposal from the Chair to identify six broad challenges with a view to forming clusters group of interested countries which would then prepare possible joint proposals for themes for JPI and present them at the next GPC meeting. For each of the challenges a coordinating country was nominated in order to facilitate the process of rationalising and substantiating proposals with a view to filling in the templates for JP themes proposals. National representatives to the cluster groups are to be nominated by the national delegates to the GPC. These challenges are the following:

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| 1. | Cities/Transport: | Austria |
| 2. | Climate Change ¹ : | France |
| 3. | Cultural heritage: | Italy |
| 4. | Food: | UK |
| 5. | Water: | Spain |
| 6. | Health: | the Netherlands |

¹ The suggestion for a JPI theme from the Slovak Republic, "Strengthening the European Union Energy Security", is part of this cluster group.

3. Criteria, process and timetable for selection and substantiation of themes

The Commission presented its views on the criteria for identifying JPI themes, as set out in Council conclusions on Joint Programming (doc. 16775/08). In particular it stressed that themes should not be mixed with challenges, as challenges are very broadly set; that the themes identified should be innovative and should take into account and interlink with possible parallel coordination mechanisms (like for example SET Plan for the area of energy); that themes need to deliver something to the citizens; and that key public initiatives should be involved in future Joint Programming Initiatives to ensure the credibility of JP. Delegations welcomed this approach and pointed out that the themes identified should address grand societal challenges and that, at the end of the process not too many themes should be identified, otherwise GPC's credibility might be at stake.

The Chair re-emphasised that the mandate given by the Council is clear, i.e. that the role of GPC is to identify and subsequently also to substantiate a limited number of JP themes, and that there will be no new criteria other than those set out in paragraph 9 of the Council conclusions. As regards the intention of the Swedish Presidency, the Chair reiterated that as a preparation of the Competitiveness Council of 3 December GPC is to identify and substantiate only a first wave of JP themes and that the process remains open for new suggestions of themes which will be considered by GPC during future Presidencies.

Concerning the time table for the selection and substantiation of themes, GPC agreed that completed templates for JP themes proposals should be sent to the GPC Secretariat no later than 10 October, with a view to the examination at the next GPC meeting on 15 October. It was also stressed that, in line with the Council conclusions, proposals for JP themes other than those under the challenges identified during the Workshop (see point 2) can be submitted by this deadline.

After the consideration of templates on 15 October, GPC should reach agreement on the first wave of JP themes at its meeting on 10 November. The Competitiveness Council of 3 December is expected to endorse the outcome of GPC work with a view to inviting the Commission to submit proposal(s) for JPI in 2010.

4. Framework conditions concerning the development and implementation of JP as set out in paragraph 8 of Council Conclusions concerning the Joint Programming

As agreed at the last GPC meeting on 23 June, Mr. Dieter Imboden (CH), acting as a chair of EUROHORCs, gave a presentation on the EUROHORCs and ESF input to the following framework conditions, in line with their Roadmap for Actions: the peer review procedures, forward looking (foresight) activities, evaluation of joint programmes and cross-border financing.

In general delegations supported the work of EUROHORCs and ESF and considered their input as a very valuable contribution to the GPC work. However, some delegations reiterated the need to also involve other European organisations which represent applied research. In addition, a question concerning the timing of GPC work and the development of framework conditions was raised, to which different opinions as regards the right approach were expressed. Finally it was agreed that the GPC and EUROHORCs/ESF work will be performed in parallel. Those delegations which volunteered to engage in the work on different framework conditions will participate in EUROHORCs/ESF work through their national delegates. Other delegations which have not yet expressed their intention to work on the framework conditions were invited to nominate their representatives at any time.

5. AOB

The Chair informed the Group that a progress report on the GPC work will be presented under the AOB agenda item of the Competitiveness Council on 25 September, together with Prof. Syka., the first GPC Chair. Under the same agenda item, information on the launch of the Joint Programming Initiative on combating neurodegenerative diseases, in particular Alzheimer's, will be presented by the Commission.