

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



Brussels, 26 November 2008 COST 279/08 (Presse 346)

172nd MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICALS OR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL **RESEARCH (COST)**¹

Brussels, 24-25 November 2008

The 172nd meeting of the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) was held in Brussels on 24 - 25 November 2008. The meeting was chaired by Professor Francesco **Fedi**, the President of the CSO.

PRESS

COST, established in 1971, is an inter-governmental framework for cooperation and networking of European research activities. COST does not fund research itself, but supports networking activities such as meetings, conferences, short term scientific exchanges and outreach activities. COST receives financial support for its coordinating activities from the EU RTD Framework Programme (FP). COST comprises 34 European Member States and one cooperating State (Israel).

COST Legal Status and Governance

The <u>Committee</u> took note of the substantial preparatory work that had been carried out by its working group "<u>JAF Group</u>" with a view to examining questions related to the COST legal status and governance beyond the 7th RTD Framework Programme (2007-2013)², notably whether COST should be endowed with a legal personality or maintain its "non legal status" (which calls for an implementing agent). The <u>Committee</u> concluded that a High Level Group with the participation of both COST and ESF representatives would meet to further examine questions related to the cooperation between COST and the ESF in this respect.

The <u>Committee</u> will return to the question of COST legal status and governance at its meeting in May/June 2009.

CSO approves 30 new COST Actions³

Following the Open Call for new Action proposals and the selection process with the involvement of External Expert Panels, the Committee approved the following 30 new COST Actions to be launched:

- Life Sciences Cluster

Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences (BMBS)

BM0804	European Network on Fish Biomedical Models (Acronym: EUFishBioMed)
	 a community resource to enable effective zebrafish partnering in EU projects targeting human diseases (proposal from Germany)
BM0805	HOX and TALE transcription factors in Development and Disease (ES)
BM0806	Recent advances in histamine receptor H4R research (EL)

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It was recalled that COST had designated the European Science Foundation (ESF) as its implementing agent for the duration of the 7th RTD FP. The financial support from the FP is provided through a grant agreement between the Commission and the ESF.

Information on COST Actions: http://www.cost.esf.org/index.php

Food and Agriculture (FA)

FA0805 Goat-parasite interactions: from knowledge to control (CAPARA) (EL)

FA0806 Plant virus control employing RNA-based vaccines: A novel non-transgenic

strategy (EL)

FA0807 Integrated Management of Phytoplasma Epidemics in Different Crop

Systems (IT)

Forests, their Products and Services (FPS)

FP0803 Belowground carbon turnover in European forests (CH)

FP0804 Forest Management Decision Support Systems (FORSYS) (SE)

Transdomain

TD0801 Statistical challenges on the 1000€ genome sequences in plants (FA, ICT)

(NL)

- Natural Sciences Cluster

Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies (CMST)

CM0803 Functional peptidomimetic foldamers: from unnatural amino acids to self-

assembling nanomaterials (HU)

CM0804 Chemical Biology with Natural Products (DE)

CM0805 The Chemical Cosmos; Understanding Chemistry in Astronomical

Environments (UK)

Earth System Science and Environmental Management (ESSEM)

ES0805 The Terrestrial Biosphere in the Earth System (DE)

ES0806 Stable Isotopes in Biosphere-Atmosphere-Earth System Research (SIBAE)

(CH)

Materials, Physical and Nanosciences (MPNS)

MP0804 Highly Ionised Pulse Plasma Processes (DE)

MP0805 Novel Gain Materials and Devices Based on III-V-N Compounds (UK)

MP0806 Particles in turbulence (NL)

Transdomain

TD0802 Dendrimers in Biomedical Applications (BMBS, MPNS, CMST) (PL)

TD0803 Detecting evolutionary hot spots of antibiotic resistances in Europe (DARE)

(FA, BMBS, CMST, ESSEM) (DE)

- Science in Society Cluster

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

IC0804 Energy efficiency in large scale distributed systems (FR)

IC0805 Open European Network for High Performance Computing on Complex

Environments (FR)

IC0806 Intelligent Monitoring, Control and Security of Critical Infrastructure

Systems (CY)

Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health (ISCH)

IS0804 Language Impairment in a Multilingual Society: Linguistic Patterns and the

Road to Assessment (IL)

IS0805 New Challenges of Peacekeeping and the European Union's Role in

Multilateral Crisis Management (BE)

IS0806 The True European Voter: A Strategy for analysing the prospects of

European Electoral Democracy that includes the West, the South and the

East of the continent (DE)

IS0807 Living in Surveillance Societies (LiSS) (UK)

<u>Transport and Urban Development (TUD)</u>

TU0802 Next generation cost effective phase change materials for increased energy efficiency in renewable energy systems in buildings. NeCoE-PCM (*IE*)

TU0803 Cities Regrowing Smaller – Fostering Knowledge on Regeneration Strategies in Shrinking Cities across Europe (*DE*)

TU0804 Action SHANTI - Survey Harmonisation with New Technologies Improvement (*FR*)

Transdomain

TD0804 Soundscape of European Cities and Landscapes (ISCH, TUD) (UK)

World-wide interest towards COST

COST has a tradition of being open to participation of institutions from non-COST countries following the bottom-up principle and mutual benefit. COST continues to raise interest far beyond the borders of its Member States. Currently more than 220 institutions from 29 "non-COST countries" already participate in COST Actions.

The <u>Committee</u> welcomed 35 new participants in COST Actions of institutions from Albania, Algeria, Australia, Canada, China, Georgia, Japan, Moldova, Morocco, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia, South Africa, Tunisia, Ukraine and USA.

Next CSO meeting

The next meeting of the COST Senior Officials Committee is scheduled for 17 - 18 March 2009.

For further information call the COST Secretariat at 02-281.68.96 or consult website http://www.europa.eu/cost