



**European Cooperation
in the field of Scientific
and Technical Research
- COST -**

Brussels, 9 October 2006

Secretariat

COST 291/06

NOTE

To : COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)

Subject : Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding between COST and the ESF¹
as approved by the CSO by written procedure on 6 October 2006

CONSIDERATIONS

(1) Whereas the cooperation between COST and ESF is regulated by the "Memorandum of Understanding" approved in principle by the ESF Governing Council in September 2002 and agreed by the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) in October 2002 where it is stated that "The ESF is prepared, as from 1 January 2003, to act as the legal entity to provide and manage the administrative, technical and scientific secretariat for COST, its Technical Committees and its Actions, dependent of the appropriate funding for the COST activities and the COST Office being made available from the EU RTD framework programme";

¹ Doc. COST 262/02

(2) Whereas the Council of the European Union in its conclusions of 26 November 2002 on progress made in the development of the European Research Area (ERA) and on providing it with a new momentum ² welcomed "efforts currently being undertaken in the context of ERA to achieve closer linkage with other European cooperation initiatives such as COST, Eureka and ESF, with a view of creating synergies while respecting their complementary roles";

(3) Whereas the COST Ministerial Conference held in Dubrovnik in May 2003 ³ "EMPHASISED that COST must maintain an efficient organisation supported by a capable, cost-effective scientific secretariat to assist in the execution of the work and ENDORSED to that effect the contents of the Memorandum of Understanding between COST and the ESF";

(4) Whereas a contract between the European Commission (EC) and the ESF to enable the ESF to carry out the activities envisaged in the COST-ESF MoU during the 6th RTD Framework Programme was established in July 2003 and will run until the end of 2007;

(5) Whereas the Chairman of the CSO, on behalf of the Committee, was mandated to follow the negotiations of the EC-ESF contract for COST and to report to the CSO ⁴ and that, before the signature of the contract by the EC and the ESF, the contract was presented and discussed in the COST CSO⁵;

(6) Whereas the COST CSO in its 161st meeting in March 2005 ⁶ assessed, as envisaged in the MoU, the operations of the MoU "with a view to transmitting its opinions, and possible recommendations for the future to the Council, Parliament and Commission, in particular to provide the latter with suggestions likely to be relevant for future Framework Programme proposals";

² OJ C 43 of 22.2.2003, p.1

³ Doc. COST 252/03

⁴ Doc. COST 227/03

⁵ Summary of Conclusions of the 154th (doc. COST 256/03) and of the 155th COST CSO meetings (doc. COST 263/03).

⁶ Doc. COST 225/05

(7) Whereas in the assessment of the COST-ESF MoU the COST CSO noted that:

- the provisions of the COST-ESF MoU have been executed;
- the COST Office established by the ESF in Brussels is fully operational and COST has not only regained its traditional strengths but offers to the scientific community more and more new opportunities;
- the ESF provides the scientific, technical and administrative support for COST and the quality of the support is subject to the continuous evaluation during each consecutive CSO meeting and is steadily and gradually improving;
- the ties between COST and the ESF are strengthening. This partnership is already proving its effectiveness for the parties concerned and in the service provided to the research community;

and, building on the operational benefits of the creation of the COST Office, recommended:

- to find a type of contract under the 7th RDT Framework Programme⁷ which would impose less reporting requirements on the ESF without prejudice to the obligations laid down in the financial rules of the Communities;

(8) Whereas the ESF Executive Board reviewed the MoU at its meeting on 17 November 2004 and decided that the present MoU should serve as the basis for continued cooperation between COST and ESF;

(9) Whereas the High-Level Panel established by the European Commission for the mid-term review of the EC-ESF contract for COST recognised the benefits of the COST-ESF collaboration and recommended continued support for COST in the future with an increased level of funding in the 7th RDT Framework Programme;

(10) Whereas the European Commission has proposed within the 7th RTD Framework Programme to continue the financial support for the administration and coordination activities of COST;

⁷ The Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013)

(11) Whereas COST will have to communicate to the European Commission the legal entity identified as the implementing agent for COST in view of the 7th RTD Framework Programme;

(12) Whereas both COST and ESF have the intention to continue to cooperate;

THEREFORE:

1. The validity of the Memorandum of Understanding between COST and the ESF is prolonged and confirmed with this Addendum as an integral part;
2. The COST CSO President will participate as an observer in the annual ESF Assembly and the ESF President will participate as an observer in the COST Ministerial Conferences;
3. Whenever necessary the COST CSO President will be invited to attend the ESF Governing Council meetings and the ESF Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will be invited to attend the COST CSO meetings;
4. A High-level COST-ESF Group, composed of the COST CSO President, the COST CSO Vice-President, the ESF President, the ESF CEO, The Head of the Council COST Secretariat and the Director of the COST Office will be formed. The COST CSO President and the ESF CEO will jointly decide when this Group will meet. The Chair of the meeting will be assumed alternately by the COST CSO President or by the ESF President;
5. Each COST Domain Committee (DC) will nominate one of its members as a liaison with the relevant ESF Standing Committee (SC) and each ESF Standing Committee will nominate one of its members as a liaison with the relevant COST Domain Committee. The liaison members will participate in the plenary meetings of the respective bodies;

6. The COST CSO President and the ESF CEO will develop cooperation also through joint scientific initiatives or other links depending on need, including, when necessary, their respective DCs and SCs;
7. A Workshop of the Chairs of the COST DCs and of the Chairs of the ESF SCs will be organised periodically by the COST CSO President and by the ESF CEO who will both attend such Workshops;
8. Joint COST-ESF Workshops on "Frontiers of Science" will be organised to investigate on the most promising frontiers of science and/or on the most pressing societal needs. These Workshops will build on the existing ESF Forward Looks and the COST Strategic Workshops and will be coordinated by the ESF CEO and by the COST CSO President who will both normally participate in such events;
9. "COST - ESF Scientific Days" will be organised periodically to illustrate the results of the respective research initiatives;
10. The Memorandum of Understanding and this Addendum will have effect until the end of the Contract between the ESF and the European Commission under the 7th RTD Framework Programme.
