

# SwissCore Synopsis

May 2009

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## ◆ Seen from Brussels

### Events of an uneventful month

This past month of May has been punctuated by a few legal holidays, interspersed with a couple of Council meetings and on a background of preparations for the European elections. We will delve into the latter in the next Synopsis, once the official results have been communicated and properly analysed. Despite the pre-electoral low tide in initiatives of the European Commission, we are nevertheless able to report on some of the outcomes of the Competitiveness Council, which found a political agreement for the financially thorny subject of the legal status for European Research Infrastructures (p. 4) and adopted proposed actions for better careers and more mobility for researchers (p. 4).

Moreover, the Ministers for Education adopted the new Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training for the horizon 2020 (ET 2020) and the related new set of benchmarks that should help Member States developing their national reforms for education with new goals for the next decade (p. 7). In addition, the Commission finally attributed the mandate for a feasibility study for setting up a multi-dimensional ranking of universities on an international level (p. 8).

We also seize the opportunity to take a look back on the recent activities of one of the Joint Technology Initiatives (JTI), the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI; p. 2). This is rather timely, as the European Commission has recently decided to fund three more Public-Private Partnerships (PPP; see Synopsis 2009/3). These newer PPPs will however be implemented through a series of calls under different Themes of FP7, rather than through the setting up of new Joint Undertakings. This is a wise decision, considering the time that was needed for IMI to reach the stage where research projects can finally start. Even if we discount the six months it took for a political decision by the EU institution, the rest of the process still accounts for nearly two years. This is far too long, especially when the aim is to rapidly respond to a current crisis, as is the case for the new PPPs. They might not display the flexibility of a JU-based PPP, but relying on known FP7 rules and procedures allows the call issuing, evaluation and selection process to proceed rapidly.

Besides the SwissCore Annual Event (p. 10), it was a rather uneventful month, and we look forward with anxiety to the next few weeks, when Brussels will display its usual pre-summer-break frenzy. SwissCore will contribute to the latter by organising an Experts' Lunch on the topic of innovation strategies on 24 June (p. 10), which we hope will be one of our highlights in the current month...

## ◆ Research

### *7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (FP7)*

#### Dossier: The Innovative Medicines Initiative shows progress

On 18 May, the European Commission published information on the results of the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)'s first call, whose second step evaluation has just been finalised. As a reminder, IMI is one of five Joint Technology Initiatives (JTI) that are being implemented in the frame of FP7. These public-private partnerships aim at bringing together the industry in a specific sector; for IMI, the partnership was established between the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) and the Commission. Here we report on progress made by IMI in the last few months:

- Calls for proposals: After a lengthy preparation phase under the responsibility of DG Research (see Synopsis 2009/1), IMI launched a first call for proposals with 18 topics on 30 April 2008. The first evaluation stage took place in September 2008. In this first stage, only public and SME consortium partners were submitting proposals; the industry participants would only be

included in the second stage. 138 expressions of interest had been received in the first stage, of which 18 were asked to submit a full project proposal (13% success rate), which now included the private sector partners from EFPIA. In the present press release (see link below), the Commission presents 15 topics for which a public-private consortium was finally selected, meaning that three of the second-stage projects were rejected (83% success rate). The 15 selected projects will receive a total of €246 million, of which €110 million will come from the Commission and €136 million will be provided in kind by the pharmaceutical industry partners. Contract negotiations should be finished by November 2009, at which point the projects will finally be able to start.

The evaluation procedure is specific for IMI and contains some unusual elements: the industry partners for the second stage are involved in the first stage evaluation, and only one project per topic selected for second stage). The entire evaluation was scrutinised by independent experts, who made several recommendations to improve the process (see link below). The second IMI call had been announced for this spring, but is now postponed to the autumn. There will be nine topics called for (in the areas of oncology, infectious diseases, chronic inflammatory diseases and knowledge management), for a total budget of €150 million; these topics should be adopted by the IMI Governing Board this month.

- Issues with Intellectual Property Rights (IPR): The IPR rules specifically developed for IMI have been challenged by some public research organisations, as they feared that the pharmaceutical industry partners would receive an undeserved share of the intellectual property coming out of the project. To address this issue, a working group composed of national delegates and EFPIA representatives has been formed; as a result of their work, a clarification note on IPR has been published on 5 June on the IMI website (see link below).
- Setting up the IMI Joint Undertaking: A Scientific Committee (SC) has been appointed in December 2008 to advise the IMI Governing Board on the scientific priorities of future IMI calls. The SC is composed of 15 members and is chaired by Prof. Christian Noe, a pharmacologist of the University of Vienna. Other members come from academia, industry and patient organisations, amongst them I. Xenarios from the University of Lausanne (see link below).

The recruitment of an Executive Director for the IMI Joint Undertaking (JU; the legal structure of a JTI) is in its final steps; a decision of the Governing Board is expected at its meeting of 10 June. The offices of the IMI JU administration will be located in a new building at Covent Garden, a few floors below the ERC. We hope that there will be some fruitful interactions due to this close proximity...

With all the progress shown by IMI in the last few months both on the infrastructural and the implementation side, we are looking forward to the next call for proposals this fall and the full autonomy of the JU, which could be realised around the same time.

A list of the funded topics from the first IMI call can be found under:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/802&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

The independent expert report on the first IMI call can be found under:

[http://imi.europa.eu/docs/imi-call1-ior-2009-05-08-final\\_en.pdf](http://imi.europa.eu/docs/imi-call1-ior-2009-05-08-final_en.pdf)

The clarification note on the IMI IPR can be found under:

[http://imi.europa.eu/docs/clarification-ga-imi-ip-policy\\_en.pdf](http://imi.europa.eu/docs/clarification-ga-imi-ip-policy_en.pdf)

The list of members of the Scientific Committee can be found under:

[http://imi.europa.eu/scientific-committee\\_en.html](http://imi.europa.eu/scientific-committee_en.html)

### **FP7 Participant Portal launched**

The European Commission has recently launched a new FP7 Participant Portal as a unique gateway for all FP7 beneficiaries. This portal offers the following features:

- Registration of an organisation in the Unique Registration Facility, URF;
- Checking the Participant Identity Code (PIC) of an organisation;
- FP7 support documents can be searched for directly on the Portal;

- The Legal Entity Appointed Representative (LEAR) can update legal and financial data via the Portal;
  - The LEAR can also access the list of projects of the organisation and their status.
- Especially this last function, which is currently available as a pilot will certainly come in handy to many LEAR.

The FP7 Participant Portal can be found under:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/appmanager/participants/portal>

## ***EU Research Policy***

### **EU Ministers adopt legal framework for Research Infrastructures**

On 16 July 2008, the European Commission published a proposal for a Council Regulation in a new Community legal framework for European Research Infrastructures (ERI, see Synopsis 2008/7). ERI was one of the five follow-up actions of the 2007 ERA Green Paper. Given the fact that existing legal forms under national or Community law do not fulfil the needs of research infrastructures, the European Commission focused its efforts on one particular aspect, namely the creation of a legal framework for the setting up of research infrastructures of pan-European character. As the proposed legal framework is based on Article 171 of the EU Treaty, the Council had to approve it.

Almost one year later, on 4 June 2009, the Council managed to find a political agreement on the draft regulation of the Community legal framework applicable to the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC). The regulation will make it easier to create European research infrastructure systems. The framework sets out the criteria which will permit a research facility to be awarded ERIC status and the rules governing them. European research facilities thus recognised will be granted the status of international organisations, and will enjoy advantages, such as VAT exemption. For this to happen, the state in which the research infrastructure is based, first of all needs to recognize it as an international organisation. In a second step, all the other Member States that take part in the research infrastructure have to decide to which extent the exemption of VAT shall be allowed. Another point is that recognised European research infrastructures will be disburdened from procurement rules. This is important because countries participating in research infrastructures often make in-kind contributions of 50% or more which would be impossible when applying the current rules of procurement. Finally, European research infrastructures need to be public institutions.

To access the Council Conclusions on research infrastructures go to this website:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/108189.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/108189.pdf)

### **Concrete proposals for a European partnership for researchers**

At the end of May, the Competitiveness Council exchanged views on the first steps towards the realisation of the European Research Area (Vision 2020). Indeed, as a follow-up of the EC Communication on the Researchers' partnership from May 2008 (see Synopsis 2008/5), the Council gave the mandate to two Research Ministers, Mr. Gago (PT) and Mr. Biltgen (LU) in September 2008 to explore actions for the concrete implementation of the partnership which were discussed at the information Competitiveness Council of 4 May in Prague. These actions are intended to address the whole range of priorities identified as major common European objectives in the field of human resources for science and technology and focus on the four following priorities:

- Increase the number and share of young people choosing to study science and technology related subjects
- Increase the number and share of graduates enrolling in PhD training along with the diversification of PhD profiles and the reinforcement of quality assurance mechanisms
- Attracting to and retaining in European institutions a larger share of science and technology students and researchers from Europe and from the rest of the world

- Ensure the legal, administrative and funding framework to encourage the implementation of the above actions

The document presents a series of targets to be supported by concrete actions. The Ministers welcomed them in order to improve the attractiveness of RTD careers and the conditions for mobility of researchers in Europe. They also encouraged the Member States to step up their efforts aiming at the implementation of National Actions Plans in this area.

The proposal of Ministers Biltgen and Gago can be found under the following link:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st10/st10003.en09.pdf>

The Council conclusions can be found under:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/108192.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/108192.pdf)

## **Publications**

### **European research country fiche**

The European Commission published information on European research carried out by its Members States (MS) in the time period of 2004 to 2009. If you are interested in any MS', or for that matter, any other country's research and science performance over the last five years, this website provides you with the necessary information, given you speak the national tongue. Information is given over the period of FP6 and FP7, at more general EU achievements and at concrete key areas such as environment, energy, health, nanotechnologies, human sciences, etc.

If you want to know more, the link below provides you with the information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=nationalbrochures&lg=en&ctry=be#map>

### **New EUROPA website dedicated to infectious diseases**

The European Commission has recently launched a new website specifically dedicated to infectious diseases within the "Health" Theme of the Research Framework Programme. The information on the site covers not less than three Framework Programmes (FP5, 6 and 7) in the four areas of this field, namely:

- HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis;
- Neglected Infectious Diseases;
- Anti-microbial Drug Resistance;
- Potentially new and Re-emerging Epidemics.

This very well done site gives a wealth of information, notably lists of running and past projects as well as the name of the relevant contact persons for each topic at the DG Research of the Commission. With no doubt this site will be an invaluable source of information for researchers and policy makers working in the field of infectious diseases. Moreover, a look at the parent site prefigures similarly constructed sites for the other areas of the Health Theme. If these sites under construction will be of a similar quality than the present one, we can look forward to a mine of very helpful information.

The Commission's dedicated website on infectious diseases can be found under:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/index_en.html)

### **Workshop report on International Cooperation**

At the beginning of May, the European Commission finally published the report of the workshop "Research Priority Setting for International S&T Cooperation", held in Brussels on 25-26 September 2007 (!). The results of this workshop were apparently used by the Expert Group in charge of the chapter of the 2007 ERA Green Paper report entitled "Opening to the world: International Co-operation in Science and Technology", published in July 2008 (see Synopsis 2008/7). Despite the fact that the workshop dates somewhat, policymakers interested in international cooperation might find some useful information in the report.

The workshop report can be found under:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/priority\\_setting.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/priority_setting.pdf)

### **Website of Fuel Cells and Hydrogen JTI**

The Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH JU) is a Public Private Partnership supporting research, technological development and demonstration activities in fuel cell and hydrogen energy technologies in Europe. The second call of FCH JU is to be expected for the second quarter of 2009.

More information on FCH JU can be found on its website:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/fch/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/fch/index_en.cfm)

## **◆ Innovation**

### **The EIT calls for independent experts to evaluate the KIC proposals**

On 14 May, the Governing Board of the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT) launched a Call for Experts for the upcoming evaluations of the Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) proposals. This call follows the Call for Proposals for KICs, which had been published on 2 April (see Synopsis 2009/3).

The present call invites experts with skills and expertise in the following fields to register in an online database (see link below):

- Thematic area – Sustainable energy;
- Thematic area – Climate change mitigation and adaption;
- Thematic area – Future information and communication society;
- Business creation and venture capital;
- Innovation in existing business;
- Entrepreneurial education;
- Research and product development.

Moreover, the candidates should have know-how of the different parts of the innovation process, such as Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and patenting, knowledge transfer, business planning, as well as investment and financing. A remuneration of experts is not foreseen, but a *per diem* compensation of €450 will be paid. Applications should only be submitted via the EIT website. The expert database will be valid until 2013. If the experts agree to evaluate the current KIC proposals, the commitment they face is between 4 and 10 days in the period of September to December 2009.

The expert call text and a link to the registration site can be found under:  
<http://eit.europa.eu/experts.html>

### **Enterprise Award as final highlight of the European SME week**

The European Enterprise Awards were launched three years ago to recognise and reward initiatives that foster entrepreneurship at regional level!. This year, the award ceremony was at the same time the final highlight of the First European SME week, taking place from 6 to 14 May (see Synopsis 2009/4). Participating countries in the European Enterprise Awards are EU Member States and Norway. Each of them could select up to two candidates. 13 candidates were shortlisted for the awards in Prague where prize winners were presented by European Commission Vice-President Günter Verheugen, responsible for enterprise and industry. The Grand Jury's Prize went to Scarborough Renaissance Partnership (UK) which managed to transform a seasonal unemployment economy, with unemployment in winter being 50% higher

than in summer, into a more balanced year-round entrepreneurial climate offering increased employment prospects. This was mostly achieved through the development of a business park and a centre for creative and cultural industries. The other prizes went to initiatives from Spain, Hungary, Sweden, Finland and Germany.

More on the awarded projects can be found here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/smes/awards/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/smes/awards/index_en.htm)

## **Publications**

### **Entrepreneurial education**

The European Commission and Junior Achievement-Young Enterprise promote young entrepreneurship on their site 'Your World, Your Business'. It is a collaborative partnership encouraging young people from 16-19 years of age to develop an entrepreneurial spirit wherein they are supported by their teachers. The website offers a teacher's guide, video and other teaching material.

If you want to know more about this website, visit:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/yourworldyourbusiness/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/yourworldyourbusiness/index_en.htm)

### **Europe INNOVA annual report**

Europe INNOVA has released its annual report, looking back at its second term of work. Europe INNOVA was set up in 2006 by DG Enterprise and Industry in order to identify and analyse the drivers and barriers to innovation within specific sectors, thus becoming a laboratory for the development and testing of new tools and instruments in support of innovation. Public and private innovation supporters work together on business clusters, innovation panels, innovation management and financing networks etc. Those tools are supposed to get implemented at a later stage into the CIP Programme.

If you want to find out more about Europe INNOVA and its annual report, go to:

<http://www.europe-innova.org/index.jsp>

## **◆ Education**

### **New Education Strategic Framework towards 2020 adopted**

The Education and Youth Council of 11-12 May in Brussels adopted the new Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training for 2020 (ET 2020). The conclusions that were taken up are a follow-up of the previous ministerial meeting of 16 February (see Synopsis 2009/2) as well as of the Bologna Conference held in Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve on 28-29 April (see Synopsis 2009/4).

As proposed by the Commission in December 2008, the framework identifies both immediate priorities for 2009-11 and long-term challenges up to 2020 (see Synopsis 2009-1). The immediate priorities are:

- Making lifelong learning and mobility a reality
- Improving the quality and efficiency of education and training
- Promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship
- Enhancing innovation and creativity, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training.

The long-term goals are listed as follows:

- The personal, social and professional fulfilment of all citizens
- Sustainable economic prosperity and employability, whilst promoting democratic values, social cohesion, active citizenship, and intercultural dialogue.

As a means to monitor progress and identify further challenges, the Council refers to four previously established and now updated benchmarks for 2020:

- Adult participation in lifelong learning should reach 15%
- Low achievers in basic skills of up to 15 years of age should be reduced to less than 15%
- Tertiary level attainment of 30-34 year olds should be at least 40%
- Early leavers from education and training aged 18-24 should be less than 10%

One new benchmark has already been added:

- Early childhood education of children aged 4 up to the start of compulsory education should reach 95%.

Whereas targets for student mobility, employability and language competences still need to be further clarified and discussed by the relevant working groups of the Member States (MS).

Moreover, the Ministers approved of the European Credit System for Vocational Education (ECVET) and the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework (EQARF), which were proposed by the EC on 10 April 2008 (see Synopsis 2008/4). These will be implemented in the MS on a voluntary basis in order for them to promote mobility and lifelong learning and monitor the quality levels of their educational system respectively.

The Council concludes that all of those objectives should be reached through the open method of coordination (OMC), by learning from each other and exchanging best practices.

The Official Journal excerpt of the Council conclusions can be found here:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:119:0002:0010:EN:PDF>

### **New mandate for the development of a multi-dimensional university ranking**

With some delay due to the discussions held on rankings at the last Bologna Conference in April, the European Commission finally published the name of the selected consortium that will carry out the feasibility study on the design and testing of a new multi-dimensional global university ranking on 2 June. As expected, the winning bid comes from the CHERPA-Network consortium and is led by the Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS) of the University of Twente (NL) and the Centrum für Hochschulentwicklung (CHE) in Gütersloh (DE). The other partners in the consortium are the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) of the University of Leiden (NL), the Research Division INCENTIM of the University of Leuven (BE), the Observatoire des Sciences et des Techniques (OST) in Paris (FR), the European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI) and the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD). The project will run for two years and will cost approximately €1.1million (for more details about the call for tender, see Synopsis 2008/10).

During the next two years, the network will conceptualize and test the feasibility of a multi-dimensional global ranking based on the CHE ranking methodology, using a grouping approach rather than simplistic league tables, and on the classification of higher education institutions developed by CHEPS. The basic approach underlying the project is to compare only institutions which are similar and comparable in terms of their missions and structures. The different rankings will be targeted at different stakeholders, aiming at supporting decision-making in universities and especially at better informing study decisions by students. The field-based rankings will each focus on a particular type of institution and will develop and test a set of indicators appropriate to these specific institutions. In contrast to existing global rankings, the design will compare not only the research performance of institutions, but will include teaching and learning as well as other aspects of university performance.

The press releases of the CHE and CHEPS can be found under:

<http://www.che-concept.de/cms/?getObject=5&getNewsID=982&getCB=398&getLang=de>

<http://www.utwente.nl/cheps/news/MGUR/>

More information about the call for tender:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/calls/3608/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/calls/3608/index_en.html)

### **Updated report on integration of immigrant children in Europe**

Eurydice, the information network on education in Europe, just released an updated version of its 2004 report on the education of immigrant children. The new version of the report published under the title “Integrating Immigrant Children into Schools in Europe” focuses on developments in communication between schools and families of immigrant children and on the teaching of the immigrant children’s mother tongue. The report should help the Commission preparing its expected Green Paper on the relationship between education and migration, in particular by providing information on the growing diversity of different mother tongues in schools and on building relations with the families of immigrant pupils.

The report can be downloaded following the link below:

<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/Eurydice/showPresentation?pubid=101EN>

### **Online platform for national policy initiatives in education and training**

The European Commission launched a new website in order to provide an online platform with better visibility of joint actions of the Member States on policy initiatives reforming their higher education systems. The new platform called Knowledge System for Lifelong Learning (KSLLL) is a support mechanism for the Education and Training 2010 Work Programme which aims at offering relevant, up-to-date, easily accessible and comparable information on national policy initiatives and practices in priority areas in the field of Education and Training for the development of lifelong learning.

The peer learning clusters and other working groups set up through the open method of coordination (OMC) will bring the basis of the information which should facilitate mutual learning in the reform of national higher education and training systems.

The website will be modified according to the new Work Programme towards 2020 that will be developed under the new Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training (see Education Council decision in article p. 7)

The website is accessible under: <http://www.kslll.net>

### **Call for proposals to promote creativity and innovation in youth sector**

On 3 June, the Commission launched a call for proposals under the Youth in Action Programme in order to fund projects encouraging creativity and innovation in the youth sector. The call aims at identifying projects that target the introduction, implementation and promotion of innovative and qualitative elements in non-formal education and youth work with priorities on:

- media literacy for young people
- e-youth work.

Non-profit organisations such as NGOs and public bodies can participate in the call. Projects must involve partners from at least four different Programme Countries, of which at least one is a Member State of the European Union. Swiss partners could only join an eligible consortium and fund its participation through the State Secretariat for Education and Research. Applications have to be submitted no later than 30 September 2009.

More information can be found under:

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/funding/2009/call\\_action\\_4\\_4\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/funding/2009/call_action_4_4_en.php)

**SwissCore Experts' Lunch will discuss Swiss and EU innovation strategies on 24 June**

In view of the results of the 2008 European Innovation Scoreboard, showing Switzerland at its top, the Experts' lunch wants to take stock of innovation policy developments in the last few years and discuss the future global challenges on innovation. The lunch brings together Prof. Dominique Foray from EPFL, who is an advisor of Commissioner Potocnik and a leading academic expert in the economics of innovation and knowledge, Jean-Noel Durvy, Director for Innovation Policy at the European Commission, and Georg Brodach, Senior Vice-President of ABB Europe Ltd. The event taking place on 24 June at the EFTA Secretariat is jointly organised by SwissCore, economiesuisse and the Swiss Chamber of Commerce.

More information can be found in the programme on the SwissCore website:

[http://www.swisscore.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/sc\\_sib\\_2009.pdf](http://www.swisscore.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/sc_sib_2009.pdf)

**The 14<sup>th</sup> SwissCore Annual Event tackled the funding system of universities**

On 12 May, SwissCore hosted its Annual Event, a reception to thank its Brussels colleagues and contacts for their good collaboration in the past years. This year's host was Hans Ulrich Stöckling, President of the Foundation Council of the Swiss National Science Foundation. Mr Stöckling raised the issue of the funding system of universities. Indeed the trend to identify real costs of university activities is currently a topic tackled by many European actors such as the European University Association or the European Commission itself. More than 100 representatives from the European Commission, IGLO and other research, innovation and education organisations in Brussels attended the reception.



*D. Imboden, Swiss National Science Foundation SNSF*

*J. de Watteville, Mission of Switzerland to the EU*

*H.U. Stöckling, President of the Foundation Council, SNSF*



### **High-Level Roundtable on the current and future state of the ERA**

In the context of the Annual Event, a special briefing programme was organised for the Specialized Committee of the Research Council of the Swiss National Science Foundation dealing with international cooperation, which held its monthly meeting in Brussels. During a High-Level Roundtable held on 13 May, three Directors from DG Research presented the current and future state of the European Research Area (ERA): Robert-Jan Smits, Directorate B “ERA: research programmes and capacity”, Clara de la Torre, Directorate A “Inter-institutional and legal matters of the Framework programme” and Jack Metthey, Directorate S implementing the European Research Council (ERC). Exchanges of views between the Commission and Switzerland representatives were possible on specific topics such as the current discussion among Members and Associated States and the Commission concerning the Joint Programming, as well as the development of the ERC and its Executive Agency and the global challenges for FP7 and the ERA.



*Robert-Jan Smits,  
European Commission*

*Clara de la Torre,  
European Commission*

*Jack Metthey,  
European Commission*

