



PRESS RELEASE
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JAN MENGELERS ELECTED NEW PRESIDENT OF EARTO (EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATIONS)

Brussels, 7th December 2011



The EARTO Executive Board today elected Jan Mengelers President of EARTO. He will take office in January 2012.

Jan Mengelers is President of the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research – TNO.

Jan Mengelers has a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Eindhoven University of Technology. He held a variety of executive positions at ECN, Philips Research, Volvo Car/Ned Car BV and Neways Electronics International N.V. before joining TNO in 2001.

Since 2008 he has been Chairman of the TNO Board of Management. He also chairs or is on the management committee of several national and international organisations.

Jan Mengelers succeeds Erkki KM Leppävuori, President of VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, who has served as President of EARTO for the past six years. After his election, Jan Mengelers thanked Erkki Leppävuori for his dedication to EARTO during his presidency and especially for having so successfully raised the profile of the European RTO community.

He said he was honored to serve as the voice of 350 European Research and Technology Organisations at a time of great challenges for knowledge, technology, and innovation.

He saw an exciting opportunity in the just published Horizon 2020 proposals of the European Commission. "Good in Horizon 2020 is the focus on the so-called 'Grand Challenges' and on 'Key Enabling Technologies' to support industrial competitiveness", said Mengelers, "but decidedly negative for non-profit RTOs is the proposed funding model, which implies an average 20% reduction in the research funding rate compared with FP7. The EARTO Executive Board has discussed this matter in depth this afternoon and will make alternative proposals very shortly".

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