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183rd MEETING OF THE COST COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS [1] [2]
Brussels, 30 November - 1 December 2011

The 183rd meeting of the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) was held in Brussels on 30 November and 1 December 2011.

The meeting was chaired by **Dr Angeles Rodrigues Peña (ES)**, the President of the CSO. Part of the meeting was dedicated to a joint session with the 9 Chairs of the COST Domain Committees to discuss strategic initiatives in different domains, in line with the recently adopted COST strategy (*COST 4157/11*).

COST in Horizon 2020

The Committee discussed the role COST could play in the next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation "Horizon 2020", building on its experience in running a well-functioning open networking scheme in S&T. The Committee intends to present a position paper in this respect with a view to the forthcoming discussions regarding Horizon 2020.

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[1] COST, established in 1971, is an intergovernmental 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).

[2] Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Republic of Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom; Israel (cooperating state).

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COST approves 30 new Actions

The Committee approved the following new COST Actions[1]:

Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences (BMBS)

BM1105 GnRH deficiency: Elucidation of the neuroendocrine control of human reproduction (CH proposal)

BM1106 The Genes in Irritable Bowel Syndrome Research Network Europe (GENIEUR) (DE proposal)

Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies (CMST)

CM1106 Chemical Approaches to Targeting Drug Resistance in Cancer Stem Cells (IT proposal)

CM1105 Functional metal complexes that bind to biomolecules (DE proposal)

CM1104 Reducible oxide chemistry, structure and functions (DE proposal)

Earth System Science and Environmental Management (ESSEM)

ES1106 Assessment of EUROpean AGRIculture WATer use and trade under climate change (EURO-AGRIWAT) (IT proposal)

ES1105 Cyanobacterial blooms and toxins in water resources: Occurrence, impacts and management.(EL proposal)

ES1104 Arid Lands Restoration and Combat of Desertification: Setting Up a Drylands and Desert Restoration Hub (UK proposal)

Food and Agriculture (FA)

FA1105 Towards a sustainable and productive EU organic greenhouse horticulture (NL proposal)

FA1106 An integrated systems approach to determine the developmental mechanisms controlling fleshy fruit quality in tomato and grapevine (FR proposal)

FA1104 Sustainable production of high-quality cherries for the European market (FR proposal)

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[1] For detailed information see website: *www.cost.eu*

Forests, their Products and Services (FPS)

FP1103 Fraxinus dieback in Europe: elaborating guidelines and strategies for sustainable management (FRAXBACK) (SE proposal)

FP1106 STReESS - Studying Tree Responses to extreme Events: a SynthesiS (NL proposal)

FP1105 Understanding wood cell wall structure, biopolymer interaction and composition: implications for current products and new material innovation (UK proposal)

FP1104 New possibilities for print media and packaging – combining print with digital (FI proposal)

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

IC1106 Integrating Biometrics and Forensics for the Digital Age (IT proposal)

IC1104 Random Network Coding and Designs over GF(q) (IE proposal)

IC1105 3D-ConTourNet - 3D Content Creation, Coding and Transmission over Future Media Networks (PT proposal)

Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health (ISCH)

IS1104 The EU in the new complex geography of economic systems: models, tools and policy evaluation (IT proposal)

IS1106 Offender Supervision in Europe (UK proposal)

IS1107 European Network for Conflict Research (ENCoRe) (CH proposal)

IS1105 NETwork of experts on the legal aspects of MARitime SAFEty and security (MARSAFENET) (IT proposal)

Materials, Physical and Nanosciences (MPNS)

MP1106 Smart and green interfaces: from single bubbles/drops to industrial/environmental/biomedical applications (EL proposal)

MP1105 Sustainable flame retardancy for textiles and related materials based on nanoparticles substituting conventional chemicals. (Acronym : FLARETEX) (BE proposal)

Transdomain

TD1104 European network for development of electroporation-based technologies and treatments Acronym – EP4Bio2Med (BMBS, FA, ESSEM, CMST, MPNS) (SI proposal)

TD1107 Biochar as option for sustainable resource management (FA, ESSEM) (DE proposal)

TD1105 European Network on New Sensing Technologies for Air-Pollution Control and Environmental Sustainability – EuNetAir (ESSEM, MPNS, CMST) (IT proposal)

TD1106 Urban Agriculture Europe (UAE) (TUD, FA) (DE proposal)

Transport and Urban Development (TUD)

TU1105 NVH analysis techniques for design and optimization of hybrid and electric vehicles (IT proposal)

TU1104 Smart Low Carbon Regions (UK proposal)

COST Open Call

The next Collection date for proposals for new COST Actions is envisaged for 30 March 2012.

40 years of COST

The Committee noted the successful exhibition at the European Parliament in Brussels from 18 to 20 October 2011 to mark the 40th anniversary of COST. The event was aimed at highlighting COST's unique role over the past 40 years in linking and pooling research through collaborative networks across Europe and beyond, through showcasing a number of COST Actions (http://www.cost.esf.org/about_cost/cost_stories/40years).

Next CSO meeting

The next meeting of the CSO is scheduled for 19 March 2012.

For further information call the COST Secretariat at + 32 2 281.68 96 or consult website

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cost