



**European Co-operation
in Science
and Technology
- COST -**



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PRESSE 34

**181st MEETING OF THE COST COMMITTEE OF SENIOR
OFFICIALS^{1 2}
Brussels, 16 - 17 February 2011**

The 181st meeting of the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) was held in Brussels on 16 - 17 February 2011. Part of the meeting was dedicated to a joint session with the 9 Chairs of the COST Domain Committees³ to discuss a new strategic plan "Shaping COST for the Future" in order to secure the position of COST as a unique research networking instrument in the European Research Area (ERA).

The meeting was chaired by **Dr Angeles Rodriguez Peña (ES)**, the President of the CSO.

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).

³ 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, Physics and Nanosciences (MPNS); Transport and Urban Development (TUD).

P R E S S

COST - ESF cooperation

It was recalled that both CSO and ESF Governing Council have confirmed that the ESF would continue as the COST implementing agent until the end of the FP7. As proposed by the COST-ESF High Level Group, the Committee agreed to set up a joint Working Group to establish a “roadmap” to guarantee a smooth continuation of COST activities beyond FP7.

New COST Office Director

Dr Monica Dietl Bernhardt has been appointed to the position of the Director of the COST Office. Dr. Dietl Bernhardt comes from the CNRS Brussels Office where she is the Director. She has also worked as Policy Officer at the European Commission DG Research, where she has contributed to the preparation of the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development and to the setting up of the European Research Council. Previously she was responsible for European and industrial partnerships in the life sciences department of the CNRS.

Dr. Dietl Bernhardt is a biologist, specialised in neuroscience, and has carried out research at Université Paris VI ‘Pierre et Marie Curie’, the Lainz Hospital in Vienna, Sandoz in Basel, and the Collège de France in Paris. She has lived and worked in various countries and multicultural environments, in both private as well as public organisations.

Dr. Dietl will take up her appointment on 1 April 2011.

COST Open Call

The Committee noted that the COST Open Call had been published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 5 February 2011. The Collection date for preliminary proposals is 25 March 2011. Following the evaluation process up to 30 new Actions would be approved by the Committee in December 2011.

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 **452** institutions from **36** "non-COST countries" already participate in **157** COST Actions.

COST has concluded specific reciprocal cooperation schemes with Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Argentina, whose success has been proved by a high number of requests for participation from these countries.

At this meeting the Committee welcomed 33 new participants in COST Actions of institutions from Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Canada, China, Georgia, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, Tunisia, Ukraine and USA.

Next CSO meeting

The next meeting of the COST Senior Officials Committee is scheduled for 17 - 18 May 2011.

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

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