

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

Chair P.Kind (RTD-B)

Present: Martin Frohn (RTD-A3), F.Gautier (RTD-A3), M.Moller (INFSO), N. Pantalos (ENTR), C.Renier (RTD-B2), M.Richards (RTD-G4), E.Rille (RTD-L4), K.Rouhana (INFSO), Robert-Jan Smits, (RTD- A3)G.Van den Brande (RTD-A2)

- ***Communication/information***

PK and A.Mitsos have met Siemens. They expressed their general satisfaction regarding the new instruments, while they also expressed some concerns regarding joint and several liability and their wish to go back to FP4 provisions concerning IPR and affiliates.

A3 agreed to produce a short note giving the explanation that can be used against these pressures concerning affiliates.

- ***Interaction with other institutions***

- **Council Research Group:** this week's discussion on the joint and several liability showed that there is a general reluctance among MS to accept it. The arguments of the representatives if the Commission (firm on the principle, more flexible on the implementation) might have convinced certain delegates.
- **Economic and Social Committee:** The Committee will continue its discussion in mid-February.

- ***Joint Sub-Group on Evaluation***

The subgroup (**LvdB**, **MM**, **Isabel Mínguez** and **CR**) had a first meeting last 30th January. It focused on the feasibility of applying different criteria to different instruments according to their specific characteristics, starting with NoE on basis of RTD-B2 document.

- ***Costs incurred by associates of a participant***

The **A3** document was discussed. The Task Force agreed, in principle, that the Community should be able to contribute towards the costs incurred by an associate of a participant, when that associate is taking part in the project under a formal agreement with the participant and the work is carried out on the participant's premises.

However, the Task Force expressed some reservations about the precise proposals in the paper and wished to see more precision in the terms that will be found in the model contract. **A3**. agreed to review their paper. The necessity of understanding clearly the IPR consequences was also underlined.

- ***Insurance cover for the liability provision***

Several members of the Task Force expressed reluctance against the principle of covering the cost of the insurance at Community level. Further reflection has to be conducted on the general issue of limiting the negative effects of the liability provision (without of course losing the benefits). **A3** to produce a document in the view of a next meeting.

- ***Speaking notes on the instruments available for implementing the FP6 priority thematic areas:***

Suggestions for some slight changes were made, including the introduction of a general disclaimer as to underline the document is not binding the Commission.

It was agreed that the document should be widely circulated as soon as possible.

- ***Networks of excellence***

Agreement has been reached on the following points:

- The N number of researchers is this at the time of the proposal (or at the start of the project); possible future extensions of staff would not be taken into account;
- The researchers taken into consideration for the calculation of the grant are those working on the topics (without any consideration of the part of time they dedicate to it);
- The payments have to be made on basis of a fixed formula, preferably degressive during the last year(s);
- The payments will be made provided the costs of the JPA annual implementation will exceed the amount of our yearly contribution, and provided the evaluation comes to the conclusion that they have accomplished what was foreseen for the period considered.

CR to provide revised document for next meeting.

- ***Future meetings***

It was agreed that in future meetings would start at 09.00 each Friday and last approximately two hours.

Next meeting, Friday 8th February, room to be confirmed, 9.00 a.m.