

6th May 2013

Press Statement

Horizon 2020 Needs Full RTO Participation To participate Fully RTOs Need Full-Cost Reimbursement

The Presidents and senior management of leading European Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs)

– Austrian Institute of Technology, Danish Technological Institute, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, imec, TNO, SINTEF, Tecalia, SP and VTT –

gathered in Leuven on 6th May 2013 issue the following statement:

At the Trilogue meeting scheduled for May 7th, and at further meetings in the coming weeks, the Commission, Council and Parliament will take important decisions about the budget for Horizon 2020, its priorities and activities, and the rules governing its implementation.

We take this opportunity to remind the co-legislators of RTOs' key role in supporting governments to tackle key societal challenges and businesses of all sizes to build and sustain competitiveness and hence employment. These are also key objectives of Horizon 2020 and so RTOs' full participation in the programme is essential.

A single flat-rate cost-reimbursement model for Horizon 2020, as proposed so far by Commission and Council, will fail to attract the full participation of RTOs – and of leading universities and key businesses – because it will not provide sufficient compensation for the necessarily high costs of their sophisticated R&D facilities.

The Commission, at the earlier request of Council and Parliament, has made great efforts to simplify Horizon 2020 in comparison with earlier Framework Programmes, including in its funding model. These efforts are remarkable and welcome. It is now necessary to optimise what has been proposed, by adapting it to the needs of the critical key players whose full participation is essential. Thus all of the major Horizon 2020 stakeholder communities have clearly and publicly called for an alternative option on full-cost reimbursement:

- **BUSINESSEUROPE**, representing 41 business federations from 35 countries;
- **EARTO**, representing 350 RTOs from 21 countries
- **EUA**, representing 850 universities and 30 national university associations, and
- **Science Europe**, representing 51 research funding and performing organisations with around €30 billion of research spending per year.

In these final stages of the Horizon 2020 negotiations, therefore, the guiding principle should be:

“as much simplification as possible, as much adaptation as necessary”.



With regard to cost-reimbursement, we propose a single flat-rate as the default – which will surely satisfy the immense majority of programme beneficiaries and simultaneously deliver huge simplification – but adapted to the needs of organisations with high-end R&D facilities by offering an alternative option on full-cost reimbursement.

At the Competitiveness Council of October 10th last year, the Commission suggested that beneficiaries could “transform” some of the costs of “large infrastructures” into direct costs, thus raising the effective rate of reimbursement, and it offered to provide guidance on how this could be done. Almost seven months later, no guidance has appeared¹.

Time is running out. A simple solution is possible, as we have indicated. We call on Council and Parliament to use the window of opportunity afforded by the Trilogue to optimise Horizon 2020 and so ensure its success.

Press Information

EUROTECH is a Special Interest Group within EARTO, the European Association of Research and Technology Organisations. Media materials regarding EARTO are available [here](#).

EUROTECH groups the CEOs and senior management of Europe’s larger, publically mandated RTOs. They meet every six months to discuss national, European and global market and policy developments as well as other subjects of common interest.

The core members of EUROTECH are:

Austria	Austrian Institute of Technology	Anton Plimon, Wolfgang Knoll
Belgium	imec	Luc Van den hove
Denmark	Danish Technological Institute	Søren Stjernqvist
Finland	VTT	Erkki Leppävuori
France	CEA	Hervé Bernard
Germany	Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft	Reimund Neugebauer
Netherlands	TNO	Jan Mengelers
Norway	SINTEF	Unni Steinsmo
Spain	Tecnalia	Iñaki San Sebastian
Sweden	SP Group	Maria Khorsand

In addition, DGA (France), IABG (Germany) and FOI (Sweden) participate in EUROTECH meetings and, especially, in the EUROTECH Security Research Working Group.

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¹ More information here:

http://www.linkedin.com/redirect?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Eearto%2Eeu%2Ffileadmin%2Fcontent%2F10%2FHidden_Pages%2FDirect_Costing_Research_Infrastructures%2Epdf&urlhash=BI&t=tracking_anet