



The future of science and technology in Europe - Challenges -

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EUROSCIENCE



European Association for the Advancement of Science

- Euroscience is a grass root organisation
- Euroscience is open to research professionals, science administrators, policy-makers, teachers, PhD students, post-docs, engineers, industrialists, and to any citizen interested in science and technology and its links with society.

EUROSCIENCE



Euroscience was founded in 1997 to:

- Provide an open forum for debate on science and technology.
- Strengthen the links between science and society.
- Contribute to the creation of an integrated space for science and technology in Europe.
- Influence science and technology policies.

It represents European scientists from all disciplines

From 2000 to 2007



6-7 March 2000. European Science Beyond 2000.

Portuguese Presidency. In my own speaking notes:

- ✓ Lack of European Research and Innovation policy;
- ✓ Basic research;
- ✓ Infrastructures;
- ✓ Need for European initiatives.....

Summer 2007 Euroscience News 38. Editorial: “*ERA: The Commission is not the problem*” Title with the intention to point at Member States as the ones that are called for commitment and action.

Lack of European Research & Innovation policy (1)



- Look at the ERA as a whole. This demands commitments from all the actors: EU and the EC and other European institutions including the ERC, other European bodies including Euroscience and the national structures and institutions.
- We need to have more maturity about the ERA and accept that we cannot all do everything but we can all gain as Europeans from the success of each other.

Lack of European Research & Innovation policy (2)



- The ERA should state unequivocally Europe's aim for global leadership. This will only be credible when Member States are prepared to address institutional and financial weaknesses.
- Still waiting for a real innovation policy linked to research.
“Europe requires a new paradigm of mobility, flexibility and adaptability to allow R&D and innovation to create the value that can support our quality of life”, (AHO Report, 2006).
- Bureaucracy is not the way to inspire innovation in Europe

Basic Research



- A research council for Europe? Nature 23 Nov. 1995; 2007 ERC (at last). But let us keep an eye on it.
- The EU should focus on increased funding for the ERC (frontier research).

Human resources

- Europe needs more scientists
- Especial emphasis in Women.
- More action is needed from Member states in portable social security and pension schemes.
- Mobility of researchers -public and private-

Infrastructures



- **ESFRI road map is not enough**
- **Central funding is required; perhaps a devoted Agency?**
- **Alternative: go intergovernmental**

Need for EU initiatives



- Joint Technology Initiatives to tackle societal challenges with targeted research in which industry can play a leading role.
- Fiscal measures to address the promotion of innovation at European level.
- Harmonise pension schemes to promote mobility.
- Establish new instruments for competitive funding in private-public joint ventures (actual models seem to be close to exhaustion).

Conclusions -CHALLENGES-



- Research and innovation cannot be dealt with separately.
- It is for Member States to make the difference in most aspects of Science and Technology in Europe
- Imbalances in funding among Member States cannot all be “charged” to the Commission. It is for the Member States to react.
- Research must provide confidence to the citizen in terms of sustainability.
- Improve the path towards a change of our economic model leading to a solid knowledge society in Europe
- Push already existing fora for debate and communication. The Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) as an example.