

# SwissCore Synopsis Research

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### Launching of the “Preparatory Action” towards a European Security Research Programme

So far, one of the more important differences in the public research funding systems between Europe and the US was the fact that in the US, a substantial part is funded by or at least linked to military purposes. In contrast, civilian and military research have been rather strictly separated at European level until very recently. The developments in the last few months and years have led to a significant change of opinion in Europe, and on 3 February 2004, the European Commission presented the key elements of a “Preparatory Action” on security research (see Synopsis August - October 2003 for a report on its preparations).

The aim of the “Preparatory Action” is to identify and address the critical issues in order to prepare the foundations for a comprehensive European Security Research Programme from 2007 onwards. The activities should complement and build upon already existing RTD projects in other European (national, regional etc.) frameworks. So far, 15 mio. Euro are allocated to the Action in 2004 with a planned total of 65 mio. Euro for the entire duration of the Action.

A first set of priorities has been identified in consultation with national authorities, industry as well as by a high level “Group of Personalities” chaired by Commissioners Busquin and Liikanen. The Group will also prepare a policy oriented report which will be taken up in one of the Commission Communications expected for spring 2004.

The “Preparatory Action” lists a series of precursory activities, namely projects and supporting activities. Between 6 and 8 “projects” will be funded annually, covering the following areas:

- Improving situation awareness;
- Optimising security and protection of networked systems;
- Protecting against terrorism (including bio-terrorism and incidents with biological, chemical and other substances);
- Enhancing crisis management;
- Achieving interoperability and integrated systems for information and communication.

A maximum number of 10 “supporting activities” are foreseen annually on topics such as:

- Scenario building exercises for assessing threats and perceived risk to strategic sites and assets;
- Identification of the critical areas (social, psychological, strategic, information) to reduce risks and vulnerability;
- Technical and financial feasibility studies of a European security information system;
- Survey of good practice in screening measures (goods and persons);
- Developing procedures and good practice to define at EU level, relevant new technologies and capacities based on the needs of various public services.

This list is not final and the Commission does not exclude the possibility of selecting additional projects if it deems it justified. The priorities of the “Preparatory Action” will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

There is preliminary information that “projects” will be invited by calls for proposals, and “supporting activities” by calls for proposals or calls for tenders. A first call for proposals for the projects is expected towards the end of March 2004, and the selection of projects and the signature of the contracts should take place during the second half of 2004.

According to the current (still informal) information on the implementation of the Action, participation will be limited to EU Member States and, in exceptional cases, Third Countries provided there is an arrangement of a reciprocal nature with that country. Also in other parts of the (again: still unpublished) implementation guidelines, the very special character of security research becomes apparent. For the evaluation process, it is only “if the Commission services deem it necessary” that “independent experts shall be appointed to assist in the evaluation of proposals”. Similarly, there are very strict IPR provisions: “Any transfer of knowledge created

under a grant contract, or any granting of access rights to such knowledge to another organisation outside the consortium need the approval of the Commission, the Member States in which the participants reside and the other contractors. The Commission and Member States may refuse approval for reasons of major European or national interest or by applying their laws.”

This “Preparatory Action” on Security Research is based on the Treaty Article 157 according to which the Commission “may take any useful initiative to promote such co-ordination” in order to better exploit the industrial potential of policies of innovation, research and technological development. Consequently, the adoption of this Decision approving the “Preparatory Action” does not require the agreement of either the Council of Ministers nor of the European Parliament.

The legal basis for a future European Security Research Programme is still open and will be decided on and implemented in accordance with the EU Treaty, taking into account, among others, the creation of an Agency in the field of defence capabilities, and the Seventh Framework Programme.

“On the implementation of the Preparatory Action on the enhancement of the European industrial potential in the field of Security Research, Towards a programme to advance European security through Research and Technology”, Commission Communication, 3 February 2004:

[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2004/com2004\\_0072en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2004/com2004_0072en01.pdf)

“A secure Europe in a better world. European Security Strategy”, adopted by the European Council in Brussels on 12 December 2003:

<http://ue.eu.int/pressData/en/reports/78367.pdf>

“European Defence – Industrial and market issues. Towards an EU Defence Equipment Policy”, Communication from the Commission, 11 March 2003:

[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2003/com2003\\_0113en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2003/com2003_0113en01.pdf)

### **Research to be one of the prime beneficiaries of a higher 2007-2013 EU budget**

On 10 February, Commission President Romano Prodi presented a Communication entitled “Building our common Future. Policy challenges and Budgetary means of the Enlarged Union 2007-2013” which, in short, contains the Commission’s vision for the EU’s 2007-2013 budgetary framework.

The so-called Financial Perspectives (i.e. a budgetary framework) are established by the EU on a multi-annual basis and lay down the EU budget for the years to come according to policy priorities. In the current 2000-2006 Financial Perspectives, there are seven headings: Agriculture, Structural Funds, Internal policies, External actions, Administration, Reserves and Pre-accession aid. For each, the financial perspectives establish yearly ceilings for the appropriations for commitments and appropriations for payment of each heading (in French, respectively, “crédit d’engagement” et “credit de paiement”; in German, “Mittel für Verpflichtungen” and “Mittel für Zahlungen”). Yet it is still up to the annual budget to determine the actual level of spending -under the ceiling- and to definitely divide up the appropriations between the different headings.

The Financial Perspectives are thus, as the Commission put it, “the reflection of a political project” and the Commission certainly made a strong statement when it presented its vision for 2006-2013. The proposed budgetary headings for 2007-2013 place emphasis on implementation of the Lisbon strategy and improvement of European competitiveness and move away from the traditional pre-eminence of the agricultural, cohesion and internal market policies. Budgetary headings are thus as follows:

Heading	% Increase planned between 2006 (current Financial Perspectives) and 2013
1) Sustainable development	61%
a) Competitiveness for growth and employment	193%
b) Cohesion for growth and employment	31%
2) Preservation and management of natural resources (including agriculture)	3%
3) Citizenship, freedom, security and justice	162%
4) The EU as a global partner	40%
5) Administration	30%
<b>Total appropriations for commitment</b>	<b>31%</b>

It not only reshuffled and reduced the number of headings, which follow the logic of the current Commission's long-term objectives but also foresees an increase of the overall EU budget by almost 40 billion Euros, from 120 in 2006 to 158 billion in 2013.

Research is amongst the main beneficiaries of the growth of the 1a) heading. Although detailed figures are not available, Commissioner Busquin had made no secret of his ambition to double the EU research budget for the period of FP7 (2007-2011). This increased support for research would go to FP7 along the following five lines (see pages 8-10 of the communication):

- 1) "Projects carried-out by individual research teams selected on a competitive basis" (i.e. basic research). The establishment of a European Research Council, one of the possibilities to manage such basic research projects at European level, is not mentioned explicitly but carefully avoided: "(...) a European facility would be established along the lines of, for instance, the National Science Foundation in US (...)";
- 2) "European research capacities" (i.e. research infrastructures and human resources);
- 3) "Pan-European public/private partnerships for technological research through joint initiatives based on the technological platforms concept" (i.e. large technological initiatives);
- 4) "Transnational medium-scale networks and projects through the new FP6 instrument" in order to develop "European "poles of excellence" based on networking and collaboration" (i.e. collaborative research);
- 5) "Co-ordination of national and regional research programmes and policies".

Outside FP7, two other research-related topics are specifically mentioned: 1) space and 2) security research.

Brussels-hypotheses in terms of budget proposal by the Commission for FP7 looks as follows:

Heading	Billion Euro for 2007-2011
1) "Basic research"	5
2) "Research capacities"	5
3) "Large technological platforms"	10
4) "Collaborative research"	10
5) "Co-ordination of programmes and policies"	4
Space	5
Security	1
<b>Total FP7</b>	<b>34 billion</b>
	<b>(approx. 100% more than FP6)</b>

Although it is easy to focus on these -for the moment- impressive figures, one must keep in mind that this communication on the Financial Perspectives is also a way for the Commission to launch a debate and present its views about the priorities and means of the EU in the years to come. Given the current national budgetary situations and the fact that some Member States have already expressed their wish to keep spending unchanged, there are certainly some heated discussions ahead.

The Commission will collect first impressions before putting forward by mid-2004 a formal legislative proposal as well as a concrete roadmap to reach the objectives above. The legislative process is likely to last until around 2006.

Commission Communication: Building our common Future. Policy challenges and Budgetary means of the Enlarged Union 2007-2013 (COM(2004) 101)

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/budget/pdf/financialfrwk/enlarg/COM\\_2004\\_101\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/budget/pdf/financialfrwk/enlarg/COM_2004_101_en.pdf)

### **A long-awaited Commission Communication: “Europe and basic research”**

In mid-February 2004 (and several months after the date which had first been announced), the Commission Communication on “Europe and basic research” was finally published. In this Communication, the Commission wanted “to make a broad analysis of the basic research situation in Europe and at a European level” and “to put forward suggestions for avenues which should be explored to strengthen European performance in the field of basic research”. It is the first time that the Commission expresses explicit support for the possibility of providing public support to basic research on a larger scale. The argument in the Communication follows three broad lines:

1) Basic research is important and even essential to reach the Lisbon target. Basic research has an impact not only on future economic development (e.g. many successful technologies or products are based on results from basic research) but also in the training of researchers. The only way for researchers to acquire knowledge and mastery of the technologies in their field is by carrying out research of this type, and those skills will be needed throughout the further career.

2) In Europe, basic research receives most of its funding from public sources. Whereas in the US, substantial support comes from the private sector (e.g. foundations, private donations etc. but also some industries), their European counterparts are relatively inactive in this field. It is indeed the Commission’s goal to increase and stimulate also private sector funding for (both basic and applied) research (cf. the Barcelona target of spending 3% of GDP on research of which 2/3 should come from industry). But in the current situation it is (at least also) up to public authorities to support basic research.

3) Public funding should be allocated not only on national but increasingly also on European level. So far, it was more or less commonly agreed that basic research would fall into national competences whereas the European Framework Programmes would address more applied research and technological development. This conception has now begun to change and the importance also of basic research for achieving European targets has become more and more acknowledged.

The Commission now suggests a double strategy, namely to increase funding for basic research in the EU’s budget and to establish a structure to support basic research on European level. The first should be achieved not by cutting research expenses on other levels but by setting aside a significant volume of fresh funding in the EU’s research budget. With the second, the Commission reacts to its analysis that one of the major weaknesses of the basic research system in Europe is a lack of sufficient competition at European level. It hopes to “stimulate through competition” the European research landscape, e.g. by providing support for individual teams’ research projects. Furthermore, the Commission identified the need to strengthen

European support for research infrastructures, increase the support for the development of human resources, support collaboration and networking and improve the coordination of national research programmes.

On several key points, this Commission Communication is still very vague. For instance regarding recommendations as of which further steps should now be taken, it mentions that “the Commission *plans to propose* making the *introduction* of such a mechanism, as well as increased support for basic research, *one of the main* themes of the Union’s *future* action in the field of research” (our emphasis). Still, it is consistent with the current discussion on the establishment of a European Research Council and it is certainly a positive step in the direction of increased funding for basic research also on European level.

“Europe and basic research”, Communication from the Commission, 14 January 2004:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/press/2004/pdf/acte\\_en\\_version\\_final\\_15janv\\_04.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/press/2004/pdf/acte_en_version_final_15janv_04.pdf)

## ◆ **News in Brief** **EU-Research Policy:**

### **Ireland takes over the EU Presidency from Italy**

From 1 January to 30 June 2004, Ireland will hold the Presidency of the EU. Besides being an organisational and representative duty, the Presidency also gives the opportunity for a country to put forward political priorities and decide which dossiers to push forward.

In the field of research and innovation, the Irish Presidency has decided to make a priority of the following:

- Raising investment in research (3% target);
- Furthering excellence in basic research;
- Developing an effective European Space policy.

More details can be found in the workprogramme of the Irish Presidency under:  
<http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/subhome2.asp?sNavlocator=5>

The Irish Presidency website:  
<http://www.eu2004.ie/>

### **Reshuffling DG Research: Reform and Enlargement preparation**

The ongoing reform of the Commission services as well as the logistical preparation of the enlargement that will take place on 1 May have large repercussions on the European Commission organigrammes.

At Commissioners’ level, it was recently announced with whom each new Commissioner arriving on 1 May will be “twinned” with until the end of the mandate of the current college of Commissioners on 31 October. Whereas Commissioner Busquin (Research) will not receive any “twin”, Dalia Grybauskaite from Lithuania will be associated to Commissioner Reding (Education and Culture).

At administrators’ level, the Commission has reserved 120 posts (37 in top-management positions -A1 and A2- and 83 in middle management) for officials from the new Member States. DG Research has reserved two top positions (Director-General of the Joint Research Centre and Deputy Director-General) for this purpose and should also recruit 1 Director as well as 4 “middle managers” from the new Member States in 2004.

Besides the arrival of new officials, the Commission is now in the process of implementing an administrative reform which puts a strong emphasis on the need for more mobility of senior

staff. For this reason, there are numerous changes at Director and Head of Unit level in the organigrammes below (weblinks). For DG Research, one should mention the creation of 2 new Directorates -Directorate M (Investment in research and link with other policies) and Directorate N (International Scientific co-operation)- and the replacement of Peter Kind (Director Dir. B) by Robert-Jan Smits (acting) and the move of Christian Paternmann from Dir. I to Dir. E.

DG Research's new organigramme from 1 February 2004:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/research/pdf/organisation\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/research/pdf/organisation_en.pdf)

DG INFSO (Information Society) organigramme (1 February 2004):

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/information\\_society/directory/pdf/organi\\_tel\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/information_society/directory/pdf/organi_tel_en.pdf)

### **EURAB advice on Social Sciences and Humanities in ERA and on European Technology Platforms**

EURAB, the European Research Advisory Board, has recently published recommendations on ERA and the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) with a view to reinforce the position and visibility of SSH in the FP7 preparations and to have some impact on the remaining FP6 SSH activities.

EURAB's purpose is help develop a European policy towards SSH in the context of ERA. Its nine recommendations follow four main arguments:

- 1) Strategic SSH themes which have a high European added-value should have, in their own rights, a more prominent place in future FPs;
- 2) The visibility of SSH infrastructures in general "Support for Research Infrastructures" actions should be increased and an expert "task force" should be established to work on a wider "research infrastructure" definition in order to better include SSH;
- 3) The "Socio-economic dimension" of other thematic priorities should be strengthened by, for example, a full and explicit integration of this dimension in the work programmes and calls for proposals and the increased participation of SSH experts in the design of these thematic priorities;
- 4) The issue of the adequacy for SSH of the FP instruments should be looked at and EURAB suggests keeping smaller funding instruments than NoEs and IPs as well as looking at new possible instruments specifically for the SSH field.

EURAB position on Social Sciences and Humanities in ERA

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/eurab/pdf/recommendations8.pdf>

In October 2003, we had written an article about "the new star in Brussels": the European Technology Platforms (ETP), a new Commission initiative bringing together R&D stakeholders from all horizons (but mainly industry) in order to define and later ensure the rapid delivery of strategic research agendas for specific scientific topics.

The ETP phenomenon -up to now managed on an ad-hoc basis- certainly deserved to be looked at more closely. This has now been done with the publication by EURAB of this advice paper.

According to EURAB, ETPs could indeed have an important role to play in order to streamline communication between the relevant actors and thus overcome barriers that hinder optimal R&D strategies to be developed and results to be exploited. Whilst recognising the potential of the ETP concept, EURAB proposes to better structure the definition and implementation of such ETPs. The paper thus proposes a check-list for the Commission in order to evaluate proposed platforms. The five guiding principles should be the following:

- 1) ETPs should be mission-oriented and address *major and long-term* European economic-environmental-technical-social challenges;
- 2) ETPs should be set up *only* when there is a well-defined, European strategic need for such an instrument, and European added value can be clearly justified;
- 3) ETPs must create strong political support and be highly visible at a European, even at a global level;
- 4) ETPs must be driven by actors from the applications / problem end of the innovation process;
- 5) ETPs must be executed with both a long term strategic vision and a detailed action-plan to execute the necessary actions.

Once it has been decided to establish an ETP in a specific field, EURAB also presents the Commission with a possible framework in order to operationalise the concept.

EURAB position on the European Technology Platforms (ETP)

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/eurab/pdf/recommendations9.pdf>

## **6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (FP6)**

### **Association of Switzerland to FP6!**

Although it has already been announced many times before, we cannot resist mentioning here that from 1 January 2004 Switzerland is now considered fully associated to FP6. The Association Agreement was signed in Brussels on 16 January 2004 and will officially enter into force retroactively from 1 January 2004 following the ratification of the agreement both by Switzerland and the EU.

The Commission press release can be found under:

[http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/61|0|RAPID&lg=FR](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/61|0|RAPID&lg=FR)

An updated table on all Association Agreements to FP6 is available under:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/iscp/pdf/association-agreement-6fp-v3.pdf>

### **New international RTD co-operation agreement**

The EU and Mexico signed on 3 February a scientific and technological co-operation agreement. It should enter into force shortly and last for an initial duration of five years.

An updated table of all international RTD co-operation agreements of the EU can be found under:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/iscp/pdf/cooperation-agreement-6fp-v3.pdf>

### **Information Society: high level of activity in the Commission**

#### **1) New Communication on ICTs and growth**

On 3 February 2004, the Commission published a Communication on Connecting Europe at high speed: recent developments in the sector of electronic communications. The aim of this paper is to underline the importance of the electronic communication sector for the health and growth of the European economy in the preparation of the Spring European Council where Heads of States and Government will assess the progress made towards the goals of the Lisbon European Council in 2000.

This communication thus highlights the need for political support for this issue and identifies challenges to further investment that still need to be addressed:

- 1) Removing regulatory barriers: In 2002, a new regulatory framework for electronic communications aiming at enhancing competition and stimulating investment has been adopted. This new framework should have been transposed into national legislation by 25 July 2003 but, according to the Commission, "late, incomplete or incorrect transposition by Member States is creating uncertainty in the market";
- 2) Increasing coverage in under-served areas: Within the eEurope Action Plan, Member States committed to publish "National Broadband Strategies" by the end of 2003. In spite of that, such strategies are still missing for many Member States. One of the goals of these strategies is to identify geographic areas that risk being left behind in the information society because of the lack of access to broadband provision;
- 3) Stimulating demand of households for broadband access;
- 4) Making a success of the launch of the third mobile generation: A report by the Mobile Communications & Technology Platform set up by the European Commission has shown a number of challenges ahead. To avoid uneven progress and create an overall framework, the Commission will therefore address these challenges in a Communication to be presented to the Council and the European Parliament in July 2004.

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/eeurope/2005/doc/highlights/whats\\_new/sector\\_com.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/2005/doc/highlights/whats_new/sector_com.pdf)

## 2) Results of the eEurope 2005 mid-term review

The eEurope initiative was launched in June 2000 with the aim of accelerating Europe's transition towards a knowledge based economy and to realise the potential benefits linked to it. eEurope is not a public expenditure programme that makes new funds available but it aims at accelerating the adoption of relevant legislation and at providing a policy framework within which existing expenditure, such as FP6, eTen and the Structural Funds can be better focused.

The first phase of eEurope was the eEurope 2002 Action Plan which comprised a total of 64 targets to be achieved by end 2002. The eEurope 2002 focussed on exploiting the advantages offered by the Internet and therefore on increasing connectivity.

In order to follow up on this first phase, the Council adopted in December 2002 the eEurope 2005 Action Plan. The overall aims are that, by the end of 2005, "Europe should have modern online public services (e-government, e-learning, e-health) and a dynamic e-business environment, based on a widespread availability of broadband access at competitive prices and a secure information infrastructure".

In the autumn 2003, the Commission carried out a public consultation as a basis for the mid-term review of the eEurope 2005 Action Plan. This review has now just been published by the Commission in the form of a Communication issued on 18 February 2004. The Commission there recommends updating and fine-tuning the actions planned and strengthening their implementation mechanisms.

This Communication will be submitted to the Spring European Council and the process of revising the Action Plan should take place by the summer 2004.

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/eeurope/2005/all\\_about/mid\\_term\\_review/text\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/2005/all_about/mid_term_review/text_en.htm)

## 3) 5-Year Assessment of IST priority launched

Following some preparatory work (preparatory studies), a panel of high-level experts has started its work in January in order to carry out the 5-Year Assessment of the IST priority. The aim of this exercise is both to:

- 1) "assess the implementation, effectiveness, achievements and impacts of investment during 1999-2003" (including results and impacts arising from IST Programmes in FP4 & FP5 and progress in implementation of IST in FP6) and
- 2) "assess the evolution, future perspectives, options and requirements for future Information Society research and technology development".

A final report by the panel should be available in March 2004.

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/programmes/evaluation/ist\\_rtd/5\\_year\\_assessment/text\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/programmes/evaluation/ist_rtd/5_year_assessment/text_en.htm)

#### **4) Proposal for a new eContentplus programme**

On 13 February, the Commission has made a proposal for the establishment of an eContentplus programme to follow-up on the current eContent programme, which will run until the end of 2004.

The main aim of the eContentplus programme will be to support "projects designed to improve tools, processes and services related to the production, access, use and distribution of digital content". It thus remains close to the goals of the eContent programme whilst being more focused. The budget foreseen for this programme is 163 mio. Euro for 4 years (2005-2008).

The proposal has been transmitted for co-decision to the Parliament and to the Council of Ministers.

[http://www.cordis.lu/ist/directorate\\_e/telearn/events.htm](http://www.cordis.lu/ist/directorate_e/telearn/events.htm)

#### **GMES progress: Action Plan for 2004-2008 and report on initial period**

On 3 February, the Commission presented a Communication entitled: "Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES): Establishing a GMES capacity by 2008". This Action Plan synthesises the lessons learnt during the initial exploratory period (2001-2003) and the progress to be made during the next four years (for extensive analysis see also the report below).

The exploratory period (2001-2003), undertaken jointly by ESA and the Commission, followed the lines of an Action Plan set up for that purpose in 2001 (COM(2001) 609 final). According to the report on the initial phase, the main lessons to be learnt up to now can be divided-up in the following: 1) User and information needs; 2) Education and Training needs; 3) Capacity building needs and 4) Needs for data integration and information management.

The main goal of the further development of the GMES initiative in the 2004-2008 period will be to set up a "core capacity", i.e. "the initial set of services and the supporting components needed to deliver these services on an operational basis by 2008". This will require to

- 1) Establish a management and funding structure for the 2004-2008 period;
- 2) Establish a strategy with regard to international co-operation;
- 3) Develop tools for the provision of services (i.e. information) to users (space and in-situ components);
- 4) Develop tools for the management and integration of data in order to be able to share it with users;
- 5) Prepare for the provision of regular and reliable services.

These elements will be performed in two phases: an implementation phase (2004-2006) and an operational phase (2007 onwards).

With regard to funding, resources are available until 2006 under the current EU Financial Perspectives. The preparation of the different components of the GMES core capacity during 2004-2006 will thus be funded by a number of thematic priorities of FP6 and the "GMES Services Element funds" of ESA. For 2007 and beyond resources are conditional on the future EU Financial Perspectives (see also article above).

GMES Action Plan 2004-2008:

[http://www.gmes.info/library/files/Reference%20Documents/com2004\\_0065en01.pdf](http://www.gmes.info/library/files/Reference%20Documents/com2004_0065en01.pdf)

Final report for the GMES initial period (2001-2003):

[http://www.gmes.info/library/files/Events%20documents/IP\\_Report\\_100204\\_final.pdf](http://www.gmes.info/library/files/Events%20documents/IP_Report_100204_final.pdf)

Further information on GMES:

<http://www.gmes.info/>

### **Environmental technologies to optimise the link between environment and growth**

On 28 January 2004, Commissioners Busquin (research) and Wallström (environment) presented a jointly prepared Action Plan entitled “Stimulating Technologies for Sustainable Development: An Environmental Technologies Action Plan for the EU” (ETAP).

Defining “Environmental technologies” as “all technologies whose use is less environmentally harmful than relevant alternatives”, this Action Plan contains eleven priority actions to help environmental technologies bridge the various barriers -of regulatory, economic or financial nature- that prevent their development and uptake. Two of these actions have a direct research-policy orientation:

- “Strengthening research on environmental technologies, supporting demonstration and replication of promising techniques, co-ordinating EC programmes in this field”;
- “Establishing technology platforms for some complex technologies” (the platforms currently decided upon are: Hydrogen and Fuel Cells, Photovoltaics and Water supply and sanitation technologies (still to be set up).

Beyond FP6, this Action Plan also clearly mentions that the “7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme will present opportunities to further environmental technologies”, a clear signal for the FP7 preparations.

This Action Plan takes up the link between environmental protection and economic growth and builds up on extensive preparatory work. It is based on a large stakeholder consultation that was summarised in a Commission Communication in 2003 (“Developing an Action Plan for environmental technology”). “Issue groups” were then set up by the Commission to work on concrete measures on which to base the current Action Plan. Following this logic of open consultation, the Commission plans to set up “European panels on Environmental Technologies” in the course of ETAP’s implementation.

The Commission will present ETAP to the Spring European Council in March 2004 and plans a first review in the course of 2006.

All the documents mentioned above as well as useful summaries can be found under:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/etap/index.htm>

## **◆ Publications**

### **Report on Women and Science in Central and Eastern Europe**

On 30 January, the Commission’s ENWISE (Enlarge Women In Science to East) Expert Group presented its report on the situation of women scientists in the ENWISE countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia). This report follows on the ETAN report on “Promoting Excellence through Mainstreaming Gender Equality”) which dealt with the situation of women scientists in the current Member States.

The report highlights that whereas women scientists in these countries are scoring quite high in terms of numbers (38% of the scientific workforce and more than half the teaching staff), they have been left especially vulnerable by the transition period and are more likely to be “squeezed out” of competitive high-expenditure R&D and of senior academic positions.

The report and an executive summary can be found under the following address:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/science-society/women/enwise/events\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/science-society/women/enwise/events_en.html)

## **IPR-Helpdesk new publications on Infrastructures, Marie Curie and SMEs**

The IPR-Helpdesk has recently published the following new documents:

1) About IPR issues in Research Infrastructures activities

[http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/documentos/docsPublicacion/html\\_xml/8\\_IPIssuesResearchInfrastructureActivities%5B0000003833\\_00%5D.html](http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/documentos/docsPublicacion/html_xml/8_IPIssuesResearchInfrastructureActivities%5B0000003833_00%5D.html)

2) About IPR issues in Marie Curie actions:

[http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/documentos/docsPublicacion/html\\_xml/8\\_IPRMariCurieActions%5B0000003838\\_01%5D.html](http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/documentos/docsPublicacion/html_xml/8_IPRMariCurieActions%5B0000003838_01%5D.html)

3) About the effects of the new European definition of SMEs (see also Synopsis March-May 2003):

[http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/documentos/docsPublicacion/html\\_xml/8\\_SME-New-Definition%5B0000004167\\_00%5D.html](http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/documentos/docsPublicacion/html_xml/8_SME-New-Definition%5B0000004167_00%5D.html)

## **The European Wind Energy Agency publishes R&D strategy plan**

Heavily dependent on R&D, the European Wind Energy Agency (EWEA) published on 27 January a preliminary R&D strategy plan. In parallel it launched a series of events aiming at building on this preliminary report and defining a clear European strategy by mid-2005 with a view to lobby for FP7.

[http://www.ewea.org/documents/R&D\\_first\\_report\\_jan04.pdf](http://www.ewea.org/documents/R&D_first_report_jan04.pdf)

## **JRC report on “Tissue engineered products. Today’s markets and future prospects”**

The Institute for Prospective Technological Studies IPTS, one of the seven scientific institutes making up the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, published in January a report entitled: “Tissue engineered products. Today’s markets and future prospects”.

The aim was to:

- “Provide an overview and analysis of tissue engineering products and companies in the EU and Accession States;
- Provide information on the state of the art and future directions of tissue engineering research;
- Identify and analyse factors possibly influencing tissue engineering development”.

The report can be found under:

<http://www.jrc.es/home/publications/publication.cfm?pub=1127>