

**Actions arising from the meeting of the Task Force on instruments  
22<sup>nd</sup> February 2002**

Chair: P.Kind (RTD-B)

Present: E.Colinet (RTD-B2), J.D Malo (RTD-A3), M.Moller (INFSO), C.Renier (RTD-B2), M.Richards (RTD-G4) (partim), E.Rille (RTD-L4), K.Rouhana (INFSO)(partim), G.Van den Brande (RTD-A2)

- **Communication/information**

- **Steering group of FP 6:** the problem of the signature of the contract has to be further discussed at the WG contract level. (**MR:** DG BUDG rejects the hypothesis of a single signature allowing the entry into force of the contract. For the 12<sup>th</sup> March meeting, the MS will receive the general conditions but not yet the core of the contract).
- **Invitation to submit expression of interest:** all DGs agreed to take part in the exercise during the meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> February; some changes have to be brought to the document by the end of next week. Regarding the annexes dedicated to IP and NoE, suggestions for modification to be communicated to **LVDB** by **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb lunchtime**. DG INFSO will transmit a text regarding the possible inclusion of STRP within the EoI.
- **Seminars:** all dates fixed for external seminars (thematic seminars), two "training sessions" foreseen (IP: 26<sup>th</sup> February, NoE: 6<sup>th</sup> March); participation of DG INFSO, attendance of anyone interested from TF. Internal seminar for the network of correspondents to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> March.
- **Working documents:** working documents on NoE to be on the Web by 28<sup>th</sup> February, need for updating the IP one as well as the speaking note on all instruments implementing the thematic priorities.
- **Court of Auditors:** meeting to-day Commissioner Busquin/Colling; **EC** to "force" a meeting in March with Court representatives.
- **TF meeting on instruments financial regime (15<sup>th</sup> February):** need for some "toilettage" regarding NoE, necessity of reaching a common internal position before meeting DG BUDG (categories of costs, methodologies, insurance, audit certificates...) **JDM** to prepare a note regarding what the auditors are expected to certify and what the authorising officer would have to verify, as well as circulate the existing guide lines addressed to auditors. **ER** to identify a person experienced in auditing.

- **Interaction with other institutions**

- **Research group of the Council:** a briefing note from A3 on joint and several liability has been circulated; 7 Member states globally agree on its content, 4 are sceptical or against (in particular Germany). The Spanish Presidency will elaborate an orientation paper regarding the content of Rules of participation and the position of the various delegations for the Research Council (11<sup>th</sup> March); no meeting of the group in the meantime, an unofficial meeting Presidency/Commission in order to prepare the above document (that will be transmitted to COREPER on 27<sup>th</sup> February)
- **European Parliament:** discussion of Rules of participation next Tuesday, the rapporteur preparing her draft report for the next March meeting.
- **Economic and social Committee:** a draft opinion is under preparation, favourable to joint and several liability provided an insurance would be foreseen and financed by the Community.

- **Working document on NoE**

Comments to be sent to **CR** by lunchtime Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February. **CR** to circulate a revised text by Tuesday.

- ***Working document on specific targeted research projects (STRP)***

Text to be discussed during next meeting, having in mind the need for the Commission to limit the calling upon the “stairway of excellence”.

- ***Evaluation criteria***

- **IP:** new text circulated by LVDB; major comments to be sent to **LVDB** by **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February** , lunchtime
- **NoE:** presentation to be modified as to correspond to this of IP. Comments to be sent to **CR** by **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February** lunchtime. Agreement reached on the following issues: top level requested for all participants, necessity of sufficient flexibility in order to eliminate participants in original proposals when not necessary or not top level, to be reflected in the proposed criteria.

**Next meeting, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, SDME 1F, 9.00 a.m.**