

Launch Conference of the South Africa – COST Partnership

(COST is the European Cooperation in Scientific and Technical Research programme)

Tuesday 8 September 2009

Innovation Hub, Pretoria, South Africa

The South African Department of Science and Technology, through the European South African Science and the COST Office in June 2009 concluded a reciprocal arrangement, to respectively fund South African and European researchers undertaking short-term scientific missions to Europe and South Africa, related to South Africa's participation in COST actions. Organised as a side event to the second South Africa - European Union Summit, this Launch Conference has the aim to present the COST programme to the South African research community and to encourage South African participation.

Agenda

09:00 Opening Session

Welcoming speeches by:

Prof Thomas Auf der Heyde, Deputy Director-General: International Cooperation and Resources of the South African Department of Science and Technology,

Mr Stefan Cairen, Representative of the COST Committee of Senior Officials, Swedish Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communication

Mr Gerasimos Apostolatos, Principal Scientific Officer, Directorate-General Research, European Commission

09:45 General Overview of and introduction to COST

Dr Martin Grabert, Director of the COST Office

10:30 Refreshments

11:00 South Africa and COST

Presentation by the European South African Science and Technology Advancement Programme (ESASTAP) of the South Africa – COST Reciprocal Arrangement, including: Procedures for applying for funding and advisory and support services to be available to prospective participants.

Ms Thabisa Mbungwana, Director: Strategic Partnerships, Department of Science and Technology

11:45 Questions and Discussion

12:30 Lunch

13:30 COST Domains and South African R&D priorities and the Ten Year Innovation Plan

Thematic overviews of selected actions in the COST Domains:

Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences

Dr Magdalena Radwanska (COST Office)

Earth System Science and Environmental Management

Dr Magdalena Radwanska (COST Office)

Forests, their Products and Services

Ms Melae Langbein (COST Office)

Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health

Dr Julia Stamm (COST Office)

Overviews of the other COST domains will also be presented:

Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technology

Food and Agriculture

Information and Communication Technologies

Materials, Physical and Nanosciences

Transport and Urban Development

15:00 Refreshments

15:30 Lessons from successful South African participation in COST (advice on how to secure participation and derive optimal benefit)

COST Action 929: A European Network for Environmental and Food Virology (University of Pretoria)

Prof Maureen Taylor

COST Action CM0701: Cascade Chemoenzymatic processes: New synergy between chemistry and biochemistry (CSIR Biosciences)

Dr Dean Brady

COST Action D39: Metallo drug-design and action (Mintek)

Dr Judy Coates

COST Action IS0602: International Law in Domestic Courts (Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria)

Prof Erika de Wet

17:00 Closure

Closing remarks:

Dr Martin Grabert, Director of the COST Office and Mr Mmboneni Muofhe, Chief Director: Strategic Partnerships, Department of Science and Technology