



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 4 December 2009  
COST 294/09 (Presse 367)

**176th MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF SENIOR  
OFFICIALS FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL  
RESEARCH (COST)  
Brussels, 1 - 2 December 2009**

The 176th meeting of the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) was held in Brussels on 1 - 2 December 2009. The meeting was chaired by **Professor Francesco Fedi**, the President of the CSO.

**P R E S S**

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## Results of the SWOT analysis

**Dr Erik Arnold** from Technopolis presented the results of an independent S.W.O.T. ("strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats") analysis carried out on the relationship between COST and the European Science Foundation (ESF) in the European Research Area<sup>1</sup>. The Committee welcomed the report as an important element in the ongoing reflections on the COST legal status and governance, in particular regarding the possible establishment of an independent legal entity for COST. Furthermore, it was agreed to continue the dialogue with the ESF on the cooperation.

## CSO approves 30 new COST Actions<sup>2</sup>

Following the Open Call for new Action proposals and the selection process with the involvement of External Expert Panels, the Committee approved the following 30 new COST Actions to be launched:

– Life Sciences Cluster

### Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences (BMBS)

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| BM0904 | HDL - from biological understanding to clinical exploitation (EL proposal)   |
| BM0905 | European Network for the Study of Gilles de la Tourette Syndrome (EL proposal)   |
| BM0906 | Regulatory RNAs in bacterial pathogenicity: new targets for alternative therapies (AT proposal)  |
| BM0907 | European Network for Translational Immunology Research and Education (ENTIRE): From immunomonitoring to personalized immunotherapy (DE proposal) |

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<sup>1</sup> It is recalled that COST has designated the European Science Foundation (ESF) as its implementing agent under 7th RTD FP. The financial support from the FP is provided through a grant agreement between the Commission and the ESF.

<sup>2</sup> Information on COST Actions: <http://www.cost.esf.org/>

### Food and Agriculture (FA)

- FA0904 Eco-sustainable Food Packaging based on Polymer Nanomaterials (IT proposal)
- FA0905 Mineral-Improved Crop Production for Healthy Food and Feed (NO proposal)
- FA0906 UV-B radiation: A specific regulator of plant growth and food quality in a changing climate (acronym: UV4growth) (IE proposal)
- FA0907 Yeast Flavour Production - New Biocatalysts and Novel Molecular Mechanisms Acronym: BIOFLAVOUR (FR proposal)

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

- FP0904 Thermo-Hydro-Mechanical Wood Behaviour and Processing (CH proposal)
- FP0905 Biosafety of forest transgenic trees: improving the scientific basis for safe tree development and implementation of EU policy directives (IT proposal)

– Natural Sciences Cluster

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

- CM0904 Network for intermetallic compounds as catalysts for steam reforming of methanol (IMC-SRM) (DE proposal)
- CM0905 Organocatalysis - ORCA (DE proposal)

## Earth System Science and Environmental Management (ESSEM)

- ES0904 European Gliding Observatories Network (EGO) (FR proposal)
- ES0905 Basic Concepts for Convection Parameterization in Weather Forecast and Climate Models (FR proposal)
- ES0906 Seagrass productivity: from genes to ecosystem management (PT proposal)
- ES0907 The INTIMATE Project: INTegrating Ice core, MArine and TERrestrial records (60,000 to 8000 years ago) (UK proposal)

## Materials, Physical and Nanosciences (MPNS)

- MP0903 Nanoalloys as advanced materials: from structure to properties and applications (IT proposal)
- MP0904 Single- and multiphase ferroics and multiferroics with restricted geometries (SIMUFER) (RO proposal)
- MP0905 Black Holes in a Violent Universe (DE proposal)

## Transdomain

- TD0905 Epigenetics: Bench to Bedside (UK proposal)
- TD0906 Biological adhesives: from biology to biomimetics (BE proposal)

– Science in Society Cluster

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

- IS0904 European Architecture beyond Europe: Sharing Research and Knowledge on Dissemination Processes, Historical Data and Material Legacy (19th-20th centuries) (FR proposal)
- IS0905 The Emergence of Southern Multinationals and Their Impact on Europe (IE proposal)
- IS0906 Transforming Audiences, Transforming Societies (BE proposal)
- IS0907 Childbirth Cultures, Concerns, and Consequences: Creating a dynamic EU framework for optimal maternity care (UK proposal)

#### Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

- IC0905 Techno-Economic Regulatory Framework for Radio spectrum Access for Cognitive Radio/Software Defined Radio - TERRA (LT proposal)
- IC0906 Wireless Networking for Moving Objects (WiNeMO) (FI proposal)

#### Transport and Urban Development (TUD)

- TU0904 Integrated Fire Engineering and Response (CZ proposal)
- TU0905 Structural Glass: Novel Design Methods and Next Generation Products (AT proposal)

#### Transdomain

- TD0904 Time In MentaL activitY: theoretical, behavioral, bioimaging, and clinical perspectives (TIMELY) (EL proposal)

## **Increased support to early stage researchers**

COST adopted in 2007 a strategy towards increased support to early stage researchers as a means of capacity building. The Committee reviewed this strategy and agreed to some further recommendations to COST Action meeting organisers in this respect.

## **World-wide interest towards 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 more than 290 institutions from 37 "non-COST countries" already participate in COST Actions.

At this meeting the Committee welcomed 97 new participants in COST Actions of institutions from Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Canada, Chile, China, Egypt, Georgia, India, Japan, Lebanon, Mauritius, Morocco, New Zealand, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uruguay and USA.

## **Next CSO meeting**

The next meeting of the COST Senior Officials Committee is scheduled for 23-24 March 2009.

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