



Brussels News Update

October 2009

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Plans for a chief scientific advisor

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso plans to appoint a chief scientific advisor to assist the incoming EU executive in making decisions on everything from GMO authorisations to addressing climate change. The new post, to be created after the new-look EU executive is sworn in, forms part of an ongoing period of major reflection inside the Commission on the re-organisation of its science, research and innovation directorates. The adviser would have the power "to deliver proactive, scientific advice throughout all stages of policy development and delivery".

Other plans include the creation of:

- a Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Civil Liberties including citizens' and minority rights
- a Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration, including security and
- a Commissioner for Climate Action.

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

Links: <http://www.euractiv.com/1>

European Institute of Technology appoints first director

A ScienceBusiness article on the appointment of Gérard de Nazelle as the first director of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

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

'Bolder, better, bigger'

The final message of Janez Potočnik to ministers in the Competitiveness Council as he reaches the end of his term as Commissioner for R&D.

Source: <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/3>

SMEs need 'strong commissioner' for enterprise

A EurActiv interview with Christophe Leitl, honorary president of Eurochambres

Source: <http://www.euractiv.com/3>

EU to review nanomaterials policies

The Commission has announced plans to review all relevant legislation within two years to ensure safety for all applications of nanomaterials in products with potential health, environmental or safety impacts over their life cycle.

The EU executive plans were revealed during the Stakeholder Conference on Nanomaterials in Brussels.

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

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

Report on Nanotechnology decision-making and public involvement

A new report from the EU-funded project DEEPEN ('Deepening ethical engagement and participation in emerging nanotechnologies') argues that efforts to involve the public in decision-making on new technologies such as nanotechnology need to be substantially rethought. The

three-year project brought together experts in ethics and philosophy and the social and political sciences from Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal and the UK to examine how ethics and responsibility are understood by the nanoscience community, and to investigate how the public views these new technologies. The project developed a set of recommendations to help policy makers and scientists improve the way they engage with the public on these issues urging policy makers to be innovative in finding ways to ensure the public is given a say in the decision-making process, and encourages them to explore different formats for public engagement. The researchers underscore that 'public engagement must be understood as sets of initiatives, rather than as one-off events - creating a public debate that is both flexible and diverse' and suggest that the debate should focus less on highly speculative ideas of what nanotechnology might be like in the distant future, and instead direct attention to its current situation.

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

Link: <http://www.euractiv.com/5>

Commission calls for additional €50bn in low carbon technologies

European Commission called public authorities, business, and researchers to join efforts in order to develop by 2020 the necessary technologies to address climate change, secure EU energy supply and ensure the competitiveness of the European economy. In a proposal entitled *Investing in the development of low-carbon energy technologies*, the Commission estimates that an additional investment of €50 billion in energy technology research will be needed over the next 10 years. This means almost tripling the annual investment in the European Union, from €3 to €8 billion and it will be a step towards in the implementation of the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan), the technology pillar of the EU's energy and climate policy. Coordinating the deployment of different sources of funding, from public and private sectors at national and EU level, is currently considered together with the EIB intervention to increase lending to finance the SET Plan.

The Commission, together with industry and the research community, has drawn up technology 'roadmaps' which identify key low carbon technologies with strong potential at EU level in six areas: wind, solar, electricity grids, bioenergy, carbon capture and storage (CCS) and sustainable nuclear fission. The additional costs would cover basic and applied research, demonstration and early market take up excluding deployment activities. A new initiative on energy efficiency for up to 30 cities ('Smart Cities Initiative') has been proposed as first enabler for the mass market take-up of energy efficiency, renewables and energy network technologies.

Sources: <http://europa.eu/rapid/3> <http://cordis.europa.eu/2>

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

EU to promote clean energy with 'smart cities'

A EurActiv article on the EU's focus on developing a network of "smart cities" to demonstrate renewable and other low-carbon energies in Europe.

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

EU to offer 'incentives' for alternative antibiotic research

A EurActiv article on plans to boost research into new antibiotics.

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

Tyre labelling deal

In three years all new tyres on sale in Europe will be classified and labelled for fuel efficiency, wet grip and noise performance following a political agreement on a labelling system similar to that used for household appliances. Like the European energy label, the tyre label will use classes ranging from best performance (green "A" class) to worst (red "G" class). It will indicate how much the tyre affects the car's fuel efficiency, its performance in wet conditions and its external rolling noise in decibels. The Parliament negotiated a re-design of the noise pictogram: the level of external rolling noise will be indicated by ascending numbers of black "waves" emitted from the "speaker". The Commission undertook to put explanations of each tyre label component and a fuel savings calculator on its website by June 2012.

Potential incentives to promote better-performing tyres to consumers are to be decided at national level.

Source: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/1>

Link: <http://www.euractiv.com/9>

International Design Registration System Simplified

The countries that are members of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) have simplified the international design registration system by suspending the earliest of the three acts that govern the Hague Agreement concerning the International Deposit of Industrial Designs. This decision will streamline the administration of the Treaty, which makes it possible to protect designs in several countries by filing one single application, in one language with one set of fees, in one currency (Swiss francs). The Hague system also simplifies the subsequent management of industrial design rights.

The existing system will be made more compatible with registration systems in countries where protection of industrial designs is contingent on examination to determine the acceptability of an application.

Source: <http://www.wipo.int/pressroom/>

ERAB calls for 'new renaissance' in Europe

The European Research Area Board (ERAB) has released its first annual report, entitled *Preparing Europe for a New Renaissance - A Strategic View of the European Research Area*. ERAB comprises 22 eminent members from the fields of science, academia and business who have been asked to provide independent advice to the European Commission on the realisation of the European Research Area (ERA). The report highlights the need for a new spirit to be instilled in European research by 2030 and the need for the kind of fervour for change that swept through Europe during the Renaissance period in the 15th and 16th centuries. ERAB has identified six broad policy areas where the 'new Renaissance' can be realised: (1) the creation of a united ERA; (2) solutions to grand challenges; (3) the interaction of science and society; (4) the collaboration of public and private sectors in open innovation; (5) the encouragement of excellence; and (6) the promotion of cohesion. For each topic, the board has also set milestones as indicators with which to measure progress. ERAB notes that, above all, trust needs to be reinstated between science and society, which they liken to the need for a social contract based on three 'Rs': rigour in decision making, respect for one another and the environment, and taking responsibility for our actions.

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

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

Key Enabling Technologies

The EU must do more to develop and deploy key enabling technologies (KETs) such as nanotechnology, micro- and nano-electronics, advanced materials and photonics. This is the main message from a new Commission communication on the subject. The communication also sets out the obstacles hindering the further development of KETs in the EU such as EU's failure to fully exploit the results of research, poor understanding of KETs among the general public, and a lack of suitably qualified and skilled workers, the low levels of private funding partners for KETs in the EU. On the policy front, the Commission writes: 'Individual Member State technology policies [...] often lack the synergies and benefits of economies of scale and scope that arise from more coordinated joint actions.' The Commission puts forwards a number of suggestions to redress the situation and highlights a number of existing policies and initiatives which Member States could deploy in the development of KETs. In addition the Commission proposes the establishment of a high-level expert group with the task of drawing up a long-term pan-European strategy for KETs.

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

Europe needs overall data strategy, says new paper

Europe is in need of a coherent data strategy to ensure competitiveness and cost-effectiveness of European research, according to a new White Paper entitled *Strategy for a European Data Infrastructure* by the Partnership for Advanced Data in Europe (PARADE). PARADE draws its membership from 23 European computing and research entities. The paper proposes a sustainable multidisciplinary data infrastructure on a pan-European scale for scientific data currently held in an estimated 150 to 200 research infrastructures, other local repositories and computer desktops. The paper also proposes a governance structure where user communities, data service providers and funding bodies work closely together. By meeting the demand for sustainable, multidisciplinary data services, says the White Paper, Europe will have an infrastructure flexible enough to deal with stakeholder requirements and needs of the future.

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

EU R&D funding agency overwhelmed with applications

A EurActiv interview with Graham Stroud, director of the newly established Research Executive Agency.

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

Exclusive: Bureaucracy buster

A ScienceBusiness interview with The ERC's interim director, Jack Metthey on how the ERC is responding to the criticism published in an independent in July 2009.

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

European Dreams: Science in 2030

A ScienceBusiness article with John Wood, Chair of the European Research Area Board (ERAB) on how research needs to change and adapt to face the future.

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

IMI launches €156M call as it gains autonomous status

A ScienceBusiness article on the new phase of the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) as it launched a €156 million second call for research proposals and took its first steps as an autonomous body.

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

Call for proposals for Marie Curie European Re-integration Grants

The European Commission is calling for proposals for Marie Curie European Re-integration Grants. The total indicative budget for this call amounts to € 32 million.

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

European R&D Newsroom now online

CORDIS, the Community Research and Development Information Service, has launched a European R&D (Research and Development) Newsroom. Bringing together content from nearly 50 sources in key R&D categories, the Newsroom is updated three times per day.

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

USA

Plans for Chemical Reform

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced plans to reform America's chemical management law in order to help protect all Americans. EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson has announced core principles that outline the Obama Administration's goals for legislative reform of the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). In parallel with this legislative initiative, Administrator Jackson also announced plans for a major effort to strengthen EPA's current chemical management program and increase the pace of the agency's efforts to address chemicals that pose a risk to the public.

Source: <http://yosemite.epa.gov>

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

Changes in Internet governance

The US-based Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the body primarily responsible for managing internet domain names, will become more open and accountable to billions of internet users worldwide. ICANN will be subject to independent review panels appointed by ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) and ICANN itself with the involvement of governments around the world.

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

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

TENDERS

Scientific and technical support on nanomaterials

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre has published a call for tenders for scientific and technical support on nanomaterials. The tender is divided into two lots: lot 1 will provide specific advice on fulfilling information requirements for nanomaterials under the Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH); lot 2 will be

dedicated to specific advice on exposure assessment and hazard/risk characterisation for nanomaterials under REACH.

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

Measurement and analysis of knowledge and R&D exploitation flows, assessed by patent and licensing data

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Research has published a call for tenders for the measurement and analysis of knowledge and research and development (R&D) exploitation flows, assessed by patent and licensing data. The main aim of this contract is to contribute to building up a system capable of monitoring R&D exploitation flows in Europe and between Europe and the rest of the world, and within the private sector as well as between the public and private sectors. The system should be able to measure knowledge- and technology-sharing inside countries, across Europe and beyond.

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

Comparative scoreboard and performance indicators in NMP research activities between EU and third countries

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Research has published a call for tender for a comparative scoreboard and performance indicators in nanotechnology, materials, processes (NMP) research activities between the EU and third countries.

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

R&D investments and structural changes in sectors

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Research has launched a call for tenders for a study on research and development (R&D) investments and structural changes in sectors - quantitative and qualitative analysis, and policy recommendations. The study will have to accomplish the following: analyse the current strengths and weaknesses of knowledge production and use in different industrial sectors of the European economy; identify factors (including effectiveness of policies) that either accelerate or reduce structural adjustment processes (both sector specific and common to all sectors); and analyse the effect of intra-EU investment in R&D on the sectoral structure of the EU economy.

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

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

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