



# Brussels News Update

## December 2009

---

- The Treaty of Lisbon
- EU experts assess policy impact of Lisbon Treaty
- Public consultation on the future EU 2020 strategy
- Parliament and joint programming
- What does the new European Parliament mean for research?
- Parliament calls for €30 billion in yearly climate aid
- Competitiveness Council and research
- New portfolios for the next Commission
- Barroso warned not to split environment, climate portfolios
- EU chief scientist tipped for 'TV role'
- New EU health chief seizes control of pharma policy
- New EU innovation plan to boost 'creative clusters'
- EU innovation 'manifesto' turns spotlight on funding and skills
- Experts urge for changes to European research and innovation policy
- EU starts screening raw materials 'critical list'
- New science and technology agreements
- Multi-million-euro commitment to nanomedicine
- EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard published
- SMEs look to environmental sector for green shoots
- Venture capital drought hurting biopharma SMEs
- European universities still lack autonomy
- Gender imbalance in science

### Patents

- Unified patent system in Europe
- EU and Russia to harmonise intellectual property rights
- China, India push for 'patent free' green tech

### Calls & partnering events

- IMI 2009 call for proposals launched
  - Clean Sky JTI calls for proposals
  - Call for proposals for visiting researchers in 2011
  - Marie Curie Cofund call for proposals launched
  - IRSES call for proposals launched
  - CORNET/EraSME Partnering Event, The Netherlands
  - International partnering event, Hungary
-

### The Treaty of Lisbon

The Treaty of Lisbon has entered into force on 1 December 2009. The Treaty amends the current EU and EC treaties, without replacing them. The European Parliament and national parliaments will now have a much greater say in the EU's decision-making process, and citizens will have the right to know what their Ministers are deciding at the EU level. All European citizens will be given the opportunity to influence proposed EU laws. The EU's values and goals will be set down more clearly than before while the charter of fundamental rights will be given the same legal status as the EU treaties themselves.

**Sources:** <http://europa.eu/rapid/1>

[http://europa.eu/lisbon\\_treaty](http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty) (for a copy of the Treaty of Lisbon)

**Links:** <http://www.euractiv.com/en/1> <http://www.euractiv.com/2>

### EU experts assess policy impact of Lisbon Treaty

A series of EurActiv interviews with Brussels commentators on the impact of the Lisbon Treaty.

**Source:** <http://www.euractiv.com/en/opinion/3>

### Public consultation on the future EU 2020 strategy

The European Commission has launched a public consultation for all stakeholders, particularly those involved in research, to share their views on suggested, broad policy considerations for the future EU 2020 strategy.

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

### Parliament and joint programming

The European Parliament has recently underlined that all future initiatives on joint research activities must be adopted under the EU's legal competency for research so that Parliament has co-decision powers following the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty. This has followed the Parliament's resolution that urges the Member States to establish a common research agenda in the field of neurodegenerative diseases and to strengthen epidemiological data on Alzheimer's and related dementia disorders.

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

### What does the new European Parliament mean for research?

A Science|Business article by Anna Jenkinson on the Industry, Research and Energy Committee.

**Source:** <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/1>

### Parliament calls for €30 billion in yearly climate aid

A EurActiv article on the call of European Parliament for an ambitious, legally-binding agreement in Copenhagen and for a €30 billion in climate aid.

**Source:** <http://www.euractiv.com/4>

### Competitiveness Council and research

The simplification of research programmes in Europe, the goals of the post-2010 Lisbon Strategy and interaction between research and research-based innovation were the main points discussed at the Competitiveness Council meeting in December. In its resolution on the governance of the European Research Area (ERA), the Council recognises 'the need for an efficient and enhanced governance for strategic policy development and decision-making in the ERA, in which the Union and the Member States demonstrate more leadership and commitment for the achievement of the ERA Vision 2020 and the implementation of the post-2010 EU strategy for competitiveness and growth.' The ministers have called for more efficient interaction between the three components of the Knowledge Triangle (education, research and innovation); improved cooperation and coordination of ERA-related activities with reduced administrative burden; a more systematic, broader and structured consultation of relevant stakeholders; and improved communication.

The Council also supported a more proactive role for the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) and reaffirmed Europe's dedication to research and research-based innovation. 'A limited set of ambitious quantitative and qualitative targets, together with the corresponding indicators, should be considered in the context of the post-2010 EU strategy for competitiveness and growth and the implementation of ERA, reflecting the reaffirmed commitment to transforming the EU into a leading knowledge-based society,' the conclusions read. The Council has asked for a process to identify priorities for the future European research and research-based innovation activities and for a review of ERA-related instruments.

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

### New portfolios for the next Commission

The responsibilities for the next Commission have been announced with a number of new portfolios: Climate Action; Home Affairs; Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship. A number of other portfolios have been reconfigured: Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth; Health and Consumer Policy; Industry and Entrepreneurship; Research and Innovation; International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response. There will be a renewed focus with the Digital Agenda portfolio.

**Source:** <http://europa.eu/rapid/2> (detailed allocation of portfolios and supporting services)

**Links:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/4> <http://www.euractiv.com/5>  
<http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/2>

### Barroso warned not to split environment, climate portfolios

A EurActiv article on the rumours surrounding the creation of a separate climate action department in the next EU executive.

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

### EU chief scientist tipped for 'TV role'

A EurActiv article on the proposed Chief Scientific Advisor to the president of the EU executive.

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

### New EU health chief seizes control of pharma policy

A EurActiv article on the new responsibilities of the new EU health commissioner, who will now be in charge of the European Medicines Agency, as well as the biotechnology, pesticides and health unit.

**Source:** <http://www.euractiv.com/8>

### New EU innovation plan to boost 'creative clusters'

A EurActiv article on the drafting of Europe's first 'innovation act' and the ways to boost creative clusters.

**Source:** <http://www.euractiv.com/9>

### EU innovation 'manifesto' turns spotlight on funding and skills

A EurActiv article on *The Manifesto for Creativity and Innovation*, an EU report that will feed into the ongoing discussion on the shape of Europe's innovation policy.

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

### Experts urge for changes to European research and innovation policy

Five research and industry expert groups have called on the European Commission and the European Parliament for a radical change to research and innovation policy in Europe. The groups included the European Research Area Board (ERAB), the Business Panel on future EU innovation policy appointed by the European Commission's Directorate-General (DG) for Enterprise and Industry, the Expert Group on the role of Community research policy in the knowledge-based economy, made up of experts convened by DG Research, the European Technology Platforms Expert Group and the non-profit Science|Business Innovation Board. The experts have made a set of recommendations emphasising the need for increased funding in research, education and innovation and for improved coordination and planning of research, development and innovation programmes. The experts have stressed that open competition should be standard in EU programmes and urged for a change of focus to the greatest societal challenges and the need for policies that encourage new networks, knowledge institutions and mobility.

**Source:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/5>

**Links:** <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/3> <http://www.euractiv.com/11>

### EU starts screening raw materials 'critical list'

A EurActiv article on the screening of a list of forty-nine "potentially critical" raw materials.

**Source:** <http://www.euractiv.com/12>

### New science and technology agreements

The European Community has signed technology cooperation agreements with Japan and Jordan that will help identify common research priorities and areas of common interest, such as energy, sustainable development and environment. Mechanisms will also be put in place to enable wider science and technology cooperation.

**Source:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/6> **Link:** <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/4>

### Multi-million-euro commitment to nanomedicine

The EU ERA-NET initiative EuroNanoMed will support eight transnational research projects with €17 million that promote collaborative and interdisciplinary research into three main subfields of nanomedicine: diagnostics, targeted delivery, and regenerative medicine. A second call will be launched in 2010. The two calls have a joint budget of between €40 million and €60 million; the allocation of funds for project proposals was based on scientific, technical, translational and/or commercial potential criteria.

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

### EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard published

The 2009 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard is now published showing an increase of 8.1% in corporate investment in EU research and development (R&D) in 2008. The European companies appear to outperform their counterparts in the US and Japan with EU companies leading the way in sectors such as electronic and electrical equipment, and chemicals. The top areas for R&D investment worldwide are the pharmaceuticals and biotechnology industries.

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

### SMEs look to environmental sector for green shoots

A EurActiv article on the green economic landscape across Europe.

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

### Venture capital drought hurting biopharma SMEs

A EurActiv article on the low investment in high-risk drug development projects in the biopharmaceutical sector and the need for a new European Biopharmaceutical Innovation Fund.

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

**Link:** <http://www.euractiv.com/15>

### European universities still lack autonomy

A Science|Business article on a new study by the European University Association on university autonomy and governance of 33 European countries.

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

### Gender imbalance in science

A report on statistics on women in science in Europe entitled *She Figures* and produced every three years by the European Commission and the Helsinki Group on Women and Science is now published. Please click on the source for a more detailed look on their findings.

**Source:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/search/>

## Patents

### Unified patent system in Europe

The Council has unanimously adopted conclusions on an enhanced patent system in Europe. The Council agreement encompasses the main elements of the European Union Patent and a single European Patent Court to include local and central chambers under a common appeal court. In the initial stages, parties will be able to continue to use national courts, allowing confidence to build up gradually in the new system. Ministerial agreement was also reached on annual patent renewal fees, the cooperation between patent offices and on an approach on an EU Patent Regulation. Further work will involve the resolution of a number of pending issues such as the costly translating requirements. The European Parliament is still to take a position regarding the proposal and the European Court of Justice will have to deliver a legal opinion on the new European Patent Court.

**Source:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/9> <http://europa.eu/rapid/2>

**Link:** <http://www.euractiv.com/16>

### EU and Russia to harmonise intellectual property rights

A Science|Business article on the harmonisation of the Russian and European patent systems.

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

### China, India push for 'patent free' green tech

A EurActiv article on the controversial proposal by China and India that would effectively end patent protection for clean technologies.

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

## Calls & Partnering Events

### IMI 2009 call for proposals launched

The Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking (IMI JU) is issuing a call for proposals.

IMI JU aims to foster collaboration between all relevant stakeholders including large and small biopharmaceutical and healthcare companies, regulators, academia and patients' organisations.

The IMI 2009 call for proposals addresses nine topics: imaging biomarkers for anticancer drug development; new tools for target validation to improve drug efficacy; molecular biomarkers: accelerating cancer therapy development and refining patient care; identification and development of rapid point-of-care diagnostic tests for bacterial diagnosis to facilitate conduct of clinical trials and clinical practice; understanding aberrant adaptive immunity mechanisms; translational research in chronic immune-mediated disease: bridging between animal models and humans; drug/disease modelling: library and framework; open pharmacological space; electronic health records (EHR). The European Community will co-fund the IMI JU call to a maximum amount of €76.8 million.

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

### Clean Sky JTI calls for proposals

The second call for proposals of the Clean Sky Joint Technology Initiative (JTI) has now been launched covering a total of 24 topics. Only legal entities established in one of the EU Member States or a country associated to the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) are eligible for funding.

**Source:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/11>

### Call for proposals for visiting researchers in 2011

The Brocher Foundation residencies are now open aimed for researchers with interests in projects on the ethical, legal and social implications for humankind of recent medical research and new technologies.

**Source:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/12>

### Marie Curie Cofund call for proposals launched

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Research is calling for proposals under the Marie Curie Cofund ('Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes') scheme offering additional funding to existing or new regional and national fellowship programmes for research training and career development in order to encourage researchers' movement across borders. All fields of research and research training, except research areas covered by the EURATOM Treaty, are eligible, if they involve cross-border mobility.

**Source:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/13>

### International partnering event, Hungary

The National Office for Research and Technology of Hungary is organising a partnering event entitled 'Creating proposals for transnational research projects - establishing partnerships' on 14 January 2010.

**Source:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/15>



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.