

# COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



Brussels, 27 May 2010 4157/10 (Presse 147)

# 178th MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH (COST) 1 2

Riga, Latvia, 25 - 26 May 2010

The 178th meeting of the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) was held in Riga, Latvia on 25 - 26 May 2010 at the invitation of the Latvian Academy of Sciences. The welcome address was given by **Dr Irina Arhipova**, Director, Department of Research, Technology and Innovation at the Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia. The meeting was chaired by **Professor Francesco Fedi (IT)**, the President of the CSO.

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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).

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).

#### **Election of a new CSO President**

The <u>Committee</u> elected unanimously **Dr Angeles Rodriguez Peña** (ES) as its new President for a three-year mandate starting on 22 June 2010. Dr Rodriquez- Peña succeeds in this function Professor Fedi, who has been the CSO President for two successive mandates since 2004.

# **COST Implementing agent after June 2011**

The <u>Committee</u> agreed to confirm the European Science Foundation (ESF) as COST Implementing Agent until the end of FP7 reiterating the need to ensure continuity of the Directorate of the COST Office in Brussels. The agreement is based on the Memorandum of Understanding between COST and the ESF and its Addendum (docs COST 262/02 and 291/06).

#### FP7 Mid-term evaluation of COST

The <u>Committee</u> took note of the recently published report by a panel of independent experts on FP7 Mid-term evaluation of COST and agreed upon the following preliminary statement:

"The CSO takes note of the work of the expert panel chaired by **Professor Horvat** which acknowledged the success of COST Actions as an important activity in the ERA. The CSO welcomes the positive recommendation to allocate for COST the additional EUR 40 million thus bringing the total budget to EUR 250 million for the duration of FP7.

The CSO will continue to work with the ESF on joint efforts regarding synergies and networking, thus deepening useful scientific cooperation for the benefit of the European scientific community. The CSO, for its part, confirms the ESF as the implementing agent for COST until the end of FP7.

The CSO will give careful attention to the panel's report and will consider it in its subsequent full response."

#### **COST Ministerial Conference in June 2010**

The <u>Committee</u> welcomes the initiative of Spain - currently holding the Presidency of the European Union - to host the COST Ministerial Conference in Palma de Mallorca (ES) on 14 - 15 June 2010. The Conference will take stock of the developments in COST operations since the last Ministerial Conference that took place in June 2003 in Dubrovnik (HR) and will provide an impetus for further development of COST under the ERA 2020 perspective, supporting the continuation of COST as an inclusive and flexible European framework for the benefit of the scientific community.

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The CV of Dr Rodriguez Peña can be found in Annex.

#### **COST approves 30 new Actions**

The Committee approved the following 30 new Actions to be launched in 2010<sup>4</sup>:

#### Natural Sciences Cluster

#### Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies (CMST)

- CM1001 Chemistry of non-enzymatic protein modification modulation of protein structure and function (DE proposal)
- CM1002 CODECS: COnvergent Distributed Environment for Computational Spectroscopy (IT proposal)
- CM1003 Biological oxidation reactions mechanisms and design of new catalysts (SE proposal)

#### Transdomain

TD1003 Bio-inspired nanotechnologies: from concepts to applications (FR proposal) (CMST BMBS MPNS)

#### Earth System Science and Environmental Management (ESSEM)

- ES1001 SMOS Mission Oceanographic Data Exploitation (ES proposal)
- ES1002 Short-Term High Resolution Wind and Solar Energy Production Forecasts (CH proposal)
- ES1003 Development and implementation of a pan-European Marine Biodiversity Observatory System (EMBOS) (NL proposal)

#### Materials, Physical and Nanosciences (MPNS)

- MP1001 Ion Traps for Tomorrow's Applications (FR proposal)
- MP1002 Nano-scale insights in ion beam cancer therapy (Nano-IBCT) (DE proposal)
- MP1003 European Scientific Network for Artificial Muscles (ESNAM) (IT proposal)

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For detailed information see website: www.cost.eu

#### - Life Sciences Cluster

#### Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences (BMBS)

- BM1001 Brain Extracellular Matrix in Health and Disease (ECMNet) (IT proposal)
- BM1002 Nanomechanics of intermediate filament networks NANONET (NL proposal)
- BM1003 Microbial cell surface determinants of virulence as targets for new therapeutics in Cystic Fibrosis (IT proposal)
- BM1004 Enhancing the scientific study of early autism: A network to improve research, services and outcomes (UK proposal)

#### Transdomain

TD1002 European network on applications of Atomic Force Microscopy to NanoMedicine and Life Sciences (AFM4NanoMed&Bio) (FR proposal) (BMBS CMST MPNS)

#### Food and Agriculture (FA)

- FA1001 The application of innovative fundamental food-structure-property relationships to the design of foods for health, wellness and pleasure (IT proposal)
- FA1002 Farm Animal Proteomics (UK proposal)
- FA1003 East-West Collaboration for Grapevine Diversity Exploration and Mobilization of Adaptive Traits for Breeding (IT proposal)

#### Forests, their Products and Services (FPS)

- FP1001 USEWOOD: Improving Data and Information on the Potential Supply of Wood Resources: A European Approach from Multisource National Forest Inventories (DK proposal)
- FP1002 Pathway Evaluation and pest Risk Management in Transport PERMIT (UK proposal)
- FP1003 Impact of renewable materials in packaging for sustainability development of renewable fibre and bio-based materials for new packaging applications (SE proposal)

#### Science in Society Cluster

#### Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health (ISCH)

IS1001	Bio-objects and their boundaries: governing matters at the intersection of society,
	politics, and science (AT proposal)

IS1002 Modernet, a network for development of new techniques for discovering trends in occupational and work-related diseases and tracing new and emerging risks (NL proposal)

IS1003 International Law Between Constitutionalisation and Fragmentation: the role of law in the post-national constellation (NL proposal)

### <u>Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)</u>

IC1001	Transactional Memories: Foundations, Algorithms, Tools, and Applications (Euro-TM)
	(PT proposal)

IC1002 Multilingual and multifaceted interactive information access (MUMIA) (EL proposal)

IC1003 European Network on Quality of Experience in Multimedia Systems and Services (QUALINET) (CH proposal)

#### **Transdomain**

TD1001 Novel and Reliable Optical Fibre Sensor Systems for Future Security and Safety Applications (OFSeSa) (IE proposal) (ICT MPNS)

#### Transport and Urban Development (TUD)

TU1001 Public Private Partnerships in Transport: Trends and Theory (EL proposal)

TU1002 Accessibility instruments for planning practice in Europe (NL proposal)

#### Renewal of mandates for the COST Domain Committees

The <u>Committee</u> renewed the expiring mandates for the 9 COST Domain Committees<sup>5</sup> for a four-year period starting from 1 June 2010.

#### **COST Code of Conduct**

COST strives to foster scientifically honest and responsible exchange of knowledge in order to advance scientific and societal developments, avoiding any kind of conflicts of interest in its framework. Underlining the importance of this issue, the <u>Committee</u> approved new policy guidelines on the "COST Code of Conduct", as set out in doc. COST 4160/10.

## Global participation in COST

COST has a tradition of being open to participation of institutions from non-COST countries following the bottom-up principle and mutual benefit. Currently **356** institutions from **36** "non-COST countries" already participate in **129** COST Actions.

At this meeting the <u>Committee</u> welcomed 33 new participants in COST Actions of institutions from Albania, Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Canada, Columbia, Egypt, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, Tunisia and USA.

Furthermore, the <u>Committee</u> was pleased to note that the new reciprocal agreement<sup>6</sup> between the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovative Production of Argentina and COST to enhance co-operation between Argentina and European researchers taking part in COST Actions has been signed and will be effective as from 1 June 2010. Similar arrangements with Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have already proved to be successful and are highly appreciated by the contract partners.

#### **Next CSO meeting**

An additional CSO meeting will be held on 8 June 2010 (afternoon only) in Brussels to prepare for the COST Ministerial Conference. The next ordinary meeting of the COST Senior Officials Committee is scheduled for 1 and 2 December 2010.

For further information call the COST Secretariat at 02-281.68.96 or consult website <a href="http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cost">http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cost</a>

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Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences (BMBS), Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies (CMST), Earth System Science and Environmental Management (ESSEM), Food and Agriculture (FA), Forests, their Products and Services (FPS), Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health (ISCH), Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Materials, Physical and Nanosciences (MPNS); and the Transport and Urban Development (TUD).

## **Curriculum vitae**

# ANGELES RODRÍGUEZ PEÑA

#### PERSONAL DETAILS AND ACADEMIC DEGREES

Born in Segovia, Spain in 1955. Married with four children.

Master Degree in Biology, Univ. Complutense, Madrid (Spain) in 1977 and Ph.D. Thesis in Biology, Universidad. Autónoma of Madrid in 1980.

#### **RESEARCH TRAINING**

Postdoctoral training from 1981-1984 at Imperial Cancer Research Foundation, London as EMBO Postdoctoral Fellow.

Associated Scientist (Imperial Cancer Research Foundation, London) from 1984 to 1986

#### **SCIENTIFIC CAREER**

1987-	Tenured Scientist (Spanish Research Council, CSIC)
1995-	Honorary Professor Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
1999-2000	Visiting Scientist Harvard Medical School (Boston, MA)
1995-1996	Visiting Scientist Karolinska Institute (Stockholm, Sweden)

#### **POSITIONS HELD**

2009-	Spanish delegate to SFIC (Strategic Forum for International Cooperation, EU)	
2008-	Head Spanish delegation to CREST and CSO member in COST	
2007-	Spanish representative Horizontal Programme Committee of FP7	
2007-	Deputy Director General, Ministry Science and Innovation	
2005-2007	Deputy Head International Affairs (CSIC)	
1997-2002	President Spanish Glial Cell Network	
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1990-1997 Head of Cell Signalling Department Biomedical Research Institute in Madrid (CSIC)

#### SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

Research activities focused on the signalling pathways that control the choice between proliferation and differentiation of the nerve cells, in particular the action of the nuclear receptors. Co-author of many papers on the fields of molecular neuroscience that have been extensively cited in the scientific literature (more than 80 publications in internationals journals and 32 invited conferences).

Peer-review activity in journals and evaluation of grants both National and International, including framework programmes.

#### **AREAS OF INTEREST & EXPERTISE**

Besides the research activities as a group leader at the Biomedical Research Institute in Madrid, and since 2002, she has made compatible her work as scientist at the Biomedicine Institute, where her research group is located, with scientific management responsibilities at the European Commission, the Spanish Research Council and now at Ministry of Science and Innovation where her responsibilities have shifted towards R&D policy in Europe and its global dimension.