

**Actions arising from the meeting of the Task Force on instruments
1st March 2002**

Chair: P. Kind (RTD-B)

Present: E. Colinet (RTD-B2), D. Dambois (RTD-B3), J. Fuchs (FISH), F. Gautier (RTD-A3), L. Karapiperis (RTD-B2), M. Moller (INFSO), N. Pantalos (ENTR), M. Poinot (RTD-A3), C. Renier (RTD-B2), M. Richards (RTD-G4), E. Rille (RTD-L4), K. Rouhana (INFSO), I. Sabater (TREN), G. Stroud (RTD-A2), G. Van den Brande (RTD-A2), R. Zimmermann (INFSO)

- **Interaction with other institutions**

- **Research group of the Council:** a draft Presidency note will be discussed by COREPER dealing with the main issues on which the Council would be invited to give guidance: minimum number of participants in NoE, automatic link between evaluation and selection (removing the discretion of the Commission), joint and several liability and its impact on SMEs, opportunity of a possible limit for supplementary funding of existing projects through calls for proposals. Document to be circulated by EC to the TF once available in its final form.
- **European Parliament:** a first substantive discussion on Rules for participation took place in ITRE on 26th February. The rapporteur raised two main issues: joint and several liability, and the funding approach in NoE. For the FP6 rapporteur, M. Caudron, the main remaining questions concern the balance between old and new instruments, as well as between flexibility and control, and access rights to pre-existing know-how. Timetables were agreed, the objective being a vote in plenary by mid-May on both FP and Rules of participation.

- **Information/Communication**

- **Publication on the Web:** the working document dedicated to NoE, an explanatory note on joint and several liability as well as updated versions for the speaking notes and the working document dedicated to IP have been put on the **website of DG Research on 27th February**.
- **Videoconference with UK:** organised last week by Mel Read MEP, with ~30 people from Universities, SMEs etc in her constituency. Usual questions were raised to the Chairman and R. Escritt. Proved to be an efficient communication channel enabling to reach a significant number of people.
- **External seminars:** preparation goes ahead.
- **LINK UK Programme:** invitation to the new manager to come and explain his efforts in restructuring the operation of the programme. Meeting planned on 12th April at 11.30. Anyone from the Task Force interested is welcome to attend.

- **Instruments**

- **Specific Targeted Research Projects:** there is a need for discussion with Operational Directorates the role of STRePs inside the priority themes. **TF will come back to the issue** after Easter.
- **Networks of excellence: applicability of IPR:** need for clarification of the applicability or not of IPR on the "co-programmed research activities" of the network's members. A practical solution should be found not to put unfair obligations on participants. **CR, MP** and **DD** to work together to sort out the problem, if indeed there is one (*consortium agreement? Contract? Modification of the rules?*)

- **Interaction with other FP 6 working groups**
 - **Working group on Evaluation:** The results of the sub-group and their interactions with the GS's evaluation group. The general trend is to focus on qualitative evaluation and to avoid hybrid criteria if possible, without excessively increasing the number of criteria. Regarding networks of excellence evaluation criteria, meeting to be organised by the Chairman with **MM**, **LVDB** and **CR** (fixed on Tuesday 5th March, 9.00). Regarding integrated projects, **GS** will submit the Chairman's proposal as revised following the discussion to his working group.
- **Unresolved issues to be addressed during forthcoming meetings**
 - **On the 8th March meeting:** remaining financial issues including: aspects of audit certificates, question of "hidden contractors", opportunity of fixing a ceiling and if yes, which one, for the management costs, definition of those training activities that are to be supported at 100%, question of subcontracting the project management, final discussion of "ineligible costs" issue, if possible final discussion of annualisation of payments. In addition, first discussion of SMEs situation in FP 6 on basis of **RJS** paper and of a paper from DG INFSO (**KR** to send it to the TF).
 - **Possibly during the 15th March meeting:** co-ordination actions and specific support actions (**MR** to designate the persons in charge of these issues in her WG and invite them to attend), co-financing of FP 6 with other funding sources such as Eurêka, EIB, Structural Funds... (**IS** to prepare a note to be circulated in advance on the current state of these issues and to see to it that a person of his team could attend the TF meeting).

Next meeting, Friday 8th March, SDME 7E, 9.00 a.m.