

**The activities
of the Hungarian presidency
in the field of research**

**by Laszlo Szendrodi
Counsellor, Sciences & Technologies**

**Hungarian Presidency Team
Permanent Representation of Hungary
Brussels**



The Research priorities of the Hungarian presidency 1st Semester 2011

- **Simplification**
- **Interim evaluation of the FP7**
- **Preparations for the FP8**

Simplification

Where are we now?

- **EP resolution of 11 November 2010** (P7_TA(2010)0401)
- **Council conclusions of 12 October 2010** (14980/10)
- **Council conclusions of 26 May 2010** (10268/10)
- **Commission communication of 28 May 2010** (10346/10)
- **Commission communication of 29 April 2010** (9348/10)
- **Council conclusions of 3 December 2009** (17189/09)

Simplification

Where to go? We had some dilemma about:

- Changes acceptable without jeopardising of the ongoing FP7?
- Recommendations can be implemented with the mid-term review?

Or

- Simplify the RoP for the coming FP8 only?

Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler...

Albert Einstein

Simplification

What we have had :

- many recommendations from researchers & associations
- there were recommendations from the European Parliament
- 3 measures adopted by the Commission on 24th January 2011

and

- **Ministerial Expert Group on Simplification** (BE, SE, FR & HU)
(Council Competitiveness in Luxemburg on 12 October 2010)

ES and PL ministers have already joined the Team, and Experts organised their meeting on 25th February in Budapest at the skirts of the FP7 Interim Evaluation Conference.

Simplification

We organised a meeting for the Experts in Brussels on 29th March
(co-chaired by Eszter Kroll, Chair of the COMBUD and me)
inviting:

- **Mme Maria da Graça Carvalho, MEP**
- **Mme Ingeborg Gräble, MEP**
- **and Representatives of the European Commission**

Finally,

The Ministerial Expert Group on Simplification prepared its 2nd Report and was delivered to the research ministers under AOBs at the meeting of the Council Competitiveness in Brussels on 31 May 2011.

Simplification Recommendations of the Group

(i) Interest Yielding Bank Accounts:

The Group welcomes the abolishment of the interest yielding bank accounts from 2012. The Group highlights that the self executing nature of this rule allows early applicability, independently from the status of the IR.

(ii) Extended Use of Lump Sums and Prizes (*Inter alia...*)

The Group underlines the importance of uniform and transparent interpretation and clear methodologies paving the way for the wider use of lump sums.

The Group welcomes the inducement prizes planned to be introduced by the Commission in 2012, and, to this end, it invites the Commission to provide the timing and the structure as soon as possible.

Interim evaluation of the FP7

Interim evaluation of the Seventh Framework Programme

Report of the Expert Group chaired by Rolf Annerberg (SE)

Stockholm –Brussels, 12 November 2010, pp 90

Rapporteur: Iain Begg (UK)

**The Commission response on the Experts' Report was delivered on
9th February 2011**

**The Research Working Party drafted the text of the Council Conclusion
which was adopted at the Meeting the Competitiveness Council in
Brussels on 9th March 2011 (Doc. No. 07585/11)**

Preparations for the FP8

The Communication of the Commission was adopted on 9th February 2011 (COM(2011) 48):

GREEN PAPER From Challenges to Opportunities: Towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation funding

and

it was introduced by Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn to the research ministers at the meeting of the Competitiveness Council in Brussels on 9th March 2011

Preparations for the FP8

The Commission immediately launched a Europe – wide public consultation by *Internet* and performed many stakeholder consultations between 9th February and 20th May.

They have received 1303 responses and further 775 positions papers.

A huge conference will be organised in Brussels on the Common Strategic Framework in Brussels tomorrow. Keynote speakers will be Mme Geoghegan-Quinn and some of the Commissioners, MEPs and Minister Zoltán Cséfalvay, Chair of the Competitiveness Council under the Hungarian Presidency.

Strengthening Europe's science base and European Research Area

Points for debate

- **By focusing strongly on the track record of the applicant (e.g. number of publications in highly rated journals), the ERC only funds established scientists and does not attract talented young researchers.**
- **The EU should not deal with the actual construction of large scale research infrastructures, this is for the Member States. The EU should only support access and networking.**
- **The CSF should keep a very strict focus on excellence. Capacity building is the responsibility of the Member States and should be addressed through the Structural Funds.**

Tackling societal challenges

Points for debate

- **When addressing societal challenges, what would be the best way to ensure that applicants come forward with the most creative solutions (e.g. set targets to be achieved or through descriptions of expected outcomes)?**
- **While we agree that joint programming initiatives (i.e. pooling EU and national funding resources) unlocks more potential, how can this process be best advanced within the CSF?**
- **In addressing societal challenges in the CSF, should collaborative research projects be supported as they are today in the Cooperation programme of FP7?**

Strengthening competitiveness

Points for debate

- **The best contribution EU funding can make to stimulating innovation is to focus its resources on creating an excellent European research base. Are closer to the market activities to be financed for industry itself?**
- **Both public-private partnerships (such as those used in the wake of the European Economic Recovery Package, e.g. on the green car) and Joint Technology Initiatives (such as the one that addresses innovative medicines) are powerful tools, but how can we ensure they are best used and optimised?**
- **Should the CSF support research performing high tech SMEs, and not medium and low tech ones, which would be better supported at the national and regional level?**

Research Calendar of the Hungarian presidency

1st Semester 2011 (*draft*)

● Council Competitiveness

- Brussels 10-11 MAR 2011
- Informal: 11-12-13 APR 2011 (*Budapest-Gödöllő*)
- Brussels 30-31 MAY 2011

● Coreper-1

- FEB 16-18 and 23-25
- MAY 4-6, 11, 18

● Research Working Parties

- JAN 10, 17, 24
- FEB 7, 14, 24
- MAR 7, 14, 21, 28
- APR 4, 14, **27-29** (*with ERAC in Budapest*)
- MAY 12, 16, 23
- JUN 6, 20, 27

Council Competitiveness (draft)

Brussels, 10-11 MAR 2011

RESEARCH

Interim evaluation of the 7th Research Framework Programme

- *Exchange of views*
- *Adoption of Council Conclusions*

7th Euratom Research Framework Programme on nuclear research and training (2007-2011) extension to 2012 and 2013 + 2 Specific Programmes

- *Presentation by the COM*

The Active and Healthy Ageing (AHA) Pilot

- *Adoption of Council Conclusions*

The Communication of the Commission was adopted on 9th February 2011 (COM(2011) 48): GREEN PAPER From Challenges to Opportunities: Towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation funding

- *Presentation by the COM*

Council Competitiveness

Informal (Budapest-Gödöllő) 11-12 APR 2011

RESEARCH

Theme:

**The 8th Framework Programme for
Research and Developments**

Council Competitiveness

Brussels, 30-31 MAY 2011

RESEARCH

7th Euratom Research Framework Programme on nuclear research and training (2007-2011) extension to 2012 and 2013 + 2 Specific Programmes

– General approach? Progress Report?

Mid-term review of Ambient Assisted Living joint program (AAL)

- Adoption of Council Conclusions

Mid-term review of EUROSTARS program

- Adoption of Council Conclusions

(*poss.*) Launching of Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs)

- Adoption of Council Conclusions

Council Competitiveness (*draft*)

Brussels, 30-31 MAY 2011

RESEARCH A.O.B. items:

Interim evaluation of the European Research Council (ERC)

- Information from the Commission

Mid-term review of the Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) ARTEMIS and ENIAC

- Information from the Commission

Strategic Agenda of the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT)

- Information by the Presidency

The Green Paper: Common Strategic Framework

- Information from the COM, state of play

Research priorities of the Polish presidency in the 2nd Semester 2011

- Information from the Polish Delegation

Other important research dossiers for the Hungarian presidency in the 1st Semester 2011

- **Innovation Union: implementation & follow up from the February EC**
- **Euratom FP7: extension for 2012-2013**
- **The Danube Strategy: *ERA-Net? Should we be more ambitious?***
- **EIPs: How to get further? Great interest has been proven...**

Other important research dossiers for the Hungarian presidency in the 1st Semester 2011

- **Space:** 8th Space Council or Space Formation of the Council
Competitiveness? *Or, both the two?*
- **Women in Science:** Conference in Budapest, 7-8 March 2011
- **EIT:** Strategic Innovation Agendas (SIA)
- **Research infrastructures:** Regional aspects?
- **INCO:** 3rd countries' agreements, etc.
- **Black Box:** *includes many surprises ...*
ITER: Financing! Better governance?

Conferences

under the Hungarian presidency

1st Semester 2011

- **FP7 Interim Evaluation Workshop: Budapest, 24-25 FEB 2011**
- **Women in Science Conference: Budapest, 7-8 MAR 2011**
- **Brain Research Conference: Budapest, 18-19 MAR 2011**
- **Open & Competitive Economy (JRC) Budapest, 7 April 2011**
- **ICT – FET: Budapest, 4-6 MAY 2011**
- **Future Internet & FIRE: Budapest, 16-19 MAY 2011**
- **ICT Proposer' Day Budapest, 19-20 MAY 2011**
- **EuroNanoForum: Budapest, 30 MAY – 1 JUN 2011**
- **REGINFRA + WIRE2: Debrecen, 7-9 JUN 2011**
- **ERC Meeting + Info Day Budapest, 20-22 JUN 2011**

Were our plans too ambitious?

Well, we were not able to fulfil all of our plan, but many of those proposals have been implemented working in close cooperation with the Member States, the General Secretariat of the Council and the European Commission DG Research and the DJ JRC.

And, we *(still)* have 22 calendar days ahead! In the last days we are working hard on the extension of the Euratom Research Framework Programme (2012-2013). We established a small, informal preparatory group today with the aim that political agreement on the text of the general approach which likely would be adopted at the extraordinary meeting of the Competitiveness Council in Luxembourg on 27th June 2011.
However...

Thank you for your attention!



László Szendrői

Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU

Rue de Treves 92, B-1040, Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32-2-2341-233

Mbl: +32-473-991-418

e-Mail: Laszlo.Szendrodi@kum.hu

Ágnes Reiter

Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU

Rue de Treves 92, B-1040, Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32-2-2341-392

Mbl: +32-491-355-516

e-Mail: Agnes.Reiter@kum.hu