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**Informe sobre la actividad del "Research
Policy Working Group" RPWG de la EUA.
4 de Noviembre de 2010**

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EUA's mission as the voice of Europe's universities is to **influence the outcomes of European level policy debates** on issues that will have an impact both at national level on the work of national university associations and for the association's individual member universities.

As the pan-European platform for universities, **EUA is the key partner for policy makers at European level in the increasingly broad range of public policy domains** in which universities have a role to play.

The key priorities for universities and for EUA have been outlined in the [Prague Declaration](#) 2009 which have been developed and adopted by the organisations' member universities. These include:

- Building the [European Higher Education Area](#) through the Bologna process
 - [Research & Innovation](#)
 - [Internationalisation](#) of higher education and research
 - Enhancing the [quality of European universities](#)
 - [Governance, autonomy and funding](#)

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EUA's policy activities in the area of research and innovation are led by the [Research Policy Working Group](#) (RPWG), chaired since March 2009 by **Vice-President Professor David Drewry. RPWG.**

Meets three times per year, serves as an advisory body to the EUA Board and Council in preparing and promoting EUA policy positions on behalf of its membership.

Europe's Universities – Key Stakeholders in the European Research Area

EUA's main message is that Europe's universities are key stakeholders in building the [European Research Area](#): they play the major role in supplying trained researchers; missions in basic and collaborative research; to foster interdisciplinary research skills and expertise; they are embedded in cities and regions as key components of social and economic development; and, not least importantly, they are focal points for dialogue and knowledge exchange with citizens and society.

EUA's response to the public consultation process on the European Commission [ERA Green Paper 2007](#)– [EUA's Response to ERA Green Paper](#).

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Research Policy Working Group Membership

Chair. Prof. David J Drewry, EUA Vice President

EUA Board Members

Prof. Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen, EUA Board Member

Prof Tadeusz Luty, EUA Board Member

Prof. Giuseppe Silvestri, EUA Board Member

Members

Prof. Ing. Jan Bujnak, Rector, University of Zilina, Slovakia

Prof. Torbjorn Digernes, Rector, NTNU, Norway

Prof. Dr. Heinz Engl, Vice Rector, University of Vienna, Austria

Prof. Pam Fredman, Vice Chancellor, Goteborg University, Sweden

Prof. Julia Goodfellow CBE, Vice-Chancellor, University of Kent, UK

Prof. Dr. Vaclav Hampl, Rector, Charles University Prague, Czech Republic

Prof. Klaus Hulek, Vice-President for Research, Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany

Prof. Karol Musiol, Rector Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland – Invited Observer, ERAB

Prof. Jean-Luc Nahel, Delegate of CPU, Former President, University of Rouen, France

Prof. Ilkka Niiniluoto, Chancellor, University of Helsinki, Finland

Prof. Ray O'Neill, Vice President Research, National University of Ireland Maynooth, Ireland

Prof. Marco Pasquali, Rector, Universita di Pisa, Italy

Prof. Radovan Stanislav Pejovnik, Rector, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Prof. Fernando Ramoa Ribeiro, Rector, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal

Prof. Dr. Gulsun Saglamer, Former Rector, Istanbul Teknik Üniversitesi, Turkey

Prof. José Carlos Gomez Sal, Vice-Rector, Cantabria University, Spain

Prof. Dr. Paul F. van der Heijden, Rector, Universiteit Leiden, The Netherlands

Prof. Stavros A. Zenios, Rector, University of Cyprus, Cyprus

EUA:

John Smith, Deputy Secretary General

Lidia Borrell-Damian, Senior Programme Manager

Gemma Applebee, Executive Assistant



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The RPWG agenda covers key areas of importance for Europe's universities in European research and innovation policy including:

the implementation of the

[Seventh Research Framework Programme \(FP7\)](#) and its Interim Evaluation and ideas for FP8.

[European Research Council](#) and its future funding streams and follow-up to the mid-term review report

[“Simplification”](#) of EU contract and grant funding rules and procedures
[European Platform of Universities engaged in Energy-related Research](#)
within the [European Energy Research Alliance](#) of the EU SET-PLAN,
EUA participation in [EC Expert Groups](#) addressing important issues such as the development of common principles governing the external funding of research, the assessment of university-based research and enhancement of research careers and mobility.

In 2010 RPWG meetings included working dialogues with

Prof. John Wood, Chairman of the European Research Area Board (ERAB), on the recommendations of the [ERAB report](#) “Preparing Europe for a New Renaissance: A Strategic View of the European Research Area” and the first steps to their implementation;

Prof. Anders Flodstrom Governing Board member of the [European Institute for Innovation and Technology \(EIT\)](#) on the experiences of the first call for EIT-KICs and EIT's future development. CREST (now ERAC, European Research Area Committee) High Level Group on establishing the “framework conditions” for the Joint Programming Initiative.

European Research Council (ERC)

EUA has supported strongly [European Research Council \(ERC\)](#) . FP7 providing a competitive funding mechanism to support basic research. In its 2003 [“Statement concerning the establishment of a European Research Council”](#) the need for the independence of the new body, new mechanism for supporting excellence in research and emerging new research teams.

From July 2009, the ERC achieved administrative autonomy as an Executive Agency with a Director. ERC constitutes a part – the **“Ideas” programme** in FP7.

21-23 October 2009, the EUA President put forward the idea of the need for [a third stream of ERC funding](#) to support a European-wide competition for ERC Doctoral Awards (to be held outside the candidate’s country of origin). [ERAB Strategic Review recommendations](#) **(the achievement of a level of 20% of EU doctoral candidates working outside their home country by 2030)**. In the proposed scheme University doctoral/graduate schools (rather than individuals) would be invited to apply for an allocation of ERC Doctoral Awards which would be judged on the basis of the quality of their research and training environment.

The **ERC third stream to support doctoral schools** should be further elaborated in FP8 to provide a range of funding instruments, for example, “bridge-building” ERC grants to doctoral schools to support young researchers from the doctoral research stage to the first steps of a European/international research career.

Simplification of EU contracts and rules of participation

It has supported the introduction of the FP7 eligible cost model– [EUA Statement on FP7 Rules of Participation proposal for support rates and cost models](#). EUA argued that the new FP7 cost model should offer the option of a critical flat rate payment for indirect research costs at 60% of total direct costs.

EUA's report "[Financially sustainable universities: towards full costing in European universities](#)" provided evidence-based arguments to underline the importance for Europe's universities to move towards **full costing**. It is equally vital for the European Commission to continue to **simplify the procedural rules of the 7th Framework Programme** (and all other European funding schemes) to increase flexibility in taking into account the diversity of Europe's universities and avoid placing excessive administrative burdens on them, in particular in terms of the financial and reporting procedures.

The most recent event at which EUA contributed was the European Parliament Committee for Budgetary Control Hearings in April 2010 – [EUA contribution on Key Issues for Simplification of EU Funding](#).

September 2010. CREST peer Learning Activities on Universities. Pla on new Funding models: Costing of research Activities. Murcia. Coments Juan Maria Vazquez .

Red OTRI. 23-nov Madrid . “Doc Posicion de las Universidades españolassobre la simplificacion”

Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking (IMI-JU). [a Joint Statement on IMI-JU](#).

EC Expert Groups

EUA has been involved as an observer in many expert groups covering issues of importance to Europe's Universities. These issues have ranged from involvement in the "Sounding Board" of experts on FP7 implementation and the Expert Group on enhancing philanthropic funding of research to university-business cooperation and intellectual property management.

Since 2009, EUA has participated in expert groups addressing the enhancement of research careers and mobility, the assessment of university-based research and the impact of external project-based funding on university financial management. The reports arising from the latter two Expert Groups are being disseminated and debated in the context of the EUA's current project [EUIMA](#) - European Universities Implementing their Modernisation Agenda

Expert Group reports:

[Impact of external project-based research funding on financial management in universities](#)

[Assessing Europe's University-based Research](#)

[European Institute of Technology](#)

EUA has been an active stakeholder on behalf of Europe's universities in the European Institute of Technology (EIT),

On 30 March 2006,. EUA's then President, Professor Georg Winckler, stated that ***"we are in favour of competitive mechanisms to support excellence in research and innovation but not through 'top-down' legal entities that fragment universities. New proposals such as the EIT should demonstrate added value in relation to the 7th Framework Programme instruments"***.

Ask for a greater flexibility concerning staffing arrangements between the EIT and the 'Knowledge Communities' **to avoid the building of 'walls' around faculties, departments or laboratories within universities**

The [EUA Research Policy Working Group](#) has continued to monitor closely EIT developments with regular reports to the EUA Board Council. EUA has emphasised that the role and interests of universities within EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) related to all three elements of the "knowledge triangle" – education, research and innovation.

On 1 July 2009 EUA President, Professor Jean-Marc Rapp, meet [Dr Martin Schuurmans \(Chairman of the EIT Governing Board\)](#). Need for the strong engagement of universities in all aspects of the EIT instrument. Example EUA collaboration between universities and business enterprises Doc: "[Responsible Partnering Guidelines](#)" and the "[DOC-CAREERS](#)" project examining collaborative doctoral programmes between universities and industry.

European Institute of Technology

The EIT is a new independent community body which was set up to address Europe's innovation gap. We aim to rapidly emerge as a key driver of EU sustainable growth and competitiveness through the stimulation of world-leading innovation.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation: Climate-KIC

Sustainable energy: KIC InnoEnergy

Future information and communication society: EIT ICT Labs

The EIT celebrated the official launch of the first 'Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs)' at a conference in Barcelona on 2-3 June 2010.

Dr Schuurmans. "The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) aims to produce results and the question that should always be asked is: Does this pay off in terms of new business creation?". Entrepreneurship education is a priority on the EIT agenda and that leadership is needed both on a European level and on the level of clusters in order to build a true knowledge-based economy.

EUA invited EIT Governing Board member Professor Anders Flodstrom to attend the February 2010 RPWG meeting. Discussion focussed on the future development of the new instrument of EIT-KICs in the policy context on the FP7 mid-term review, financial perspectives and future budget allocation across ERA instruments. **Professor Flodstrom** indicated that *"it was envisaged by the EIT Governing Board that there would be considerable interaction between the Board, the European Commission, European Parliament and importantly European Stakeholders before decisions were reached on the topic choices for the second call for EIT-KICs proposals"*.

European Platform Universities Engaged in Energy Research

In October 2008, ten major National Research Institutes founded the [European Energy Research Alliance \(EERA\)](#). The key objective of the EERA was to accelerate research on the development of new energy technologies by conceiving and implementing Joint Research Programmes in support of the **EU Strategic Energy Technology (SET) plan**. EUA, representing Europe's Universities, was invited by the European Commission (DG Research) as observer member of the founding group of the EERA.

Professor Helena Nazaré .European Platform of Universities engaged in Energy Research (EPUE) within the EERA. Now Professor Torbjorn Digernes, is the EUA member of the EERA Executive Committee and as Chairman of the EPUE Steering Group

The major task of the [EPUE Steering Group](#) has been to design a survey questionnaire which has been sent to the EUA university membership that seeks to achieve an initial mapping of university research and training capacity in the energy field.

EUA Declaration. *“Europe’s universities have the capacity both to develop new skills by providing specialised education that encourages entrepreneurial skills and approaches to the development of new energy technologies and markets, and to conduct “frontier” basic research addressing long-term 2050 energy perspectives”.*

The official launching of the European Platform of Energy Universities is planned to be during the Belgium EU Presidency SET-PLAN conference and the Energy Research Infrastructures Conference to be held in Brussels, 29-30 November 2010

Cuestionario enviado desde la Sectorial de la CRUE, en marzo 2010, como su última posibilidad para inscribirse.

140 respuestas- UK 16, Italia 19, Polonia 17, Germany 15, Francia 5, etc Español en el [EPUE Steering Group](#) (10 members)

Prof. Juan Pascual Martínez Pastor. Instituto de Ciencia de los Materiales, University of Valencia, Spain

- **Spain 11**
- Pontifical Comillas University
- Universidad Politecnica de Cartagena
- Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
- Universidad Politecnica de Valencia
- University of Cantabria
- University of Leon
- Universitat de Lleida
- University of Girona
- University of the Balearic Islands
- University of Vigo
- University of Zaragoza

Responsible Partnering Initiative

Europe's universities are increasingly developing partnerships in their research and innovation missions, embracing the "Open Innovation model" of university-business collaboration and seeking to embed this in sound project management and improved intellectual property management that reflects respective interests.

The Responsible Partnering Initiative has been developed through close collaboration between EUA, the European Industrial Research Management Association ([EIRMA](#)), the European Association of Research and Technology Organisations ([EARTO](#)) and the European Network of Knowledge Transfer Offices linked to Universities and Public Research Organisations ([ProTon Europe](#)). In October 2009 a fully revised '[Responsible Partnering Guidelines](#)' was published which include issues such as State Aid, European Community recommendations on IPR management and the results of the EUA [DOC-CAREERS](#) project on university-industry partnerships in doctoral research. The Steering Group for the Responsible Partnering Initiative contributes currently also to the **EC-initiated University-Business Forum** and promotes dialogue with the European Institute of Technology (EIT).

EUA has also proposed to the European Research Area Board (ERAB) that the Responsible Partnering Guidelines should be taken forward as a best practice in the first steps to creating an "Open Innovation Charter" proposed as an ERA Milestone in the ERAB's recommendations in its ["Strategic View of the European Research Area: Preparing Europe for a New Renaissance"](#) .

Philanthropic Funding of University-based Research.

Open Access

EUA has been an invited member of the [Forum for the Philanthropic Funding of Research](#) since its establishment in 2007 .

'European Forum for Philanthropy and Research Funding' conference in December 2009 was hosted in London.

Dr John Smith, EUA Deputy Secretary General, argued that philanthropic funding should support “risk taking” in research and should be a source for investing in “out of the box” ideas and approaches.

Thomas Estermann, EUA Head of Unit for Governance Autonomy and Funding, made the case that philanthropic funding should be a way of investing in research without the bureaucracy that other public funding sources often bring with them. He placed emphasis on the value of a continued dialogue and exchange between foundations and university leaders to increase the understanding of what is needed to enhance philanthropic funding for universities.

The Forum dialogue continues in December 2010 with the third Conference to be hosted by the Robert Bosch Stiftung foundation in Stuttgart, Germany, on the role of foundations in building human capacity.

Open Access

- EUA established an expert Working Group on Open Access in 2007.
- The expert Working Group built upon the important momentum given to the Open Access debate by the findings and recommendations of the [“Study on the Economic and Technical Evolution of the Scientific Publications Markets in Europe” \(European Commission, January 2006\)](#) and both the “ERC Scientific Council Statement on Open Access” and the EURAB Report on “Scientific Publication: Policy on Open Access” (both published December 2006).
- In making its recommendations the Working Group agreed that quality assurance should be the primary concern for universities as the pace of digital technology development accelerates the move towards open access publishing. Key concerns were: how will quality assurance systems be transformed by open access publishing and how will this impact upon research assessment? .
- The [recommendations from the EUA Working Group on Open Access](#) were adopted by the EUA Council on 26 March 2008 during the EUA Spring Conference held at the University of Barcelona, Spain.
- **Open Access Working Group Membership 2007-2008:**
- **Chair:**
- **Sijbolt Noorda**, (EUA Council member, NL) .
- Spain: **Lluís Anglada I Ferrer**, Director of Consorci de Biblioteques Universitaries de Catalunya

25-febrero 2010. Brussels

Item 1. Annotated Agenda

Item 2. Notes of RPWG meeting 3rd November 2009

Item 3. Report from the Chairman. David Drewry and John Smith.

Item 4. Doc A – EUA contribution to the Public Consultation on the Second Triennial Review of the Financial Regulation

Item 4. Doc B – Stakeholders Platform on Common Principles – Non Paper and Agenda

Item 5. Doc A – EUA response to the EU 2020 Consultation

Item 5. Doc B – ERAB Conference Seville 6-7 May 2010 Programme

Item 6. EPUE Mission Statement and Steering Group Membership

Item 8. Framework conditions for joint programming initiative

Item 9. EIT Launch first 3 Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs)

Participation of **Professor John Wood, Chairman of the European Research Area Board and **Professor Anders Flodstrom**, EIT Board Member and University Chancellor, Swedish National Agency for Higher Education**

25-Febrero 2010. Bruselas

- Chairman Report:
- EUA Council three major issues on which advice had been given by the RPWG
- (i) the future development of the European Research Council (ERC) and a possible new third funding stream, *“European-wide competition for ERC doctoral awards to be held outside the candidate’s country of origin”*.
- (ii) EUA’s efforts in building a European Platform of Universities engaged in Energy Research (EPUE) within the European Energy Research Alliance (EERA),
- (iii) the role of Europe’s universities in the Joint Programming initiative.

- **(i) Meeting on the creation of a “Stakeholders’ Platform on Common Principles for External Funding in the ERA” (20th January 2010, EC DG Research, Brussels).**

- **(ii) Spanish EU Presidency Seminar on “Simplification of Community Funding for Research” 25th February 2010, Brussels.**

- **Discussion with Professor John Wood, Chairman of the (ERAB), on the recommendations of the ERAB report “Preparing Europe for a New Renaissance: A Strategic View of the European Research Area” and the first steps to their implementation at the ERAB Conference on 6th – 7th May, 2010, Sevilla, Spain, and the contribution of Europe’s Universities.**
“RPWG expressed some disappointment about the Sevilla Conference programme in terms of the number of contributions from speakers from Europe’s Universities. Professor Wood acknowledged this point but responded that that the invitation policy was a complicated process at an EU Presidency event and hence not entirely in ERAB’s hands”.
Professor Wood that for the future a focused joint ERAB-EUA workshop be held on key ERAB milestones of importance to Europe’s Universities where progress can be made

25-Febrero 2010. Bruselas

Review of EUA's role and contribution as a participant within the European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) of the EU SET-PLAN and the setting-up of a European Platform of Universities Engaged in Energy-related Research

The aim of the EERA members was to establish "joint programming" activities across national research institutes in order to overcome fragmentation of Europe's research efforts in this strategically important research field. "Joint programmes" involved combining resources from institutes' budgets including "in kind" personnel costs and the first period of the EERA's work had been to develop a "cooperation and governance" structure to operate this process.

January 2010 the EERA Executive Committee had agreed to launch four "joint programmes in 2010 in the fields of wind energy, solar energy, geo-thermal energy and "smart grids" which involve a "varied geometry" of national institute involvement. At present there was no EC funding on the table for this purpose

Discussion of the potential role of EUA as stakeholder for Europe's universities in the CREST High Level Group on the Joint Programming Initiative.

RPWG had agreed that it would be crucial that Europe's university sector participated visibly and effectively in the consultation process on joint programming at the Member State level, and EUA as a stakeholder at the European level. to establish a dialogue with CREST High Level Group on Joint programming

EUA had approached the current Chair of the CREST HLG (which rotates according to the EU Presidencies – currently José Luis Garcia Lopez, Spanish Presidency) – to seek to open a dialogue on the most appropriate and workable "framework conditions" in which Europe's universities can contribute both efficiently and productively to the development of the joint programming. EUA offered, to invite the CREST HLG to present their work and their views on how to ensure the engagement of Europe's universities at a future EUA meeting. Mr Garcia Lopez had responded to this invitation indicating that HLG would prefer the latter optionBut....no pudo venir.

25-Febrero 2010. Bruselas

- **European Institute of Innovation and Technology: Discussion with Professor Anders Flodstrom (EIT Governing Board member) on the experiences of the first call for EIT-KICs and EIT's future development and the contribution of Europe's Universities.**
- **It was envisaged by the EIT Governing Board that there would be considerable interaction between the Board, the European Commission, European Parliament and importantly European Stakeholders before decisions were reached on the topic choices for the next call. that consultations had begun on how Marie Curie Actions and Erasmus Mundus schemes can help develop the "entrepreneurial" education component of these programmes and again European Stakeholder views and input here were sought .**
- **Further dialogue with EUA should be continued through both the EIT Board and the new Executive Agency in Budapest in the present crucial period of EIT's development.**

- Meeting of EUA Research Policy Working Group (RPWG)
 - Friday 11th June 2010,
 - Istanbul Technical University, Turkey

- **AGENDA**

- Welcome /Introduction and Tour de table
- Presentation on Research and Development policies in Turkey in relation to the University Sector
- Notes of the previous RPWG meeting (25th February 2010, EUA Brussels)
- Report from the Chairman, Professor David Drewry, EUA Vice-President and Dr John Smith, EUA Deputy Secretary-General. (EUA Council meeting 25-26th March 2010)
- **Main Agenda Item. Initial « brainstorming » discussion on EUA/RPWG priorities for future position on FP8 contents and instruments from the perspective of Europe’s universities. (Discussion paper to be circulated in advance of the meeting)**
- **Up-date on key areas of EUA current engagement in ERA policy development :**
 - (i) Meeting of EUA President Professor Jean-Marc Rapp with Maire Geoghegan-Quinn, EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science (28th April 2010)
 - (ii) “Stakeholders’ Platform on Common Principles for External Funding in the European Research Area” and the consultation on the EC Communication on “Simplifying the Implementation of the Research Framework Programmes”
 - (iii) European Energy Research Alliance Executive Committee and SET-PLAN Conference (3 – 4th June 2010 Madrid) and planning for launching of EUA “European Platform of Universities engaged in Energy Research”
 - (iv) EUA involvement as a stakeholder in the CREST High Level Group on the Joint Programme Initiative meeting on “Framework Conditions” (27 – 28th May 2010 Madrid)
 - (v) Conference on Implementation of the ERAB Strategic View (6 – 7th May, 2010 Seville)
 - (vi) EUA proposal for an ERC third funding stream for the support of doctoral schools (post 2013)
- Any Other Business
- Date of next meeting – 22nd November 2010, EUA, Brussels (main item – Discussion with the President of the European Research Council, Professor Helga Nowotny)

- **Meeting of EUA Research Policy Working Group (RPWG)**

- **11th June 2010,**

- **Istanbul Technical University, Turkey**

- **Report from the Chairman, Professor David Drewry, EUA Vice-President and Dr John Smith, EUA Deputy Secretary-General. (EUA Council meeting 25-26th March 2010)**

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- **i).-Future development of the European Research Council (ERC) and EUA potential proposal for a third funding stream taking account of the opinion of the EUA Council for Doctoral Education.**

- CDE Steering Committee was supportive of the proposal for an ERC third funding stream aimed at doctoral schools and programmes but that they would prefer a more “targeted instrument” to fund doctoral candidates from the final years *This instrument will allow individuals to begin a research career in research environments that prove their excellence and capacity for doctoral education. One explicit goal of this instrument will be to exploit areas of excellence in a diverse range of institutions. The criteria will apply to the doctoral programme and take into account the excellence in that specific area, not the capacity of the institution as a whole. It would also take into account the structures in place to assure transparency and accountability”.*

- **(ii) EUA’s involvement within the European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) of the EU SET-PLAN**

- building the European Platform of Universities within the EERA which was in many respects a “pilot” of the joint programming approach that might become a more common feature of future European research funding and cooperation.

- **(iii) Discussion of the potential role of EUA as a stakeholder for Europe’s universities in the CREST High-Level Group on the Joint Planning Initiative. Ok**

Meeting of EUA Research Policy Working Group (RPWG)

11th June 2010,

Istanbul Technical University, Turkey

Initial « brainstorming » discussion on EUA/RPWG priorities for future position on FP8 contents and instruments from the perspective of Europe's universities.

- The “Europe 2020 strategy” places a stronger emphasis on the need for an integrated approach across research and innovation activities – reflected in the related debate so far on FP8 which has identified the following key elements:
- the need to develop new approaches and instruments to tackle “grand societal challenges”
- the need to create stronger linkage between research and innovation policies, for example, through “Innovation Partnerships”
- to build the appropriate “architecture” for the European Research Area – for example, through “joint programming”
- to strengthen support for “frontier” basic research
- to promote greater mobility of researchers
- to further simplify the administrative and financial rules of FP contracts
- to develop more efficient management of FP programmes – use of external agencies
- “European Plan for Research and Innovation” (to be published in September 2010) is seen as a major element in the FP8 debate.

Meeting of EUA Research Policy Working Group (RPWG)

11th June 2010,

Istanbul Technical University, Turkey

- **Current FP7 – content, instruments and budget (2007 – 2013) .**
- **Cooperation:** focussed on thematic priority areas (health, food, agriculture and fisheries, biotechnology, information technologies, nano-sciences, energy, environment and climate change, transport, socio-economic sciences, space, security).
- **Ideas:** focussed on frontier research without set priority themes
- **People:** focussed on research mobility/human resource development
- **Capacities:** supports European research and innovation capacities including research infrastructures, regional research driven clusters (regions of knowledge, research potential), SMEs, “Science and Society” and International Cooperation programmes –

- **Key issues for the FP8 debate will be whether the above FP7 “architecture” (in EU jargon) should be kept or changed/adjusted to meet the type of “grand challenges” addressed in the “Europe 2020 Strategy”; and most importantly whether current FP7 funding level can be maintained or increased.** The latter will have to be based on sound argumentation and analysis demonstrating (i) the added value and efficiency of research funding at the EU level, and (ii) the effect of research and innovation funding in terms of growth and job creation.

Meeting of EUA Research Policy Working Group (RPWG)

11th June 2010,

Istanbul Technical University, Turkey

- **Schedule for development of FP8 proposal – key stages for consultation and input from European stakeholders.**
- **September 2010.** Publication of the “**European Plan for Research and Innovation**” as the EC first major input to the shape and ambitions of FP8.
- ERAC will be focus particularly on creating greater synergy across national research programmes in building the ERA, including the “architecture” of joint programming to address “grand challenges”.
- In relation to the new “European Plan for Research and Innovation” it is expected that the new political goal of creating an “Innovation Union” will be linked to ERA policy development. This may lead to the currently separate “Competitiveness and Innovation Programme” (Budget of €4,000m 2007 – 2013) being integrated within a future FP8 with perhaps implications for the future development of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).
- **November 2010** Publication of the report of the Interim Evaluation of FP7 Panel
- **Autumn 2011.** A third ERA Conference may be convened (following the 2007 & 2009 conferences) tentatively titled a “European Research and Innovation Summit” to discuss the proposed FP8 “architecture” and orientations with the various stakeholders
- **Early 2012** Publication of EU proposal for FP8 and Rules of Participation following completion of stakeholder consultation.

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- The FP8 debate the EUA should consider taking a visible and forthright stance as a European Stakeholder. This might be described as a “Triple A” approach that would see the need for the EUA position on FP8 to be **“Assertive”, “Ambitious” and “Appropriate”**. In the spirit of the forthcoming “European Plan for Research and Innovation”, **EUA should emphasise that Europe’s universities are working to provide “innovative research and training environments” and they need a combination of instruments and funding at the European, national and regional levels to assist their efforts.** Evidence from EUA’s activities in identifying best practices in doctoral programme/school development, interdisciplinary research approaches, research collaboration with industrial partners and tackling of “grand challenge” topics can be cited in support of this.
- The core political message should be repeated strongly ***that in times of economic crisis expenditure on university based research and training (and higher education as a whole) should not be regarded as “consumption” of public resources that can be easily cut, but as an “investment” in training, skill development and research and innovation activities needed to lead Europe out of the economic crisis.***

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- **“Ambitious” EUA should argue for an increased budget for the FP8** because the ambitions of the European Research Area reach beyond the traditional scope and aims of Research Framework programmes to date .
- the FP8 spans the period 2014 – 2020 and the interinstitutional negotiation does not take place until 2012-13 when Europe’s economies may have recovered from the downtown
- Emphasis should be placed upon the fact **that European Research Framework Programmes have acted as an important innovator and driver in the development of European university research and training cooperation both between universities themselves and between universities and other public research institutions and external partners in industry, commerce, government agencies, regional authorities and other external actors.**
- EU Structural funds for the period 2014-2020 need to be more strongly orientated to the “Europe 2020 Strategy “ and FP8 particularly with the introduction of a new EU mechanism to ensure that Member States’ allocated budget commitments to research and innovation investments

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- Europe's Universities take up the concept of "Innovation" and define it in their own terms demonstrating how universities provide innovative research.
- The EUA should take its own initiative and not simply be responsive by issuing in early 2011 a summary statement as a pre position on research and innovation policy in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy. . This document will be discussed in the next RPWG meeting.
- La discusión esta abierta se pueden enviar propuestas de temas o cosas concretas para que puedan ser debatidas.
- vr.investigacion@gestion.unican.es

The next meeting of the Research Policy Working Group will take place on Monday 22nd November 2010 from 10:30 until 16:00 at the new EUA offices

The main items on the agenda will be:

(i) Discussion with Professor Helga Nowotny, ERC President, on the future work and priorities of the ERC Scientific Council in the remainder of FP7 and beyond. For your information, EUA has just been approached by the ERC Identification Committee to nominate potential candidates for ERC Scientific Council membership as one third of the membership will be replaced in 2011.

(ii) The European Commission's Communication on the "Innovation Union" (to be published in October) and the EUA's draft response for debate and further development (first stage of the EUA/RPWG input to the FP8 debate as agreed in the discussion on the "brainstorming paper" at the June 2010 meeting)

**"Acaso, no piensa vuesa
merced que eso de
innovar es cosa de magos
y mas nos valdría
disfrutar de aquello
bueno que conocemos
como el vino, las viandas
y las buenas compañías"**



**Calla Sancho
amigo , o no ves
que al menos
tenemos sol,
viento y molinos
y algo se nos
ocurrirá.**

Gracias por su atención y paciencia

Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7) and FP8
European Research Council (ERC)
Simplification of EU contracts and rules of participation
EC Expert Groups
European Institute of Technology
European Platform of Universities Engaged in Energy
Research
Responsible Partnering Initiative
Philanthropic Funding of University-based Research
Open Access
Internationalisation
Quality Assurance and Accountability
QA Projects
IEP
Consultancy Services
EQAR
Policy Positions Related to Quality Assurance
Governance, Autonomy & Funding
EUA Declarations & Policy Positions

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- **EUA European Platform of Universities in Energy Research**
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