

Communiqué  
The EUREKA Ministerial Conference  
XXV Session  
Berlin, 25 June 2010

At the invitation of the Federal Republic of Germany, Ministers or their representatives from 37 countries and the Representative of the European Commission met in Berlin on 25 June 2010 to convene for the XXV Session of the EUREKA Ministerial Conference.

The Ministerial Conference, chaired by the German Federal Minister of Education and Research, Professor Annette Schavan, agreed on the following conclusions:

1. The Ministerial Conference

EMPHASIZED that with regard to the current fiscal and budgetary problems **efforts and investments in research, technology, development and innovation** remain vital in order to facilitate sustained economic recovery;

STRESSED the **importance of improved coordination and significance of cross-border cooperation** in Europe for innovation and the development of competitiveness of European industry in a global market;

RECOGNISED that - after 25 years - EUREKA continues to be an **important instrument for this cross-border European cooperation** between industrial partners, science and research organisations. The initiative continues to play a key role to promote the competitiveness of European industry, especially of its small and medium-sized enterprises close to the market, using a bottom-up, transparent and dynamic model;

ACKNOWLEDGED EUREKA's **continued attractiveness among innovation actors**, which is confirmed not only by the interest of non-European countries to cooperate with the EUREKA network but also by the growing number of new EUREKA projects which are

agreed each year under the EUREKA label through its three pillars, namely individual projects, Eurostars and Clusters and Umbrellas;

RECOGNIZED in EUREKA, notably through the **Eurostars joint programme**, a key initiative in the European Research Area, as a prime example of a successful joint programme between the European Union and a number of EUREKA Members States; Eurostars has already established itself as a popular and appreciated programme for R&D-intensive small and medium sized enterprises, making them more competitive and fostering their international R&D cooperation strategies. The Ministerial Conference has been looking forward with great interest to the mid-term-evaluation of Eurostars; they expressed their expectation that Eurostars will prove to be a strong support tool for European R&D performing SMEs and a platform for further integration of national R&D programmes;

REAFFIRMED the outstanding importance of the strategic initiatives - the **EUREKA Umbrellas and Clusters**. With view to their project results and their enormous financial value, the **EUREKA Clusters** significantly contribute to the European project portfolio, in particular in the IT-sector. The Ministerial Conference considered the Clusters as essential for the realisation of the European Research Area complementing EU instruments such as Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs);

NOTED with satisfaction the improvement of cooperation between the EUREKA network and the Cluster representatives from industry achieved on initiative of the German Chairmanship. It recognised their strategic role in fulfilling the vision of EUREKA as expressed in the Strategic Roadmap and encouraged the Cluster representatives to address the so-called Grand Challenges;

ACKNOWLEDGED the role of the **EUREKA Umbrellas** as an effective platform for the benefit of networking of industry and science in thematic areas;

UNDERLINED that a fruitful **partnership between EUREKA and the EU Framework Programme for Research** remains indispensable. In order to help industry in its efforts with regard to innovation and competitiveness, the combination of a powerful bottom-up approach in a flexible network structure (EUREKA) with a robust top-down institutional framework and strategic action (EUREKA members) is needed;

REAFFIRMED the need for an attentive but gradual opening up of the initiative for **cooperation with selected partners outside Europe** for the benefit of European industry in an accelerating economy, characterised by global networks of open innovation;

REAFFIRMED that the principles and objectives laid down in 1985 in the founding document of EUREKA - the **Hanover Declaration** - are still valid;

STRESSED the necessity to further support the EUREKA activities through the respective national funding schemes;

EMPHASISED their confidence that EUREKA will continue to be the **important driver contributing to the structuring of the European Research Area (ERA)** that it has been since its inception and that this role should be further developed to better synchronise member states' national and regional programmes relevant to business-led R&D collaborations.

2. In this light, the XXV. EUREKA Ministerial Conference welcomed that, for the first time, a **Strategic Roadmap (SRM)** has been established under the German Chairmanship to deliver a response to new political conditions and current challenges (ERA, globalization, financial crisis).

The **SRM shall secure the sustainability of EUREKA's renewed strategic objectives** across various presidencies by introducing a 4-year working plan.

The Ministerial Conference formally adopted the Strategic Roadmap of EUREKA (attached to this Communiqué) and looked forward to the **development of yearly work programmes** by future Chairmanships ensuring its **implementation**.

3. The Ministerial Conference welcomed the efforts of the German Chairmanship to improve the **dialogue with the stakeholders of EUREKA** - the industry, the researchers and the governments of the EUREKA member countries. It acknowledged in particular the **Launch Conference**, held in Dresden on 6/7 July, 2009, as a first and important step in this direction. The conference was intended to shape the future agenda of European cooperation in R&D towards a frame of action for reinforcing

EUREKA and to help the German Chairmanship to formulate priorities and a work programme.

The Ministerial Conference also welcomed the introduction of the **EUREKA Annual Conference (EAC)** as an important means to continue the dialogue with the stakeholders of the initiative on a more regular basis and called upon future EUREKA Chairs to further develop this instrument.

4. The Ministerial Conference welcomed the progress of the German Chairmanship to ensure an efficient **implementation of the international strategy** of EUREKA. During the German Chair year, EUREKA has refined the International Cooperation Strategy further, thus providing a proactive approach in identifying new potential and interesting partner countries and networks.

The Ministerial Conference noted with satisfaction the first steps of implementation of the **partnership between EUREKA and the Republic of Korea** as an associated country and welcomed the participation of Korean official representatives at EUREKA meetings and the first EUREKA Day in Korea jointly organised by the Korean Government and the German EUREKA Chairmanship. It looked forward to further enhanced cooperation with the Republic of Korea in the framework of EUREKA.

The Ministerial Conference acknowledged that the Republic of Korea took already decisive action to create the necessary legal security with regard to the handling and use of intellectual property within the framework of EUREKA projects.

The Ministerial Conference welcomed the efforts with regards to the development of a future Memorandum of Understanding between EUREKA and the Iberoamerican network for the mutual benefit of both networks.

5. The Ministerial Conference acknowledged the importance of the efforts of the German Chairmanship to develop additional instruments for **innovation financing** in cooperation with the European Investment Bank. It recognized that further efforts are required and noticed with satisfaction that the issue has already been taken up in the Strategic Roadmap. The Ministerial Conference suggested that the High Level Group establishes a working group to further pursue this issue.

The Ministerial Conference is looking forward to the intention of the incoming Israeli Chair to develop concrete innovation financing models and instruments incorporating public and private funding for industrial innovation.

6. The Ministerial Conference welcomed the improvement of the **EUREKA governance** due to the introduction of sustainable political processes, such as the Strategic Roadmap, Annual Work Programmes and a better managerial and organisational structure of the bodies of EUREKA. It recognised a suitable governance system as it is now laid down in the new (internal) Rules & Responsibilities document as an indispensable prerequisite to face the challenges of EUREKA for the next years.

7. The Ministerial Conference emphasized the continuing value of the **communication policy** for EUREKA, increasing public and political awareness of EUREKA, of its successful projects, resulting in innovative products and services for the benefit of all. It supported the strong efforts of the EUREKA network and the German Chair in particular to persistently pursuing marketing and communications activities and recommends this to be the basis of a long-term extensive and strong EUREKA marketing campaign.

8. The Ministerial Conference welcomed in particular the establishment of a new **EUREKA Innovation Award** as a means of better visibility of EUREKA and as incentive for project participants. It congratulated this year's winner project ONOM@TOPIC+ for its outstanding achievements in developing a European smartcard platform for citizenship and mobile multimedia applications that makes life easier and more secure for users while adding value for network operators.

#### 9. **Project generation and portfolio of EUREKA projects**

The Ministerial Conference welcomed the continuing positive effect of Eurostars projects on the overall EUREKA project portfolio (individual, Cluster and Eurostars projects). The Conference announced 152 new individual projects with a total estimated budget of 229 M€, and 85 Eurostars projects, with a total estimated budget of 128 M€. The Conference was particularly pleased by continuing the very high proportion of R&D-performing SMEs among the participants in Eurostars projects. The Conference also announced 41 new Cluster projects with a total estimated budget of

680 M€. The total number of newly launched projects is therefore 278, with a total budget of 1093 M€.

The Ministerial Conference announced three new EUREKA Clusters: MF.IND (in the field of manufacturing industry), ACQUEAU (water technologies), CELTIC-plus (telecommunication technologies) and two new EUREKA Umbrellas: EUREKABUILD2 (construction technologies) and E!-SURF (surface technologies).

#### **10. Admission of a new member**

The Ministerial Conference welcomed **Bulgaria as new EUREKA member**, represented by Mr. Evgeny Angelov, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Economy, Science and Tourism of the Republic of Bulgaria. The Conference encouraged the new member to contribute actively to the network.

#### **11. Israeli Chairmanship Programme**

The Ministerial Conference welcomed the programme of the incoming Israeli Chairmanship.

Capitalizing on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Network and in line with the Strategic Roadmap, the Israeli Chair will focus on empowering EUREKA as a major industrial innovation platform in the European Research Area.

The Israeli Chairmanship aims to differentiate and add value to the EUREKA brand in order to intensify stakeholders' interest in EUREKA instruments. Hence, the incoming Chairmanship work plan will focus on developing concrete benefits for industrial participants of EUREKA and addressing the Grand Challenges through the various EUREKA instruments.

For so doing, the incoming Chair will consider how to improve innovation services to EUREKA's industrial target groups and foster adequate synergies with complementary Programmes and instruments of the European Commission and other key stakeholders of the innovation ecosystem.

Taking advantage of the Israeli expertise in the innovation support value chain, a special focus will be dedicated to elaborating innovation financing models and instruments.

## **12. Future Chairmanships**

The Ministerial Conference looked forward to the forthcoming Chairmanships of Israel (July 2010 - June 2011) and Hungary (July 2011 - June 2012).

The Ministerial Conference called upon all other members to consider whether they would assume a chairmanship of EUREKA.

## **13. Next Session of the Ministerial Conference**

The Ministerial Conference thanked the Government of Israel for taking over the next EUREKA Chairmanship.

The next session of the Ministerial Conference is scheduled during the Hungarian Chairmanship year in June 2012.

At the end of the meeting, the German Federal Minister of Education and Research, Annette Schavan, formally passed the EUREKA Chairmanship to the Head of the Israeli Delegation, Minister Ben Eliezer, and expressed her best wishes for their Chairmanship term.