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February 2011



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Commission invites EuCheMS to High Level Group discussions - Chemical Sciences Roadmap

On 10th February, the European Commission hosted a conference on the implementation of the recommendations of the High Level Group (HLG) on the Competitiveness of the European Chemicals Industry. Professor Luis Oro, President of EuCheMS, called for a renewed commitment to the recommendations. Professor Oro pointed to some of the contributions EuCheMS has made, including the awarding of the European Sustainable Chemistry Award, work in the field of education and the role played in supporting the International Year of Chemistry.

Professor Oro also announced that EuCheMS would be addressing one of the main recommendations made by the HLG, on the need for 'a road mapping exercise'. Professor Oro said that EuCheMS was uniquely positioned to provide insight, analysis, expertise and foresight in the creation of such a roadmap and that over the next six months we would be working with internationally recognised experts to develop a 'Roadmap for the Chemical Sciences', the roadmap will identify critical gaps in knowledge and research which are limiting technological progress.

In a session on Human Resources, Professor Pavel Drasar presented the work of the European Chemistry Thematic Network Association. Professor Drasar provided information on the progress made on the 'Eurobachelor' and 'Euromaster' quality awards. Both presentations, along with those made by other participants, are available at the link below.

Source: <http://www.euchems.org/News/ChemRes.asp> <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise>

EuCheMS: Women Sharing a Chemical Moment in Time, European Parliament

As part of the International Year of Chemistry, EuCheMS invited three women MEPs to participate in the global handshake, 'Women Sharing a Chemical Moment in Time'. Edit Herczog MEP (Hungary), Maria da Graça Carvalho MEP (Portugal) and Britta Thomsen MEP (Denmark) answered questions sent in from Hungary, Spain and Sweden. Each of the MEPs was very familiar with the issues of 'Women in Science' and all are members of the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy.

Source: www.chemistryeurope.eu

EU research and innovation funding: Commission consults on the future of Research and Innovation Programme

The European Commission has launched its consultation on major improvements to EU research and innovation funding with the aim of making participation easier, increasing scientific and economic impact and improving value for money. The proposed "Common Strategic Framework", set out in the Green Paper, would cover the current Framework Programme for Research (FP7), the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). The Commission are hoping to create a coherent set of instruments, along the whole "innovation chain" starting from

basic research, culminating in bringing innovative products and services to market. The Commission also wish to support non-technological innovation, for example in design and marketing. EuCheMS will be making a response to the questionnaire.

The Commission will launch in the coming weeks a competition to find the most inspiring name for the new common framework. The deadline for contributions is 20 May. On 10 June, the Commission will organise a major closing conference as a follow-up to the public consultation

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/research/csfr/index_en.cfm

Europe 2020 Strategy: "A Resource-Efficient Europe"

The Resource-Efficient Europe strategy is the seventh and last of the Europe 2020 flagship initiatives setting out Europe's strategy for the next ten years. Resource efficiency will now be the guiding principle for EU policies in a wide range of areas, including : energy, transport, climate change, industry, commodities, agriculture, and regional development. The Commission will use synergies across these policy-areas, to help the EU reach a variety of EU objectives, from reducing European greenhouse gas emissions by 80 to 95% by 2050 to reducing food insecurity in developing countries. Commissioner for the Environment, Janez Potočnik, makes it clear that 'business as usual' is not an option, as we will 'quickly hit the physical limits of our planet'. The strategy in is not about creating a 'green niche' in the economy, it is about greening the entire economy. Resources are to be understood in the broadest sense from raw materials such as fuels, minerals and metals, to food, soil, water, air, biomass and ecosystems. The Commissioner believes that a lot of investment in research and innovation is needed, in order to reap the benefits that green and other technologies can bring.

The strategy already lists a number of specific initiatives to be tabled for 2011, including: a low-carbon economy roadmap 2050; a 2020 energy efficiency plan; a white paper on the future of transport; an energy roadmap 2050; a roadmap for a resource-efficient Europe; Reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy, Cohesion Policy, energy infrastructure and trans-European transport networks; measures regarding commodity markets and on raw materials.

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/resource-efficient-europe/>

Commission calls for action on commodities and raw materials

At the beginning of February, the European Commission presented its strategic vision to tackle challenges in Commodity markets and on raw materials. The Commission proposes actions aimed at improving the regulation, functioning and transparency of financial and commodity markets. The strategy presents an overview of developments. To take account of discussion in the G-20, currently led by France, the strategy was delayed so that it could also take account of the role played by commodity markets.

Key elements in the strategy include: enhancing resource efficiency and promoting recycling, by tackling the waste levels due to sub-standard treatment inside or outside the EU and obstacles to the development of the recycling industries and promoting 'urban mining'; and, further promoting research and innovation efforts along the entire value chain of raw materials, from extraction, processing, recycling and resource efficiency to substitution.

At a recent public hearing on this issue in the European Parliament, EuCheMS brought their response to the Raw Materials Initiative (RMI) to the Parliament's attention.

Sources: EuCheMS response to RMI

<http://www.euchems.org/News/RMI.asp>

Commission's raw materials policy:

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies>

FAQs:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction1>

CEFIC response:

<http://www.cefic.be/PressReleases/Cefic>

ERC selects new Scientific Council members

The Scientific Council, the European Research Council's governing body, defines the scientific funding strategy and methodologies for the ERC. It is presently chaired by Prof. Helga Nowotny and is composed of 22 eminent scientists and scholars. The ERC has recently appointed six new members to the Council. EuCheMS is very supportive of the ERC's focus on frontier research; however, EuCheMS has already raised concerns that the Scientific Council is not broadly representative of all disciplines. In particular, EuCheMS, feels that the chemical sciences are poorly represented on this body. The new appointees do not redress this imbalance.

The Scientific Council will choose the new ERC Secretary General. An announcement is expected in the first quarter of 2011.

Source: http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/ERC_PR_Renewal_ScC.pdf

ERC Gender Equality Plan

The ERC Gender Balance Working Group is a permanent structure under the ERC Scientific Council. It was created in July 2008 to monitor gender equality throughout the ERC process. The gender equality plan 2007-2013 has been formulated by the working group and was adopted by the Scientific Council on 16 December 2010. The plan focuses on raising awareness and submission rates and ensures that the evaluation and selection process is not biased by, for example, ensuring that peer review panels are balanced.

Source : <http://erc.europa.eu/5>

ERC staff changes

As part of the restructuring of the newly named DG Research and Innovation there have been a number of staff changes in the ERC. Jack Metthey has left to become Director for Framework Programme Inter-institutional Relations. Pablo Amor is the current acting Director of the ERC.

Source: http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/Organisation_Chart.pdf

President Van Rompuy welcomes European Council Energy conclusions

The European Council at the beginning of February looked beyond the immediate action required to tackle the most pressing challenges posed by the economic crisis and focused on two areas that are key to Europe's growth and prosperity – energy and innovation.

On Energy, there will be speedy and full implementation on legislation on the internal energy market by 2014, the Commission has also called for early adoption of a proposal for energy market integrity and transparency. Work on standardisation will be stepped up with a view to common technical standards for electric vehicle charging systems by mid-2011 and for smart grids and meters by the end of 2012. The Commission will make a proposal on improving energy infrastructure authorisation procedures. Whilst the bulk of investment will come from the private sector there may be some projects that cannot attract enough investment, but which would be justified from a security of supply/solidarity perspective. The Commission will report in June on how best to use public finance to leverage private finance in these circumstances. In order to further enhance its security of supply, Europe's potential for sustainable extraction and use of conventional and unconventional (shale gas and oil shale) fossil fuel resources will be assessed.

The Council has called for renewed determination in reaching the EU's energy efficiency targets, an important element will be energy saving measures. The Council has called on all EU states to include energy efficiency standards in public procurement for public buildings and services. The EU and its Member States will promote investment in renewables and safe and

sustainable low carbon technologies and focus on implementing the technology priorities established in the European Strategic Energy Technology plan. The Commission will also launch new initiatives on smart grids, including those linked to the development of clean vehicles, energy storage, sustainable bio fuels and energy saving solutions for cities.

Source: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu2>

Commissioner for Research and Innovation welcomes European Council conclusions on Innovation

EU leaders gave their support to the Innovation Union at the European Council on 4th February. Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn welcomed the green light given for the launch of the first European Innovation Partnership, the endorsement of the EU-wide venture capital scheme building on the European Investment Fund; the agreement to reinforce the Risk Sharing Finance Facility and the completion of the European Research Area by 2014. The Commissioner also thanked the Council for their support for more action in the field of procurement, standardisation and intellectual property. The Commissioner argued that a step change in Europe's research and innovation performance was needed to achieve a sustainable exit from crisis, catch up with the US and stay ahead of emerging nations."

Source : <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction3>

New Innovation Union Scoreboard: main competitors outpace the EU despite progress in many Member States

The EU is failing to close the innovation performance gap with its main international competitors: the US and Japan. Although the trends in most EU Member States are promising despite the economic crisis, progress is not fast enough. Within the EU, Sweden is the most impressive performer followed by Denmark, Finland and Germany. The UK, Belgium, Austria, Ireland, Luxembourg, France, Cyprus, Slovenia and Estonia, in that order, form the next group. These are some of the main conclusions from the 2010 Innovation Union Scoreboard (IUS) published today by the European Commission. This is the first edition under the Innovation Union initiative and replaces the former European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS). The Scoreboard feeds into the recently published Annual Growth Survey produced by EU countries to help them identify strengths and weaknesses to boost innovation performance.

The 2010 Scoreboard draws on 25 research and innovation-related indicators and covers the 27 EU Member States, as well as Croatia, Serbia, Turkey, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Norway and Switzerland. The indicators are grouped into three main categories: "Enablers", i.e. the basic building blocks which allow innovation to take place (human resources, finance and support, open, excellent and attractive research systems); "Firm activities" which show how innovative Europe's firms are (firm investments, linkages & entrepreneurship, intellectual assets); and, "Outputs" which show how this translates into benefits for the economy as a whole (innovators, economic effects).

Source: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction4>

Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn speaks to the Royal Society in London

Research, Innovation and Science Commissioner Maíre Geoghegan-Quinn addressed the Royal Society, in London. The speech covered the opportunities the Innovation Union offers for the UK, as well as following up President Barroso's message to the European Council on the need to maintain and make more effective the investment in education, research and innovation. The Commissioner said that it does not make sense to duplicate on the European level what can be done at the national level, but suggested that states need to recognise that EU level action can add value.

Source: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction5>

EU will fail to achieve its education targets unless national objectives are upgraded, Ministers are warned

The European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, Androulla Vassiliou, has warned EU Education Ministers that they need to upgrade their national targets if Europe is to reach its 2020 goals for reducing early school leaving and increasing the number of graduates. Most Member States – with the exception of the UK and Netherlands - have set national but taken together, the national targets would still result in Europe failing to achieve its 2020 objectives by around 800 000 tertiary students and 200 000 early school leavers. The UK has refused to set targets despite voting in favour of the EU-wide goals when they were agreed by the European Council in the summer of last year.

Commissioner Vassiliou also presented the Europe 2020 flagship initiative "Agenda for New Skills and Jobs", the Commission will launch several new measures over the coming years, including the EU Skills Panorama, which will forecast what skills will be needed in the future, and a European Skills Passport, to record people's skills in a transparent and comparable way.

Source: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction6>

GMOs in honey

The Bayerischer Verwaltungsgerichtshof (Higher Administrative Court of the Land of Bavaria, Germany) asked the European Court of Justice whether the presence of genetically modified maize pollen in apicultural products constitutes a 'material interference' with them so that their placement on the market should be subject to authorisation. In the Opinion of the Advocate General it was held that whilst the material may still contain genetic information, the simple presence in it of DNA and the possible incorporation of that DNA by other organisms does not thereby mean that the dead organism is still capable of actively transferring genetic material. Nevertheless, the Opinion concluded that the unintentional presence in honey, even of a minute quantity of pollen from genetically modified maize, means that such honey must be the subject of an authorisation to be placed on the market.

Source: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction7>

FUNDING UPDATE

Simplification for SMEs – immediate changes to cut red tape for researchers and SMEs

The European Commission has adopted measures aimed at making participation in the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for Research more attractive and more accessible to the best researchers and most innovative companies, especially SMEs.

There are two concrete measures that have been announced. Each of these steps responds to concerns repeatedly expressed by participants in FP7:

1. Allowing more flexibility in how personnel costs are calculated so that grant-holders can apply their usual accounting methods when requesting reimbursement for average personnel costs. They will no longer need to set up parallel accounting systems just for this purpose
2. SME owners whose salaries are not formally registered in their accounts can now be reimbursed, through flat-rate payments, for their contribution to work on research projects.

The Commission have also set up a new steering group of senior officials from all relevant Commission departments and agencies to remove inconsistencies in the application of the rules on research funding. The Commission considers simplification as one of the basic design principles for the next EU research and innovation programme.

Source: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction8>

€100,000 Award Improving Ecological Risk Assessment

CEFIC (European Chemical Industry Council), in conjunction with the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC), the Association of European Toxicologists and European Societies of Toxicology (EUROTOX), the International Society of Exposure Sciences (ISES) and Chemical Week, is offering a €100,000 award to support promising new research in the field of environmental sciences related to ecological risk assessment. The objective of this LRI Award is to stimulate innovative research, 'out-of-the-box' thinking and approaches which will advance the ecological relevance and reliability of environmental/ ecological risk assessment. The research should be complementary to the Long-range Research Initiative's (LRI), a chemical industry funded programme that aims at enhancing scientific knowledge to help protect health and the environment. Deadline: 18 March 2011

Source: <http://www.cefic-lri.org/awards>

COST Call - European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)

Proposals should include researchers from a minimum of five COST countries. Financial support in the range of EUR 100 000 p.a. for normally four years can be expected, subject to available budget. Eligible Proposals will be assessed by the relevant Domain Committees in accordance with the published criteria at <http://www.cost.eu>. Deadline 25 March 2011

Source: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu3>

Intelligent Energy - Europe

The Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) has launched a call for proposals under the 'Intelligent Energy — Europe' 2011 work programme. The call is closes on 12 May 2011 for all types of actions (except for the integrated initiative 'The Building Workforce Training and Qualification Initiative in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy' which will close on 15 June 2011). Information on the modalities of the call and guidance to proposers on how to submit projects is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/energy>

The helpdesk of the 'Intelligent Energy — Europe' programme can be reached at: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/contact/index_en.htm N C 26/34 Official Journal of the European Union 28.1.2011.

Source : <http://eur-lex.europa.eu4>

Metrology Call: Health, SI Broader Scope & New Technologies

The European Metrology Research Programme (EMRP) is a metrology-focused European programme of coordinated R&D that facilitates closer integration of national research programmes. The EMRP is jointly supported by the European Commission and the participating countries within the European Association of National Metrology Institutes (EURAMET e.V.). The EMRP aims to reduce duplication and increase impact. An indication of the fields to be covered and the schedule can be found using the link below. In 2012 and 2013 calls are expected in the fields of industry, energy and the environment.

Source: <http://www.emrponline.eu/a169.html>

ERC Starter Grants, 4080 proposals

The European Research Council has recently revealed that 4080 proposals were submitted for the ERC Starting Grant call for projects in 2011, it is estimated that around 12% of applicants will be successful. There is a sharp 42% increase on 2010, in proposals. The distribution is as follows: 1690 proposals in "Physical Sciences and Engineering" (PE), 1440 in "Life Sciences" (LS) and 950 in "Social Sciences and Humanities" (SH). The budget for starter grants for 2011 is €660M, is €132M higher than for 2010.

Source: http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/Update_SubmissionsStG2011.pdf

ERC Advanced Grants Results

The latest results from the call for 'Advanced Grants', from the European Research Council (ERC) have recently been announced. This year €590 million will be awarded to 266 established research leaders. The grants are worth up to €3.5 million each. The national breakdown is as follows: United Kingdom (51); Germany (49); France (29); Italy (19); Israel and Netherlands (15 each); Spain (11); Sweden and Switzerland (10 each); USA (9); Denmark (8); Norway (6); Belgium and Finland (5 each); Austria and Hungary (4 each); Greece and Portugal (3 each); Russia (2); Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic; Malta; New Zealand and Tunisia (1 each). A full list of the successful proposals can be found using the link below.

Source: http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/Press_release_AdG2010_results.pdf

CHEMICALS UPDATE

REACH – Technical Guidance Published

The Commission has published the technical guidance on how to apply for an authorisation for substances included in Annex XIV (all substances which are subject to authorisation under REACH the regulation concerning the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals). **Source:** <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/7>

Commission publish Q&A on Herbal Medicines Directive Deadline

The Herbal Directive (Directive 2004/24/EC) was adopted to facilitate the placing on the EU market of traditional herbal medicinal products. All medicinal products, including herbal medicinal products, need a marketing authorisation to be placed on the EU market. The deadline for registering traditional herbal medicinal products that were already on the market on the date of entry into force of the Directive is 30 April 2011. Whilst the European Medicines Agency (EMA) does not have a role in the registration of traditional herbal medicinal products, they have set up a Committee for Herbal Medicinal Products (HMPC). This body will ensure recognition in all EU Member States, once a herbal medicine is authorised by one EU country.

Source: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction4>

ECHA News

The ECHA, the European Chemicals Agency has published an updated list of national helpdesks.

Source : http://echa.europa.eu/help/nationalhelp_contact_en.asp

The ECHA has opened a list of 'phase-in' substances. There is no guarantee that those substances undergoing processing within the registration unit will actually succeed in being registered.

Source: <http://apps.echa.europa.eu/registered/registered-sub.aspx>

The ECHA have published a work programme of their activities for 2011. Other than the implementation of REACH and CLP, the ECHA will: report on the public's perception of the risks and safe use of chemicals; provide scientific and technical advice to the European Commission on nanomaterials and endocrine disruptors; be drawing lessons from the first registration deadline; offer advice on avoiding unnecessary animal testing; prepare its first 3-year report on non-animal tests; manage the fees collected in 2010 in order to self-finance for REACH and CLP in the next three years; and, prepare for work on the Biocides Regulations.

Source: <http://echa.europa.eu/doc1>

BUSINESS UPDATE

EU chemicals sector output expected to be more moderate in 2011

CEFIC (the European Chemical Industry Council) annual summary forecast for the chemical sectors has predicted a growth rate of 2.5% for 2011. This follows double digit growth for 2010. CEFIC Director General Hubert Mandery said that the sharp chemicals rebound in 2009 and early 2010 was driven by inventory rebuilding, support measures, and exports. But chemicals output levels forecast for the end of 2011 will remain well below the peak levels reached in 2007. Overseas demand has been the main driver of a rapid recovery in European chemicals output in 2010. Domestic demand, although much improved, remains short of pre-crisis levels.

Source: <http://www.cefic.be/PressReleases/9>

CEFIC Responsible Care Awards 2011 open for entries, new 'Community Outreach Award'

The first-ever Responsible Care Award for community outreach will be launched at this year's European Responsible Care Awards ceremony, CEFIC (the European Chemical Industry Council) announced today. The trade group will launch the new award, joining the SME and overall awards, to celebrate the 2011 International Year of Chemistry by recognising best-in-class community outreach projects from companies and business federations. CEFIC begins accepting application submissions today through June 24.

Source: <http://www.cefic.be/PressReleases/2011>

Prior notification of a concentration - Rosneft Oil Company/BP/Ruhr Oel

On 3 February 2011, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration by which Rosneft Oil Company and BP p.l.c. acquire within joint control over industrial solvents and utilities services businesses of Ruhr Oel GmbH which is currently jointly controlled by BP and Petroleos de Venezuela Europa. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation to the Commission.

Source: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/>

JOBS UPDATE

ECHA seek Senior Scientific Officers in Toxicology

ECHA, the European Chemicals Agency, wishes to recruit Senior Scientific Officers in Toxicology. The post involves working in multidisciplinary teams to evaluate scientific and technical information on toxicity, exposure and risks of chemical substances and develop tools and procedures to support the implementation of REACH and CLP. A PhD in the field of toxicology or active involvement in international co-operation in the field of human health risk assessment of chemicals following will be considered as assets. Deadline: 21 February 2011

Source: <http://echa.europa.eu/doc/opportunities/>

CONSULTATIONS

EU research and innovation funding: Commission consults on the future of Research and Innovation Programme

See above.

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/research/csfr/index_en.cfm

Rio+20 - Consultation on the planned European Commission Communication for the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The Commission will publish, towards the middle of 2011, a Communication setting out its views on objectives and possible concrete deliverables for UNCSO, as a basis for further dialogue with the EU institutions, civil society and other interested actors, including third countries. This public consultation serves to provide the Commission with initial views from stakeholders. Deadline: 10 April 2011

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/un_2012.htm

Nanomaterials in Food

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has launched a public consultation on its draft guidance document for engineered nanomaterial (ENM) applications in food and feed. The guidance document, prepared in response to a request from the European Commission, outlines that in this evolving area of science, it remains essential to adequately characterise the ENM following classical risk assessment practices; hazard identification and hazard characterisation followed by exposure assessment and risk characterisation. The EFSA guidance sets out the data needed by applicants to allow a risk assessment to be carried out, that takes account of the specific properties of the ENM. Deadline: 25 February 2011.

Source: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/>

Clinical Trials Consultation

On 9 February, a public consultation on a concept paper on the revision of the 'Clinical Trials Directive' 2001/20/EC was launched. The concept paper presents: a 'preliminary appraisal' of which option appears to be the most suitable one to address some of the key concerns of the Clinical Trials Directive, on the basis of the current state of the impact assessment; and the main figures that are being used to evaluate the impacts of the different policy options.

Deadline: 13 May 2011

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/health/human-use/clinical-trials/index_en.htm

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

February

23rd February, ERAC (European Research Area Committee) : Presentation on draft ERAC advice on ERA instruments for the next framework programme; also, seminar on universities expected end of February.

24th February, deadline EFSA consultation on nanomaterials in food

24th-25th February, FP7 Interim Evaluation Workshop, Budapest

March

7th-8th March, Women in Science Conference, Budapest

10th-11th March, Council Competitiveness, : Europe 2020 strategy – Annual Growth Survey, exchange of views; discussion on Innovation Policy: Flagship Initiative Implementing the orientations from the February European Council on innovation; extension Euratom; interim evaluation FP7; policy discussion FP8; Knowledge-based bio-economy

18th-19th March, Brain Research Conference, Budapest

30th-31st March, Innovation in Healthcare conference, jointly organised by several the services of the EC, including: DG Research and Innovation, DG Enterprise and Industry and DG Health and Consumers. Source: http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/events-04_en.html

31st March, deadline Intellectual Property Rights consultation

April

4th April, deadline Rio 20+ consultation

11th-13th April, Informal Council Competitiveness, Budapest-Gödöllő : the 8th Framework Programme for Research and Developments; and, Strategic Research Agenda of the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT)

28th-29th April, ERAC (European Research Area Committee), Budapest : Progress on the idea of European Innovation Partnerships, including state of play with first pilot action; presentation of Research and Innovation policy; discussion on the nature and scope of the consultation on ERA policy; discussion on interaction between next Framework programme and national programmes.

May

13th May, deadline Clinical Trials Consultation

17th-18th May, The European Chemicals Agency will organise its 6TH Stakeholders' Day in Helsinki. The event will be webstreamed.

http://echa.europa.eu/news/events/6th_stakeholders_day_en.asp

19th-20th May, Global Helsinki Chemicals Forum, featuring Sustainable chemistry

http://finnexpo.multiedition.fi/wwwcem/cem/program/Materials_2011/HCF2011_A5esite_keyvt.pdf

20th May – Deadline, response Future of Framework Programme Consultation

30th May-1st June, EuroNanoForum, Budapest <http://www.euronanoforum2011.eu/>

30th-31st May, Council Competitiveness: Interim evaluation of the European Research Council (ERC), Information from the Commission; (possible) Mid-term review of ambient assisted living joint program (AAL), Information from the Commission; Mid-term review of EUROSTARS program, Information from the Commission; Strategic Agenda of the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT), information by the Presidency

31st May, Stakeholder conference on future orientations of EU Research and Innovation policy

End May, beginning June, ERAC (European Research Area Committee): Preparation of the Innovation Convention under the Polish Presidency; Progress on framework conditions for Joint Programming Initiatives (JPI), including, standardisation and procurement; R&I investment crisis; advice on modernisation of universities in preparation of Commission Communication

June

10th June, Launch new name for Research Framework Programme, Stakeholder Event

20th-22nd June, European Research Council Meeting, Budapest

