

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. Gauthier (RTD-A3)(partim), 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)(partim), G. Van den Brande (RTD-A2), R. Zimmermann (INFSO)

- **Interaction with other institutions**

- **Research group of the Council:** an informal discussion has taken place with the Presidency on 25th February; a note has been circulated by the Presidency to COREPER dealing with the main issues the Council is asked to give guidance on: minimum number of participants in NoE, automatic link between evaluation and selection (i.e. reduction of the Commission decisional margin), joint and several liability and its impact on SMEs, opportunity of a possible limit for supplementary calls for proposals. Document to be circulated by **EC** to the TF once available, as well as this dedicated by the German delegation to joint and several liability.
- **European Parliament:** a first substantive discussion on Rules for participation took place on 26th February. Numerous problems have been raised, among which: joint and several liability, balance between old and new instruments, as well as between flexibility and necessity of control, access rights for affiliates, absence of cost approach in NoE (German position). The following timetable was agreed: discussion on basis of the draft report of the rapporteur on 18th and 19th March; amendments possibly introduced until 21st March; new debate on the amendments on 16th and 17th April, followed by a vote in ITRE on 22nd and 23rd April, the vote in plenary being foreseen by mid-May.

- **Communication**

- Working document dedicated to NoE, joint and several liability as well as a revised version of the speaking notes and of the working document dedicated to IP have been put on the **web**.
- **External seminars:** preparation goes ahead; possible interest to contact Nature as to involve the press as possible multiplier further to those attending the seminars (invitation? Interview?)
- **Link UK Programme:** invitation to the new manager to come and explain his efforts in restructuring the operation of the programme on 12th April at 11.30.

- **Instruments**

- **Specific Targeted Research Projects:** the main issue is to shape them as to reach the objective pursued for after 2004; there is a need for discussions with Operational Directorates: among other: matter of joint and several liability in the STReP, covering of management costs (actually no need of covering them up to 100 % as it is the case in the IP). **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 that are not jointly executed. Practical solution to be identified by **CR-MP/DD**. (consortium agreement? Contract? Modification of the rules?)

- **Interaction with other FP 6 working groups**
 - **Working group on evaluation:** a long discussion took place on the character of the criterion "relevance to the objectives of the specific programme": eligibility or evaluation criterion?; as to the "management criterion", it appears to be quite hybrid as covering consortium, organisation and resources aspects. Further problem regarding a possible two steps proposals: which criteria would be used during the various steps? Further work is necessary; the general trend is to focus on qualitative evaluation if necessary supported but not dominated by scores. Regarding networks of excellence evaluation criteria, meeting to be organised with **PK, MM, LVDB** and **CR** (fixed on Tuesday 5th March, 9.00); regarding integrated projects, PK's proposal distributed during the meeting will be submitted by **GS** to the working group.
- **Issues to be discussed during future meetings**
 - **During the next meeting:** all aspects of audit certificates, question of "hidden contractors", opportunity of fixing a ceiling and if yes, which one, for the co-ordination costs, definition of those training activities that are to be financed 100 %, question of subcontracting management, final discussion of "ineligible costs" issue, if possible final discussion of annualisation of payments, 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 15th March meeting:** co-ordination actions and specific support actions (**CR** to ask **MR** whether the people in charge of these issues would be able to attend), co-financing of FP 6 with other financing sources such as Eurêka, EIB, Structural Funds... (**CR** to ask **IS** whether a note could be circulated in advance on the current state of these issues and whether someone could attend the TF meeting)

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