



Brussels News Update

March 2010

- European Parliament: extra funding and research base enlargement
- New ERC President
- Competitiveness Council
- Europe 2020 Strategy
- EIT money starts to flow
- Brussels to table EU clean cars strategy
- Spain calls for 'Atlantic Strategy'
- Commission adopts biomass sustainability report
- €80 million for biorefinery research
- EU to table nuclear waste treatment law
- EU report urges action on 'chemical cocktails'
- Innovative drugs amongst the beneficiaries of €18m in influenza research
- Commission gives green light to genetically modified potato
- EPO extends IP training for small companies and tech transfer offices
- New head chosen for EPO
- Patent problems
- 'Trust Researchers' declaration launched
- New EUA report underlines impact of Bologna reforms on Europe's universities
- LERU calls for reshaping of PhDs
- Born or made?
- The geography of knowledge
- Industrial Panel produces report on JTIs and PPPs
- Ministers sketch vague plans for EU 'industrial policy'
- Vouchers give health SMEs access to €6K of top class laboratory services
- Factors determining SMEs succeed in EU research projects
- Enterprise 'clusters' seen as foreign springboard for SMEs
- Improving cooperation between EU and EECA
- EU mulls industry-wide goals as climate 'Plan B'
- Economic value of nature 'still invisible', says UN
- ERC timeframe for evaluation of 2010 Starting Grant
- Eurostars
- Metrology Call: Industry and Environment
- COSMIC Call

European Parliament: extra funding and research base enlargement

A resolution on investing in the development of low carbon energy technologies (SET-Plan) [Strategic Energy Technology Plan] was adopted at the recent European Parliament's Plenary Session in Strasbourg. The MEPs reiterated their request to allocate at least €R 2 billion of

the EU's annual budget to low carbon technologies, on top of existing funding from the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP). Parliamentarians called for 'the urgent establishment of a funding timetable by the Commission and the Member States of the resources they will commit to ensure that funds start flowing from 2010.' The European Parliament also asks the European Investment Bank (EIB) to increase its lending to energy projects and calls on it to prioritise projects that will raise the viability of low carbon technologies, such as the development of smart grids and mini hydro facilities. The MEPs are also calling for a 'significant share' of EU funding under the SET-Plan to be made available to SMEs and insist that these funding schemes be 'designed in an SME-friendly manner'.

The Parliamentarians are also turning their spotlight on the research base. 'The capacity of the EU research base needs to be enlarged,' they state. 'Further education and training is essential to provide the quantity and quality of human resources required to take full advantage of the new technology opportunities opening up.' In addition, the resolution highlights the importance of fostering international cooperation, particularly with emerging and developing countries, in the development and deployment of low carbon energy technologies.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu/1>

New ERC President

Professor Helga Nowotny has been unanimously elected as the new President of the European Research Council (ERC) and Chair of the ERC Scientific Council.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu/2>

Competitiveness Council

During its recent meeting, the Competitiveness Council discussed the best ways to begin designing the new 2020 Strategy, how to secure political commitments towards the strategy from all Member States and how to set up clear, ambitious and realistic targets for jobs and growth and to foster competitiveness throughout the EU.

The ministers have agreed on many areas regarding the new strategy, including the importance of deepening the internal market and avoiding protectionism and of encouraging European industry towards a green and sustainable economy, as well as the necessity of putting research and innovation at the heart of the new strategy. They also agreed that:

- ⇒ research must be focused on the most pressing current issues such as climate change, energy, food security, health and demographics.
- ⇒ the European Research Area (ERA) must be extended as far as possible and that the tools to be used for this should include investments in research, development and innovation, and investments in physical infrastructures such as transport and energy networks and innovative technologies.
- ⇒ the 'knowledge triangle' of education, research and innovation must be strengthened.
- ⇒ there is the need for the European economy to strengthen its industrial, technological and energy hub and to improve the regulatory framework for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) so as to better facilitate their access to research opportunities and financial schemes.
- ⇒ researcher mobility throughout the EU should be encouraged, including the provision of social security coordination issues and supplementary pensions.

The Council has adopted a resolution aimed at enhancing the enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPR) in an internal market and it has also adopted conclusions on the structure and mechanisms of the European Research Council (ERC). The ministers call on the Commission to

carry out an independent evaluation in 2011 as a follow-up to the recommendations made in last year's review of the ERC. Other factors considered in the conclusions concern the evaluation process, the integration of scientific and administrative functions, and the simplification of procedures. If they prove successful at the ERC, simplified measures could be extended to the rest of the framework programme, the ministers note. The Commission was invited to 'support the ERC in its efforts to effectively promote the attractiveness of the ERC to retain as well as repatriate and recruit the world's most talented scientists and encourage the participation of scientists from the industrial or enterprise sector'.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu/1>

Documents on individual topics accessible at: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/1>

Europe 2020 Strategy

The European Commission has launched the Europe 2020 Strategy to strengthen the common market, create more flexible labour markets and bring national budget deficits back under control, by increasing coordination of economy policy. At the core of the strategy lie innovation, the promotion of low-carbon industries, investment in research and development, the creation of a digital economy and the modernisation of education and training. The Europe 2020 Strategy rests on three priority areas:

Smart growth - developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; Sustainable growth - promoting resource-efficient production and boosting competitiveness – and

Inclusive growth - raising participation in the labour market, the acquisition of skills and the fight against poverty.

Progress towards these objectives will be measured against five targets, which Member States will be asked to translate into national targets reflecting starting points:

75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed (from the current 69%)

3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D (from the current 1.9%)

The "20/20/20"¹ climate/energy targets should be met

The share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a degree or diploma. .

20 million less people should be at risk of poverty (the number of EU citizens currently living in poverty is 80 million)

The proposed Europe 2020 agenda consists of a series of flagship initiatives:

Innovation union - re-focussing R&D and innovation policy on major challenges, while closing the gap between science and market to turn inventions into products.

Youth on the move - promoting student and young professional mobility. As a concrete action, vacancies in all Member States should be more accessible throughout Europe and professional qualifications and experience properly recognised.

A digital agenda for Europe - delivering sustainable economic and social benefits from a Digital Single Market based on ultra fast internet. All Europeans should have access to high speed internet by 2013.

Resource-efficient Europe - supporting the shift towards a resource efficient and low-carbon economy.

An industrial policy for green growth – encouraging competitiveness, promoting entrepreneurship and developing new skills.

An agenda for new skills and jobs – creating the conditions for modernising labour markets, with a view to raising employment levels and ensuring the sustainability of our social models,

¹ "20/20/20" climate/energy targets: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% compared to 1990 levels; increasing the share of renewable energy sources in our final energy consumption to 20%; and a 20% increase in energy efficiency.

while baby-boomers retire ; and

European platform against poverty - ensuring economic, social and territorial cohesion by empowering the poor and socially excluded to play an active part in society.

The Commission invites Heads of State and Government to take ownership for this new Strategy and endorse it at the Spring European Council. The role of the European Parliament will be enhanced and the governance methods will be reinforced to ensure that commitments are translated into effective action on the ground. Reporting and evaluation under both Europe 2020 and the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) will be carried out simultaneously (while remaining distinct instruments) to improve coherence. This will allow both strategies to pursue similar reform objectives while remaining as separate instruments.

Source: <http://europa.eu/rapid/3>

Full document accessible under **Presentation of the Europe 2020 Strategy** at

<http://ec.europa.eu/2>

Links: <http://www.euractiv.com2> <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/1>

http://www.businessandfinance.ie/cat_news_detail.jsp?itemID=1007

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/4>

EIT money starts to flow

A Science|Business interview by Anna Jenkinson with Martin Schuurmans, the chairman of the governing body of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, on the initial €1 million grants for each of the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs).

Source: <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/2>

Brussels to table EU clean cars strategy

A EurActiv article on the proposals of the European Commission on a clean cars strategy that aims to remain technology-neutral.

Source: <http://www.euractiv.com/6>

Spain calls for 'Atlantic Strategy'

A EurActiv article on a strategy to protect the environment and the biodiversity of Atlantic coastlines and to reinforce key maritime sectors such as marine research and offshore energies.

Source: <http://www.euractiv.com/7>

Commission adopts biomass sustainability report

The Commission has adopted a report on sustainability requirements for the use of solid biomass and biogas in electricity, heating and cooling to be used by Member States.

Source: <http://europa.eu/rapid/4>

Link: <http://www.euractiv.com/8>

€80 million for biorefinery research

A total of €80 million (€52 million from the Commission and €28 million from 81 partners in 20 countries) will fund research in the conversion of biological feedstock into energy.

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/5>

EU to table nuclear waste treatment law

A EurActiv article on the legislative proposals on the treatment of nuclear waste.

Source: <http://www.euractiv.com/10>

EU report urges action on 'chemical cocktails'

A EurActiv article on a report commissioned by the EU executive in 2007 to review current scientific knowledge and regulatory approaches regarding 'chemical cocktails'.

Source: <http://www.euractiv.com/11>

Innovative drugs amongst the beneficiaries of €18m in influenza research

Four collaborative research projects in influenza are to receive the €18 million of the latest call of the European Commission. They involve 52 research institutes and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from 18 European countries and 3 international partners (Israel, China, the United States). Two consortia will develop innovative drugs against influenza in humans and another two will focus on research on influenza in pigs.

The drug projects are FLU-PHARM ('New drugs targeting influenza virus polymerase') with partners from Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Austria, Slovakia and Sweden; and FLUCURE ('Development of novel antiviral drugs against influenza') with partners from Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu/3>

Link: <http://www.euractiv.com/12>

Commission gives green light to genetically modified potato

A EurActiv article on the EU approval for the cultivation of genetically modified potato.

Source: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/13>

EPO extends IP training for small companies and tech transfer offices

Science|Business reporting on the two-year extension to the ip4inno training programme for business advisors and Technology Transfer Offices.

Source: <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/4>

New head chosen for EPO

Science|Business reporting on the election of Benoît Battistelli as the new President of the European Patent Office who will take on July 1 2010 for the next five years.

Source: <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/5>

Patent problems

A Science|Business article on the views of Alison Brimelow, current President of the European Patent Office regarding the creation of a global, sustainable patent system.

Source: <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/6>

'Trust Researchers' declaration launched

A declaration for the attention of the European Council of Ministers and the Parliament has been launched requesting the significant simplification of the administrative burden and the financial framework of European research funding. The key points of the declaration are: funding of European research to be based on trust and responsible partnering, and research to be funded according to the nature of research while at the same time ensuring an appropriate level of accountability.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu/4>

New EUA report underlines impact of Bologna reforms on Europe's universities

A Science|Business report on the new report by the European University Association (EUA) on the implementation of the Bologna Process and its impact over the last decade on higher education across 46 countries in Europe.

Source: <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/7>

LERU calls for reshaping of PhDs

A Science|Business article on the paper by the League of European Research Universities (LERU) on its vision for doctoral education beyond 2010.

Source: <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/8>

Born or made?

A Science|Business article by Michael Kenward on the debate of whether entrepreneurship is innate, or business aspects of research such as how to start-up companies, can be taught to PhD students during their research.

Source: <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/9>

The geography of knowledge

A Science|Business article by Nuala Moran on the shifting centre of gravity of science and innovation from US, Europe and Japan to countries such as China, India, Brazil, South Korea and South Africa.

Source: <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/10>

Industrial Panel produces report on JTIs and PPPs

The final report entitled *Designing together the 'ideal house' for public-private partnerships in European research* is now available. The report takes stock of the first experiences with setting up Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) under FP7 and it will feed into the ongoing review of the structure of the JTIs and Public Private Partnerships (PPPs). A separate financial regulation for PPPs in research and adjustment of funding rates to those of the FP feature amongst its recommendations.

Sources: <http://www.earto.eu/nc/2> - full report accessible in the Learning and Assessment section of the Cordis site at <http://cordis.europa.eu/5>

Ministers sketch vague plans for EU 'industrial policy'

A EurActiv article on the new industrial policy mapped out by the EU industry ministers.

Source: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/14>

Vouchers give health SMEs access to €6K of top class laboratory services

A Science|Business article on the financial vouchers for SMEs in biotechnology, pharmacy and medical biology, that will give them access to international research and development facilities and their services across Europe.

Source: <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/11>

Factors determining SMEs succeed in EU research projects

Having assessed over 200 SMEs, the partners of the KAPPA-Health ('Key performance factor assessment and valorisation for successful EU-FP project participation of innovation SMEs in the area of health') have identified a number of performance factors that trigger the success of SMEs participating in EU-funded projects. Some of the following are amongst the identified issues crucial in the success of a business: the SMEs' core activity should correspond to the research project; previous FP project experience of participating members; expert or specialised services support in identifying the role of each partner and expected results; collaborating with partners from existing networks and the scale of the project with smaller projects being more successful.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu/6>

Enterprise 'clusters' seen as foreign springboard for SMEs

A EurActiv article on the grouping of industry players together in clusters.

Source: <http://www.euractiv.com/15>

Improving cooperation between EU and EECA

Funded with €600,000 under the Health Theme of FP7, the EECAlink ('Promotion and facilitation of international cooperation with Eastern European and Central Asian countries') project aims to identify joint research priorities between the EU and EECA (Eastern Europe and Central Asia) and strengthen collaboration amongst three stakeholder groups: policymakers, university and academic partners, and the wider research public including industry and SMEs. The EECAlink consortium comprises 17 partners from Armenia, Belarus, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The EECAlink consortium plans to hold a final conference, a brokerage event and 12 national capacity-building 2-day events in all the participating countries.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu/7>

EU mulls industry-wide goals as climate 'Plan B'

A EurActiv article on the views of Jo Leinen, chairman of the European Parliament's environment committee, on a Plan B for international climate change talks.

Source: <http://www.euractiv.com/17>

Economic value of nature 'still invisible', says UN

A EurActiv article on a United Nations initiative aiming to demonstrate the value nature delivers to society before economic losses can occur.

Source: <http://www.euractiv.com/18>

ERC timeframe for evaluation of 2010 Starting Grant

The timeframe for evaluation of the 2010 Starting Grant proposals is published.

Source: <http://www.earto.eu/3>

Eurostars

Eurostars is open to applications in all technological areas. Project applicants benefit from business advice and expertise offered by EUREKA's network of national project coordinators (NPCs) in each member country. Next deadline: 30 September 2010.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu/8>

Metrology Call: Industry and Environment

A call under the work programme of the European Metrology Research Programme (EMRP) has been issued. Proposals are invited for the following research areas:

- Metrology for Industry
- Metrology for Environment

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu/9>

COSMIC Call

The COSMIC ('Complementary organic semiconductor and metal integrated circuits') project is looking for a new project partner with expertise in organic integrated circuits, that are based on p- and n-type organic semiconductors.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu/10>



EuCheMS aisbl, Registered office Avenue E. Van Nieuwenhuysse 4, B-1160 Brussels
Produced for EuCheMS by Ioanna Psalti

The information given by EuCheMS in this *EuCheMS Brussels News Update* has been carefully formulated but is necessarily based on information available and consequently EuCheMS does not accept responsibility if it is in any way inaccurate or incomplete. In this respect EuCheMS does not accept any duty of care and will not be liable for any losses or damages arising from inaccurate or incomplete information. EuCheMS acknowledges that a disclaimer cannot restrict liability at law for personal injury or death arising through a finding of negligence.

Compilation Copyright © 2009 Ioanna S.M Psalti. All rights reserved. This compilation may not be copied, transmitted, reposted, duplicated or otherwise used without the express written approval of the copyright holder. Redistribution in part or with modifications may infringe moral rights and is not permitted without the advance agreement of the copyright.