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Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

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DRAFT REPORT

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the seventh framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007 to 2013)
(COM(2005)0119 – C6-0099/2005 – 2005/0043(COD))

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Rapporteur: Jerzy Buzek

Symbols for procedures

*	Consultation procedure *majority of the votes cast*
**I	Cooperation procedure (first reading) *majority of the votes cast*
**II	Cooperation procedure (second reading) *majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position* *majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend the common position*
***	Assent procedure *majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and Article 7 of the EU Treaty*
***I	Codecision procedure (first reading) *majority of the votes cast*
***II	Codecision procedure (second reading) *majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position* *majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend the common position*
***III	Codecision procedure (third reading) *majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text*

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the Commission)

Amendments to a legislative text

In amendments by Parliament, amended text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Highlighting in *normal italics* is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the legislative text for which a correction is proposed, to assist preparation of the final text (for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a given language version). These suggested corrections are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

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on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the seventh framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007 to 2013) (COM(2005)0119 – C6-0099/2005 – 2005/0043(COD))

(Codecision procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

– having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2005)0119)[1],

– having regard to Article 251(2) and Article 166(1) of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C6-0099/2005),

– having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,

– having regard to the report of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and the opinions of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the Committee on Transport and Tourism (A6-0000/2005),

1. Approves the Commission proposal as amended;

2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it intends to amend the proposal substantially or replace it with another text;

3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

Text proposed by the Commission	Amendments by Parliament
	Amendment 1 Recital 3 a (new)
	(3a) In order to more effectively attract private investment and to ensure that research and development most effectively contribute to enhancing European competitiveness, appropriate measures should be taken in the Framework Programme for the protection of intellectual property rights at an early stage in the research process.

[1] Not yet published in OJ.

Justification

It is important that results of research and development financed and delivered in the European Union will be transformed into revenues inside the Union. Therefore we must make sure that research achievements are effectively protected by appropriate legislative tools.

Amendment 2
Recital 13

(13) Under “Ideas”, activities should be implemented by a European Research Council (“ERC”), ***which*** should ***enjoy a high degree of autonomy***.	(13) Under "Ideas", activities should be implemented by a European Research Council (“ERC”),, ***a legally independent structure to be established under Article 171 of the Treaty, after a brief transitional phase managed by the Commission and a Scientific Council***. ***The ERC*** should ***be accountable to its fund-providers but autonomous in its operations and selection of research projects.***

Justification

The Expert Group on the European Research Council, chaired by Mr Federico Mayor, clearly stated in its report that "the ERC must operate as an autonomous body with its basic expertise derived from the international research community. It is both advantageous and necessary to exploit the capacity for self-government of the research community. This will be essential if the ERC is to obtain trust and credibility within the research community and with society at large". The European Parliament fully supports this recommendation and strongly believes that such autonomy can be achieved only if both the scientific decisions and the management are truly independent from the European Commission, Council and Parliament. Thus the ERC should be established according to Article 171 of the EC Treaty.

At the same time, the ERC must be accountable to the European Union and other fund-providers not only for the funds received and distributed, but also for its funding principles, its priorities and its actions.

Amendment 3
Recital 18 a (new)

	(18a) The Seventh Framework Programme should contribute to the creation of mutual synergy and complementarity with the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme, structural funds and other Community programmes.

Justification

This is to overcome one of key European weaknesses -"European Paradox" in generating splendid scientific knowledge and insufficient ability to convert this knowledge into innovation and commercial products For this, integration between FP7, structural funds and CIP Programmes should be pursued.

Amendment 4
Recital 18 b (new)

(18b) Particularly relevant for industrial research are the European Technology Platforms (TPs) and the Joint Technological Initiatives (JTIs). TPs can evolve to represent a general tool for fostering European competitiveness.

Justification

TPs should contribute to achieving the Barcelona goal of two third of the 3% of GDP spent on research by private investors. Once they have achieved adequate level of maturity, TPs should be considered as candidates to give rise to a JTIs covering some aspects of their fields.

Amendment 5
Recital 18 c (new)

(18c) The participation of the business sector and the commercial exploitation of scientific knowledge and technical skills are important factors in ensuring that the Framework Programme can make a contribution towards the Lisbon agenda and the creation of growth and jobs.

Justification

This is to overcome one of key European weaknesses -"European Paradox" in generating splendid scientific knowledge and insufficient ability to convert this knowledge into innovation and commercial products For this, integration between FP7 and CIP Programmes should be pursued.

Amendment 6
Recital 20

(20) Taking into account the mid-term	(20) Taking into account the mid-term

review of the use of new instruments under the sixth Framework Programme and the Five Year Assessment of the Framework Programme, a new approach has been defined which should allow the political objectives of EU research policy to be reached more easily, more efficiently and in a more flexible way. To this end, a smaller set of simpler "funding schemes" should be used, alone or in combination, with more flexibility and freedom, to support the different actions.	review of the use of new instruments under the sixth Framework Programme and the Five Year Assessment of the Framework Programme, a new approach has been defined which should allow the political objectives of EU research policy to be reached more easily, more efficiently and in a more flexible way. To this end, a smaller set of simpler "funding schemes" should be used, alone or in combination, with more flexibility and freedom, to support the different actions ***and stronger management autonomy should be guaranteed to participants***.

Justification

Simplification of funding schemes is certainly necessary to encourage the participations in the Framework Programme, especially for small groups and SMEs. This must stand at all stages of a research action, from the submission of a proposal to management of the project. To this purpose, participants should be allowed to choose among several options, to be agreed with Commission, as far as the administrative and scientific management of the research action is concerned, provided that accountability is guaranteed.

Amendment 7
Recital 24 a (new)

	(24a) The Framework Programme is central to achieving the Lisbon strategic goal of Europe becoming the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world. The triangle of knowledge - education, research and innovation - is recognized as a principal tool for achieving this goal.

Amendment 8
Recital 25 a (new)

	(25a) Special attention will be paid to young researchers, in order to facilitate their scientific career in the most productive period of life. Young researchers should become a major driving force of science in Europe. Concrete measures should be undertaken

in this regard in all Framework Programme activities in the "Cooperation", "Ideas" and "People"programmes.

Justification

Europe requires 700 000 young researchers by 2010, if the target of the 3% investment in research is to be achieved. The support for young researchers in the proposal does not go beyond declarations. Special attention and clear action are necessary not only in view of the expected dramatic demographic shortage of researchers of European origin but also for creating attractive, competitive conditions for young scientists from around the world and for increasing the competitiveness of the European research system. The EU funds should be used to support most talented young researchers to increase the number of doctoral students and to slow down the brain drain process.

Amendment 9
Recital 28 a (new)

(28a) The simplification of procedures and easier access for participants are objectives that form an integral part of this Framework Programme and its implementation.

Amendment 10
Recital 29 a (new)

(29a) The roles and duties of the new executive agencies proposed by the Commission for the administration and management of mobility and SME-specific support actions will be clearly defined in the Rules for Participation.

Justification

Danger of conflict of competences between the institutions involved. Critical assessment of further development of agencies by the EP.

Amendment 11
Article 2, paragraph 2, point i)

(i) Security ***and Space.***	(i) Security***;***

Justification

Since there are not many evident links between space and security they should be considered as distinct themes.

Amendment 12
Article 2, paragraph 2, point i a) (new)

	ia) Space.

Justification

Since there are not many evident links between space and security they should be considered as distinct themes.

Amendment 13
Article 7, paragraph 1

1. ***Not later than 2010, the Commission shall carry out, with the assistance*** of external experts, an interim evaluation of this Framework Programme and its specific programmes ***on*** the quality of the research activities under way and progress towards the objectives set.	1. ***The Commission shall continuously and systematically monitor the implementation of the Framework Programme and its specific programmes and regularly report on and disseminate the results of this monitoring. Twice during the programme, in 2009 and 2011,*** the Commission shall carry out, with the assistance of external experts, an interim evaluation of this Framework Programme and its specific programmes***, building upon the ex-post evaluation of the Sixth Framework Programme. This evaluation shall cover*** the quality of the research activities under way***, as well as the quality of implementation and management,*** and progress towards the objectives set. ***The findings on the effectiveness of new actions and structures, especially the ERC and JTIs, as well as the results of the simplification procedures, should be presented to the European Parliament,***

the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

Justification

Numerous new elements are being introduced into the FP7. Their functioning must be monitored and amended during the 7-year period. In previous Framework Programmes there was one mid-term assessment for 4 years period, the requirement for two in 7 years is reasonable. Moreover, so many new instruments without defined final shape (e.g. ERC, executive agencies, JTIs) require earlier evaluation to introduce corrections and modifications.

Amendment 14
Annex I, paragraph 1

The seventh Framework Programme will be carried out to pursue the general objectives described in Article 163 of the Treaty in contributing towards the creation of a knowledge-based society, building on a European Research Area. ***It shall strengthen excellence in scientific and technological research through the following four programmes: cooperation, ideas, people and capacities.***	The seventh Framework Programme will be carried out to pursue the general objectives described in Article 163 of the Treaty in contributing towards the creation of a knowledge-based society, building on a European Research Area. ***Two strategic lines will be supported within the Framework Programme:*** ***– development of basic/frontier research*** ***– development of applied research in close cooperation with the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, in order to enhance the competitiveness of European industry.*** ***The European Research Council will be established in order to meet the first objective, and will be responsible for the implementation of EU activities in basic research.*** ***The second objective will be realized by closer integration of the research phase with the demonstration phase, and the commercialisation phase which will fall under the domain of the CIP programme. The special role of SMEs will be duly***

recognised through specific measures.

The European Technology Platforms will have important role in developing the European Research Area (ERA) and contributing to the Lisbon Strategy. The Framework Programme will strengthen excellence in scientific and technological research through the following four programmes: "Cooperation", "Ideas", "People" and "Capacities".

Justification

Clear statement on FP7 objectives and action lines is required. FP7 aims at development of "wings" and broadening the area of intervention: on the one side basic and frontier research and on the other one applied research, demonstration and closer integration with innovation activities.

The effective and intensive support must be provided to European industry, in particular SMEs. The strategic, key element of this support will be the European technology initiatives (JTI). Nevertheless, there is a threat that FP7 absorbed with large initiatives will forget SMEs. Some symptoms are visible today, for example the success rate in the CRAFT projects is about 10% - some specific measures are really required.

Amendment 15
Annex I, paragraph 1 a (new)

Taking into account disparities in the cost of human resources, Europe should fully explore the potential for more excellent research at lower cost. Although scientific excellence remains the leading evaluation criterion for actions funded under the Framework Programme, cost-efficiency considerations will be taken into account where possible.

Justification

All efforts must be undertaken to maximize outputs of the Programme. Building the European Research Area requires that partners from different countries and regions are involved in research projects, both these from the so called core countries and from those less developed, including the convergence regions. This will give another dimension to the creation of the European added value in projects, and ensure equal participation and full integration of partners.

Amendment 16
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation" , paragraph 3, introductory part

The ***nine*** themes determined for EU action are the following:	The ***ten*** themes determined for EU action are the following:

Justification

A consequence of the separation of Security and Space into distinct themes.

Amendment 17
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", paragraph 3, point (9)

(9) Security and Space	***(9) Security***
	(9a) Space

Justification

A consequence of the separation of Security and Space into distinct themes.

Amendment 18
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", paragraph 5

Special attention will be paid ***to priority scientific areas which cut across themes, such as marine sciences and technologies***.	Special attention will be paid ***to ensuring effective coordination between the thematic areas and scientific areas which cut across themes***.

Justification

In view of multidisciplinarity it is necessary to have special joint calls or special actions which involve several research thematic areas.

Amendment 19
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", paragraph 8 a (new)

	For the European Technology Platforms to be successful, the committed participation of financial institutions is paramount, since market ability and venture capital availability are the most important issues to bring together research and innovation.

	European Technology Platforms will create favourable conditions for individual enterprises to invest in specific research projects to improve their competitiveness, thus making leap progress possible in synergy with product innovation. These research projects will be competitive in nature and may be funded under the Framework Programme in synergy with Structural Funds, CIP funds and regional funds.
	European Technology Platforms should make use of the extensive experience gained by the EUREKA Clusters which have successfully contributed to the growth of strategic research areas in Europe.
	SMEs will be adequately involved in the decision taking procedures of the Technology Platforms.
	The "European Social-Environmental Innovation Platform" will bring together non-profit civil society organisations (CSOs), research institutions and regulatory authorities at the European level.

Justification

European Technology Platforms, being new entities, should benefit from earlier experiences of actors participating in similar activities, and combine several accessible sources of financing. The participation and role of SMEs should be ensured, to encourage their involvement and facilitate their participation in projects.

The creation of the "European Social-Environmental Innovation Platform" should supplement the activities of the technology oriented platforms, not to exclude this important research area.

Amendment 20
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation",, paragraph 8

The ***nine*** themes also include research needed to underpin the formulation, implementation and assessment of EU policies, such as in the areas of health, safety, consumer protection, energy, the	The ***ten*** themes also include research needed to underpin the formulation, implementation and assessment of EU policies, such as in the areas of health, safety, consumer protection, energy, the

environment, development aid, fisheries, maritime affairs, agriculture, animal welfare, transport, education and training, employment, social affairs, cohesion, and justice and home affairs, along with pre-normative and co-normative research relevant to improving the quality of standards and their implementation.	environment, development aid, fisheries, maritime affairs, agriculture, animal welfare, transport, ***ICT,*** education and training, employment, social affairs, cohesion, and justice and home affairs, along with pre-normative and co-normative research relevant to improving the quality of standards and their implementation.

Justification

A consequence of the separation of Security and Space into distinct themes.

ICT, penetrating all other areas, cannot be excluded from this set of EU policies.

Amendment 21
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", paragraph 10

In order to strengthen the diffusion and use of the output of EU research, the dissemination of knowledge and transfer of results, including to policy makers, will be supported in all thematic areas, including through the funding of networking initiatives, seminars and events, assistance by external experts and information and electronic services in particular CORDIS. Actions to support innovation will be taken under the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme. Support will also be provided to initiatives aiming at engaging the dialogue on scientific issues and research results with a broad public beyond the research community, and in the field of scientific communication and education. Ethical principles and gender aspects will be taken into account	In order to strengthen the diffusion and use of the output of EU research, the dissemination of knowledge and transfer of results, including to policy makers, will be supported in all thematic areas, including through the funding of networking initiatives, seminars and events, assistance by external experts and information and electronic services in particular CORDIS. Actions to support innovation will be taken under the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme. ***Particular attention will be paid to ensuring the adequate participation of SMEs in transnational cooperation. Therefore, concrete measures, including special calls for SMEs , "National Exploratory Awards", and support actions to facilitate SME participation will be taken throughout the "Cooperation" programme under each theme. To optimise available resources, a cost-efficiency analysis will be introduced as an auxiliary criterion, in order to ensure that optimal resources are allocated to tasks.Gender equality considerations and the need to facilitate participation of young researchers will be addressed in all areas of research.*** Support will also be provided to initiatives aiming at engaging the dialogue on scientific

issues and research results with a broad public beyond the research community, and in the field of scientific communication and education. Ethical principles and gender aspects will be taken into account

Justification

Development of ERA and results of FP7 activities should be more promoted at national level.

Barriers for SMEs to participate in FP7 are still significant. There should be a number of measures to facilitate their involvement.

The quality of a project is always the most important criterion but the cost-efficiency analysis could be additional advantage to maximize outputs of the Programme. This will give another dimension to the creation of the European added value in projects, and ensure equal participation and full integration of partners, including those from the convergence regions.

Young researchers haven't been so far promoted sufficiently in the Framework Programmes. These both issues: involvement of women and young researchers should be major horizontal themes crossing all activities.

Amendment 22
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", paragraph 10 a (new)

The wide variety of activities funded under the Framework Programme makes the proper integration and coordination of activities necessary. To avoid fragmentation and overlapping and to ensure significant integration with national and regional actions, the role of Networks of Excellence will be extended. For better integration of activities it is important that the European Technology Platforms maintain close links with national research programmes and initiatives, e.g. with national technology platforms, to create synergies in the development of new advanced technologies.

Justification

The FP7 introduces a number of instruments such as ERC, TPs, JTIs, large Collaborative Research projects, large National Research Programmes coordinated by ERA-Net, large infrastructure, JRC activities and EURATOM programme, and their results may be damaged by fragmentation, overlapping and lack of integration. It is not clear how these separated

programmes will interact with each other. Furthermore, it is not clear how integration of efforts at European, national and regional levels will be assured. One possible solution is to extend the role of NoEs to have more coordination and integration tasks.

Amendment 23
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation" , subtitle "Collaborative Research", paragraph 1a (new)

	To support the development of the European Research Area, to avoid fragmentation and duplication of research efforts and to strengthen the coordination between projects and initiatives under the "Cooperation" programme , under other specific programmes in the Framework Programme, and other research carried out at national and regional level, new networking and integration tasks will be introduced into the remit of the Networks of Excellence

Justification

NoEs which so far were targeted towards creation of virtual institutes and integration of activities of a "core group", should have more open character, networking with technology platforms, ERA-Net, JTI and other initiatives from their field of interest to posses a character of "research network: contributing to exchange of information, creation of joint initiatives and to effective integration of research and commercial activities.

Amendment 24
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Collaborative Research", paragraph 2

This will be achieved by supporting collaborative research through a range of funding schemes: Collaborative projects, Networks of Excellence, Co-ordination/support actions (see Annex III).	***These objectives*** will be achieved by supporting collaborative research through a range of funding schemes: Collaborative projects, Networks of Excellence, Co-ordination/support actions (see Annex III). ***Collaborative projects should cover research and demonstration activities, bringing results closer to the market and linking this action line with instruments offered by the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme.***

Amendment 25

Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Joint Technology Initiatives", paragraph 2, introductory part

Potential Joint Technology Initiatives will be identified on the basis of a series of criteria including:	Potential Joint Technology Initiatives will be identified on the basis of ***an open evaluation process with*** a series of ***transparent*** criteria including:

Justification

The open evaluation process should ensure that TPs , when achieved adequate level of maturity, should be considered as candidates to give rise to a JTIs covering some aspects of their fields.

Amendment 26
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Joint Technology Initiatives", paragraph 2, indent 1

- Added value of European-level intervention	- Added value of European-level intervention ***measured, inter alia, in terms of cost efficiency***

Justification

All efforts must be undertaken to maximize outputs of the Programme. Building the European Research Area requires that partners from different countries and regions are involved in research projects, both these from the so called core countries and from those less developed, including the convergence regions. This will give another dimension to the creation of the European added value in projects, and ensure equal participation and full integration of partners.

Amendment 27
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Joint Technology Initiatives", paragraph 2, indent 1a (new)

	- Strength of the European dimension, also including the degree of involvement of SMEs

Justification

JTIs should really have a European dimension, implementing technologies in benefit of all Member States, promoting and disseminating new technologies - for this balanced participation (including convergence regions) is required as well as involvement of SMEs or their associations.

Amendment 28
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Joint Technology Initiatives", paragraph 2, indent 7a (new)

- Number of researchers mobilised from private to public and vice versa, as well as quality of training programme

Justification

JTIs should contribute to the mobility of researchers from private to public sector and vice versa.

Amendment 29
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Joint Technology Initiatives", paragraph 3

Particular attention will be paid to the overall coherence and coordination between Joint Technology Initiatives and national programmes and projects in the same fields.	***Considering the wide scope and particular complexity of the Joint Technology Initiatives, significant efforts will be made to ensure their transparent operation in line with principles of excellence, cost efficiency and competition.*** Particular attention will be paid to the overall coherence and coordination between Joint Technology Initiatives and national programmes and projects in the same fields.

Justification

JTIs should really be of European dimension, implementing technologies in benefit of all Member States, promoting and disseminating new technologies - for this balanced participation (including convergence regions).

Amendment 30
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Co-ordination of non-Community research programmes", paragraph 2, indent 2

- Providing additional EU financial support to those participants that create a ***common fund*** for the purpose of joint calls for proposals between their respective national and regional programmes ("ERA-NET PLUS").	- ***In a limited number of cases,*** providing additional EU financial support to those participants that create a ***pool of resources*** for the purpose of joint calls for proposals between their respective national and regional programmes ("ERA-NET PLUS").

Justification

Additional EU financial support to ERA-NET PLUS should not become a form of a subsidy to national research. Support should be given in limited number of cases to those ERA-NET PLUS initiatives with truly European dimension and integration with other FP7 activities.

Amendment 31
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Co-ordination of non-Community research programmes", paragraph 2, indent 2 a (new)

	- in limited number of cases, the application of the successful ERA-STAR scheme of co-operation between European Regions and medium-sized Member States to the governance of long-range programmes such as the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) application.

Justification

ERA-STAR is an ERA-NET project in which European Regions and small-medium sized member states participate, co-operating with each others in ways that are considered promising. This scheme is particularly suitable for the governance of a programme such as GMES, where the needs of European regions should be taken into due account.

Amendment 32
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Co-ordination of non-Community research programmes", paragraph 3, introductory part

The participation of the Community in national research programmes jointly implemented on the basis of Article 169 is especially relevant to European co-operation on a large scale in "variable geometry" between Member States sharing common needs and/or interests. Such Article 169 initiatives will be launched in areas to be identified in close association with the Member States, including the possible cooperation with intergovernmental programmes, on the basis of a series of criteria:	The participation of the Community in national research programmes jointly implemented on the basis of Article 169 is especially relevant to European co-operation on a large scale in "variable geometry" between Member States sharing common needs and/or interests. ***In well identified cases,*** such Article 169 initiatives will be launched in areas to be identified in close association with the Member States, including the possible cooperation with intergovernmental programmes, on the basis of a series of criteria:

Justification

A "variable geometry" initiatives carried out by a few Member States are to a certain extent contradictory to achieving the European dimension. The support will be granted only in well identified and justified cases which will bring economic benefits to all Member States.

Amendment 33
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "International co-operation", paragraph 2a (new)

An overall strategy for International Cooperation within the Framework Programme will be prepared, defining objectives, European interest and specific areas of cooperation with each group of countries. The strategy will indicate areas in which third country participation should be limited, e.g. in security research.

Justification

Strategy will ensure coherent approach to the broad area of International Cooperation and will improve effectiveness. In the case of security, limited access to the information issues is necessary.

Amendment 34
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point1 "Health", subtitle "Rationale", paragraph 2

Clinical research on many diseases (e.g. cancer, cardiovascular diseases, mental and neurological diseases, in particular those linked with ageing, such as Alzheimer and Parkinson diseases) relies on international multi-centre trials to achieve the required number of patients in a short time-frame. Epidemiological research requires a large diversity of populations and international networks to achieve significant conclusions. Developing new diagnostics and treatments for rare disorders also require multi-country approaches to increase the number of patients for each study. And performing health policy-driven research at the European level enables comparisons of the models, systems, data,	Clinical research on many diseases (e.g. cancer, cardiovascular diseases, ***rheumatic, respiratory,*** mental and neurological diseases, in particular those linked with ageing, such as Alzheimer and Parkinson diseases) relies on international multi-centre trials to achieve the required number of patients in a short time-frame. Epidemiological research requires a large diversity of populations and international networks to achieve significant conclusions. Developing new diagnostics and treatments for rare disorders also require multi-country approaches to increase the number of patients for each study. And performing health policy-driven research at the European level enables

and patient material held in national databases and biobanks.	comparisons of the models, systems, data, and patient material held in national databases and biobanks.

Justification

The causes of rheumatic diseases are rooted in genetic disformations. The consequences are a big burden on our social and health systems.

The importance of research on rheumatic diseases has been underlined by the adoption of a written declaration on 13.10.05 n° 389 (procedure under Rule 116 of its Rules of procedure).

Amendment 35
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation" , subtitle "Themes", point 1 "Health", subtitle "Rationale", paragraph 3

A strong EU-based biomedical research will help strengthen the competitiveness of the European healthcare biotechnology, medical technology and pharmaceutical industries. The EU also has to play an active role in creating an environment conducive to innovation in the pharmaceutical sector, in particular to maximise the success of clinical research. Research-based SMEs are the main economic drivers of the healthcare biotechnology and medical technology industries. Although Europe now has more Biotechnology companies than US, most of them are small and less mature than their competitors. Public-private research efforts at the EU level will facilitate their development. EU research will also contribute to the development of new norms and standards to set up an appropriate legislative framework for new medical technologies (e.g. regenerative medicine).	A strong EU-based biomedical research will help strengthen the competitiveness of the European healthcare biotechnology, medical technology and pharmaceutical industries. The EU also has to play an active role in creating an environment conducive to innovation in the pharmaceutical sector, in particular to maximise the success of clinical research. ***To this effect, the implementation of MICE programme (Medicines Investigation for the Children of Europe) will be promoted.*** Research-based SMEs are the main economic drivers of the healthcare biotechnology and medical technology industries. Although Europe now has more Biotechnology companies than US, most of them are small and less mature than their competitors. Public-private research efforts at the EU level will facilitate their development. EU research will also contribute to the development of new norms and standards to set up an appropriate legislative framework for new medical technologies (e.g. regenerative medicine).

Justification

Regulation on medicinal products for paediatric use and amending Regulation (EEC) No 1768/92, Directive 2001/83/EC and Regulation (EC) No 726/2004.

Amendment 36
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 1 "Health", subtitle "Activities", bullet 1, indent 4

– *Innovative therapeutic approaches and intervention*. To consolidate and ensure further developments in advanced therapies and technologies with potential application in many diseases and disorders.	– *Innovative therapeutic approaches and intervention*. To consolidate and ensure further developments in advanced therapies and technologies with potential application in many diseases and disorders***, including children's diseases and disorders***.

Amendment 37
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 1 "Health", subtitle "Activities", bullet 2, indent 4

– Translational research in major diseases: cancer, cardiovascular ***disease***, diabetes/obesity; rare diseases; and other chronic diseases (e.g. osteoarthritis). To develop patient-oriented strategies from prevention to diagnosis and treatment including clinical research.	– Translational research in major diseases: cancer, cardiovascular***, rheumatic and respiratory diseases***, diabetes/obesity; rare diseases; and other chronic diseases (e.g. osteoarthritis,). To develop patient-oriented strategies from prevention to diagnosis and treatment including clinical research.

Justification

The importance of research on rheumatic diseases has been underlined by the adoption of a written declaration on 13.10.05 n° 389 (procedure under Rule 116 of its Rules of procedure).

Amendment 38
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 1 "Health", subtitle "Activities", bullet 3, indent 3

– Enhanced disease prevention and better use of medicines. To develop efficient public health interventions addressing wider determinants of health (such as stress, diet or environmental factors). To identify successful interventions in different health care settings for improving the prescription of medicines and improving their use by patients (including pharmacovigilence aspects).	– Enhanced disease prevention and better use of medicines. ***Immunological, toxicological and epidemiological studies to promote high levels of preventive and precautionary healthcare. Research on the appropriate use in children of established medicines.*** To develop efficient public health interventions addressing wider determinants of health (such as stress, diet or environmental factors). To identify successful interventions in different health care

	settings for improving the prescription of medicines and improving their use by patients (including pharmacovigilence aspects).

Justification

Preventive and precautionary healthcare is not only less expensive but also more effective and more important for the well being of people.

The need for financial support for research into the appropriate use in children of established medicines has been highlighted by the Parliament as part of the proposed Regulation on Paediatric Medicines.

Amendment 39
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation" , subtitle "Themes", point 2 "Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology", subtitle "Activities", bullet 1

Sustainable production and management of biological resources from land, forest, and aquatic environments: Enabling research, including 'omics' technologies, such as genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, systems biology and converging technologies for micro-organisms, plants and animals, including ***exploitation*** of their biodiversity; improved crops and production systems, including organic farming, quality production schemes and GMO impacts; sustainable, competitive and multifunctional agriculture, and forestry; rural development; animal welfare, breeding and production; plant health; sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture; infectious diseases in animals, including zoonoses; safe disposal of animal waste; conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources, developing the tools needed by policy makers and other actors in agriculture and rural development (landscape, land management practices etc.).	Sustainable production and management of biological resources from land, forest, and aquatic environments: Enabling research, including 'omics' technologies, such as genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, systems biology and converging technologies for micro-organisms, plants and animals, including ***conservation and sustainable use*** of their biodiversity; improved crops and production systems, including organic farming, quality production schemes and GMO impacts; sustainable, competitive and multifunctional agriculture, and forestry; ***integrated*** rural development***, including the aspects of civil society participation in planning and decision making***; animal welfare, breeding and production; ***alternative testing strategies and non-animal methods,*** plant health; sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture; infectious diseases in animals, including zoonoses; safe disposal of animal waste; conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources, developing the tools needed by policy makers and other actors in agriculture and rural development (landscape, land management practices etc.).

Justification

Sustainability of food production and resource management shall be the main focus of this activity.

In accordance with the requirements in the Protocol on the Protection and Welfare of Animals, Art. 23 of Council Directive 86/609/EEC, Art. 7.2 (a) and (b) of the Sixth Community Environment Action Programme, and the objective of the proposed EU chemicals Regulation to promote non-animal testing, the development and validation of alternative testing strategies and in particular non-animal test methods should be included among the activities in relation to environment and health.

Amendment 40
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 2 "Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology", subtitle "Activities", bullet 2

"Fork to farm": Food, health and well being: Consumer, societal, industrial and health aspects of food and feed, including behavioural and cognitive sciences; nutrition, diet related diseases and disorders, including obesity; innovative food and feed processing technologies (including packaging); improved quality and safety, both chemical and ***microbiological***, of food, beverage and feed; integrity (and control) of the food chain; environmental impacts on and of food/feed chains; total food chain concept (including seafood); traceability.	**"**Fork to farm": Food, health and well being: Consumer, societal, industrial and health aspects of food and feed, including behavioural and cognitive sciences; nutrition, diet related diseases and disorders, including obesity ***and allergies; health benefits of certain food and diets****;* innovative food and feed processing technologies (including packaging); improved quality and safety, both chemical and ***biological***, of food, beverage and feed; integrity ***and sustainability*** (and control) of the food chain; environmental impacts on and of food/feed chains; total food chain concept (including seafood); traceability.

Amendment 41
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 3 "Information and Communication Technologies", subtitle "Rationale", paragraph 1

Information and Communication Technologies are critical to Europe's future and underpin the realisation of the Lisbon agenda. Half of the productivity gains in our economies are explained by the impact of ICT on products, services and business processes. ICT is the leading factor in boosting innovation and creativity and in mastering change in value chains across industry and service sectors. ICT is	Information and Communication Technologies are critical to Europe's future and underpin the realisation of the Lisbon agenda. Half of the productivity gains in our economies are explained by the impact of ICT on products, services and business processes. ICT is the leading factor in boosting innovation and creativity and in mastering change in value chains across industry and service sectors. ***ICT should***

essential to meet the rise in demand for health and social care and to modernise services in domains of public interest such as education, learning, security, energy, transport and the environment. And ICT is catalytic in the advance of other fields of science and technology as it transforms the way researchers conduct their research, co-operate and innovate.	***promote accessibility and transparency of governance and policy development processes.*** ICT is essential to meet the rise in demand for health and social care and to modernise services in domains of public interest such as education, learning, security, energy, transport and the environment. And ICT is catalytic in the advance of other fields of science and technology as it transforms the way researchers conduct their research, co-operate and innovate.

Amendment 42
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 3 "Information and Communication Technologies", subtitle "Rationale", paragraph 2 a (new)

	ICT research activity based on the 'open source' development model is proving its utility as a source of innovation and increasing collaboration. It is worthwhile exploring whether this model for cooperation and innovation could also prove useful for other Framework Programme activities.

Justification

As applied to software, the open source development model is based on community collaboration with widespread dissemination, access and ability to reuse the results with minimal restrictions This development model encourages examination, peer review, reuse, customisation and improvement of the software developed and released in an open source community. Open source development is a major vector for innovation in the ICT sector, contributing both to technological advancement and increased competition. European enterprises both large and small, universities and individual developers are among the world's primary contributors to open source software development.

Amendment 43
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 3 "Information and Communication Technologies", subtitle "Rationale", paragraph 4

The ICT research activities will be closely articulated with policy actions for ICT deployment and with regulatory measures within a comprehensive and holistic strategy. Priorities have been set following	The ICT research activities will be closely articulated with policy actions for ICT deployment and with regulatory measures within a comprehensive and holistic strategy. Priorities have been set following

extensive consultations including input from a series of European Technology Platforms and industrial initiatives in areas such as nano-electronics, embedded systems, mobile communications, electronic media, robotics and software, services and Grids.	extensive consultations including input from a series of European Technology Platforms and industrial initiatives in areas such as nano-electronics, embedded systems, mobile communications, electronic media, ***photonics,*** robotics and software, services and Grids.

Justification

The European Technology Platform on Photonics should not be disregarded.

Amendment 44
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation" , subtitle "Themes", point 3 "Information and Communication Technologies", subtitle "Activities", bullet 3, indent 1, sub-indent 5

– for governments; efficiency, openness and accountability, for a world-class public administration and links to citizens and businesses, supporting democracy.	– for governments ***and cities***; efficiency, openness and accountability, for a world-class public administration and links to citizens and businesses, supporting democracy.

Justification

Research and demonstration projects are needed to determine what policies and strategies are most practical and effective for cities to play their role in stimulating ICT use and to facilitate stronger local contribution to the modernisation of the services provided for European citizens and businesses and in public interest domains such as education, learning, security.

Amendment 45
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 3. "Information and Communication Technologies", subtitle "Activities", bullet 3, indent 1, sub-indent 5 a (new)

	– for security, following the guidelines indicated in the theme 'Security and Space'.

Justification

The list would not look complete without reference to Security, although this theme is covered in another section of the Framework Programme.

Amendment 46
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 3. "Information and

Communication Technologies", subtitle "Activities", bullet 3, indent 4

– ICT for trust and confidence*:* identity management; authentication and authorization; privacy enhancing technologies; rights and asset management; protection against cyber threats.	– ICT for trust and confidence: identity management; authentication and authorization; privacy enhancing technologies; rights and asset management; protection against cyber threats***; monitoring of security/privacy critical issues***.

Justification

Privacy risks to be overlooked unless a specific committee is created in order to secure it along the way; the JRC is the EU body that looks entitled to take the initiative of a committee as it covered the Security/Privacy issue extensively over the past years.

Amendment 47
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 4 "Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies", subtitle "Rationale", paragraph 3

European Technology Platforms in fields such as nanoelectronics, manufacturing, steel, chemistry, the transport industry, construction, industrial safety, textiles, pulp and paper help establish common research priorities and targets. In addition to industry relevant priorities and their integration for sectoral applications,, the relevant policy, regulatory and standardisation, and impact issues will be addressed, including by responding flexibly to new policy needs that arise.	European Technology Platforms in fields such as nanoelectronics, ***nanomedicine, photonics,*** manufacturing, steel, chemistry, the transport industry, construction, industrial safety, textiles, pulp and paper help establish common research priorities and targets. In addition to industry relevant priorities and their integration for sectoral applications,, the relevant policy, regulatory and standardisation, and impact issues will be addressed, including by responding flexibly to new policy needs that arise.

Justification

The European Technology Platforms on Photonics and NanoMedicine should not be disregarded.

Amendment 48
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 5 "Energy", subtitle "Objective"

Transforming the current fossil-fuel based energy system into a ***more*** sustainable ***one*** based on a diverse portfolio of energy	Transforming the current fossil-fuel based energy system into ***a more energy efficient and less CO_2 emitting economy; such*** a

sources and carriers combined with enhanced energy efficiency, to address the pressing challenges of security of supply and climate change, whilst increasing the competitiveness of Europe's energy industries.	sustainable ***energy economy will be*** based on a diverse portfolio of energy sources and carriers, ***with particular attention being paid to renewable energy sources***, combined with enhanced energy efficiency ***and energy conservation*** to address the pressing challenges of security of supply and climate change, whilst increasing the competitiveness of Europe's ***sustainable*** energy industries.

Justification

FP7 activities should be consistent with the European energy policy aiming at diversification of primary energy sources, improvement of energy efficiency and reduction of anthropogenic CO2 emission.

Amendment 49
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 5 "Energy", subtitle "Rationale", paragraph 3

Radically transforming the energy system requires new technologies with risks that are too high and the benefits too uncertain for private firms to provide all the investment needed for research, development, demonstration and deployment. Public support should therefore play a key role in mobilising private investment and European efforts and resources should be combined in a coherent and more effective manner, to compete with economies that are investing heavily and consistently in similar technologies. European technology platforms play a vital role in this regard, by mobilising the necessary research effort in a coordinated manner. The activities to meet the objective are set out below. A specific activity on knowledge for energy policy making is included which may also provide support to new policy needs that emerge, for example relating to the role of European energy policy in the developments of international climate change actions, and instabilities or disruptions in energy supply and price.	Radically transforming the energy system ***into a sustainable intelligent energy system*** requires new technologies with risks that are too high and the benefits too uncertain for private firms to provide all the investment needed for research, development, demonstration and deployment. Public support should therefore play a key role in mobilising private investment and European efforts and resources should be combined in a coherent and more effective manner, to compete with economies that are investing heavily and consistently in similar technologies. European technology platforms play a vital role in this regard, by mobilising the necessary research effort in a coordinated manner. The activities to meet the objective are set out below. A specific activity on knowledge for energy policy making is included which may also provide support to new policy needs that emerge, for example relating to the role of European energy policy in the developments of international climate change actions, and instabilities or

disruptions in energy supply and price.

Justification

FP7 activities should be consistent with the European energy policy aiming at diversification of primary energy sources, improvement of energy efficiency and reduction of anthropogenic CO2 emission. This is normally referred as an intelligent energy system.

Amendment 50
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 5 "Energy", subtitle "Activities", bullet 7, paragraph 1

To increase the efficiency, safety and reliability of the European electricity and gas systems and networks e.g. by transforming the current electricity grids into an interactive (customers/operators) service network and to remove obstacles to the large-scale deployment and effective integration of distributed and renewable energy sources.	To increase the efficiency, safety and reliability of the European electricity and gas systems and networks e.g. by transforming the current electricity grids into an interactive (customers/operators) service network and, ***by developing energy storage options,*** to remove obstacles to the large-scale deployment and effective integration of distributed and renewable energy sources.

Justification

The development of storage options for electricity is important, particularly for electricity generated from wind power. Hydrogen and fuels cells are, among others, a storage options.

Amendment 51
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 6 "Environment (including Climate Change)", subtitle "Rationale", paragraph 2

Research is needed at EU level for the implementation of international commitments such as the Kyoto protocol, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the objectives of the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002, including the EU Water Initiative, and contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Earth Observation initiative. In addition there are significant research needs arising from existing and emerging EU level policies, the implementation of the 6th Environmental Action Plan and associated	Research is needed at EU level for the implementation of international commitments such as ***the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and*** its Kyoto protocol, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the objectives of the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002, including the EU Water Initiative, and contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Earth Observation initiative. In addition there are significant research needs arising from existing and emerging EU level policies, the

thematic strategies, the action plans on Environmental Technologies and Environment and Health, and Directives such as the Water Framework.	implementation of the 6th Environmental Action Plan and associated thematic strategies, the action plans on Environmental Technologies and Environment and Health, ***the Community Strategy on Mercury*** and Directives such as the Water Framework.

Justification

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change dealing with the post-Kyoto measures cannot be disregarded.

Community Strategy on Mercury is also relevant for the Environmental Action Plan.

Amendment 52
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 6 "Environment (including Climate Changes)", subtitle "Rationale", paragraph 3

The EU needs to strengthen its position in world markets for environmental technologies. Such technologies help deliver sustainable growth providing eco-efficient solutions to environmental problems at different scales and protecting our cultural heritage. Environmental requirements act as a stimulus for innovation and can provide business opportunities. European Technology Platforms on water supply and sanitation and on sustainable chemistry confirm the need for EU level action and their research agendas are taken into consideration in the activities below. Other Platforms (e.g. on Construction and on Forestry) partially deal with environmental technology issues and are taken into consideration as well.	The EU needs to strengthen its position in world markets for environmental technologies. Such technologies ***contribute to sustainable consumption and production and*** help deliver sustainable growth providing eco-efficient solutions to environmental problems at different scales and protecting our cultural heritage. Environmental requirements act as a stimulus for innovation and can provide business opportunities. European Technology Platforms on water supply and sanitation and on sustainable chemistry confirm the need for EU level action and their research agendas are taken into consideration in the activities below. Other Platforms (e.g. on Construction and on Forestry) partially deal with environmental technology issues and are taken into consideration as well.

Amendment 53
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 6 "Environment (including Climate Change), subtitle "Activities", bullet 1, indent 1

- Pressures on environment and climate: Functioning of climate and the earth	- Pressures on environment and climate: Functioning of climate and the earth

system; adaptation and mitigation measures; pollution in air, soil and water; changes in atmospheric composition and water cycle; interactions between climate, land surface and the ocean; and impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems.	system; adaptation and mitigation measures; pollution ***and pollution prevention*** in air, soil and water; changes in atmospheric composition and water cycle; interactions between climate, land surface and the ocean; and impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems***, including the effects of the rising sea level on valuable coastal zones and coastal cities***

Justification

The amendment would enable the Framework Programme to encompass proposals to tackle the fossil-energy based pollution problems both at source and, any which escapes into the environment be it through man-made or natural causes.

The sea level rise (SLR) is undoubtedly a visible effect of global changes and adaptation and mitigation measures are already being adopted to preserve cities and coastal areas. The combined impacts of both SLR and mitigation measures should be properly considered in all its aspects

Amendment 54
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 6 "Environment (including Climate Change)", subtitle "Activities", bullet 2, indent 1

- Conservation and sustainable management of natural and man-made resources: ecosystems; water resources management; waste management and prevention; protection and management of biodiversity, soil protection, seabed and coastal areas protection, approaches against desertification and land degradation; forest management; sustainable management and planning of urban environment, data management and information services; assessment and foresight relating to natural processes.	- Conservation and sustainable management of natural and man-made resources: ecosystems; water resources management; waste management and prevention; protection and management of biodiversity, soil protection, seabed, ***lagoons*** and coastal areas protection, approaches against desertification and land degradation, ***preservation of landscape***; forest management; sustainable management and planning of urban environment, ***historic resources, cultural heritage and tourism,*** data management and information services; assessment and foresight relating to natural processes.

Justification

Lagoons are peculiar transitional environments of primary ecologic importance and they are very sensible to global changes. They act often as buffer zones between land and sea, freshwater/saltwater, and they are threatened by sea level rise (SLR) and other global changes effects. Especially in Europe, lagoons are largely exploited since centuries by human

activities and therefore present social, cultural heritage concerns to be included in their sustainable management.

Research on the preservation of landscape and sustainable management of historic resources, cultural heritage and tourism should be continued in the FP7.

Amendment 55
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 6 "Environment,(including Climate Change)", subtitle "Activities", bullet 2, indent 2

- Evolution of marine environments: Impacts of human activities on the marine environment and its resources; pollution and eutrophication in regional seas and coastal areas; deep sea ecosystems; assessment of marine biodiversity trends, of ecosystem processes and of ocean circulation; seabed geology	- Evolution of marine environments: Impacts of human activities on the marine environment and its resources; pollution and eutrophication in regional seas, ***lagoons*** and coastal areas; deep sea ecosystems; assessment of marine biodiversity trends, of ecosystem processes and of ocean circulation; seabed geology

Justification

Lagoons are peculiar transitional environments of primary ecologic importance and they are very sensible to global changes. They act often as buffer zones between land and sea, freshwater/saltwater, and they are threaten by SLR and other global changes effects. Especially in Europe, lagoons are largely exploited since centuries by human activities and therefore present social, cultural heritage concerns to be included in their sustainable management.

Amendment 56
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 7 "Transport (including Aeronautics)", subtitle "Rationale", paragraph 3

The research agendas developed by European Technology platforms support the need to take a new “transport systems” perspective that considers the interactions of vehicles, transport networks and the use of transport services, which can only be developed at European level. RTD costs in all these fields are rising substantially, and collaborative activity at EU-level is essential to enable a “critical mass” of diverse RTD providers to address the scale and multi-disciplinary challenges in a cost-effective way, as well as meeting the political, technological and socio-economic	The research agendas developed by European Technology platforms support the need to take a new “transport systems” perspective that considers the interactions of vehicles, transport networks and the use of transport services, which can only be developed at European level. RTD costs in all these fields are rising substantially, and collaborative activity at EU-level is essential to enable a “critical mass” of diverse RTD providers to address the scale and multi-disciplinary challenges in a cost-effective way, as well as meeting the political, technological and socio-economic

challenges on issues such as the "clean and safe vehicle" of the future, interoperability and intermodality with particular reference to rail transport, affordability, safety, capacity, security and environmental impacts in an enlarged Union. Also, developing technologies in support of the Galileo system and its applications will be essential in implementing European policies.	challenges on issues such as the "clean and safe vehicle" of the future, interoperability and intermodality with particular reference to rail transport, affordability, safety, capacity, security and environmental impacts in an enlarged Union. ***A strong technological foundation for a competitive EU fuel cell and hydrogen industry for transport applications is of particular importance.*** Also, developing technologies in support of the Galileo system and its applications will be essential in implementing European policies.

Justification

Application of fuel cells in transport should involve financial resources also from this priority theme.

Amendment 57
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 7 "Transport (including Aeronautics)", subtitle "Activities", bullet 2, indent 1

– The greening of surface transport: reduction of environmental and noise pollution;; development of clean and efficient engines, including hybrid technology and the use of alternative fuels for transport applications; end of life strategies for vehicles and vessels.	– The greening of surface transport: reduction of environmental and noise pollution*;*; development of clean and efficient engines, including hybrid technology and the use of alternative fuels for transport applications ***in particular hydrogen and fuel cells***; end of life strategies for vehicles and vessels.

Justification

Application of fuel cells in transport should involve financial resources also from this priority theme.

Amendment 58
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 7 "Transport (including Aeronautics)", subtitle "Activities", bullet 2, indent 3

– Ensuring sustainable urban mobility: innovative organisation schemes, including clean and safe vehicles and non-polluting means of transport, new public transportation modes and rationalisation of	– Ensuring sustainable urban mobility: innovative organisation schemes, including clean and safe vehicles and non-polluting means of transport, ***also based on hydrogen and fuel cells, improved and***

private transport, communication infrastructure, integrated town planning and transport.	***innovative solutions in transport vehicles and infrastructure by making them accessible to disabled persons,*** new public transportation modes and rationalisation of private transport, communication infrastructure, integrated town planning and transport.

Justification

Access to mainstream transport services for disabled persons is central to transport policies of most the Member States. There are opportunities for European research and development initiatives to support developments in this area and provide comparative data for example, studies on the cost-benefits of accessibility transport including the wider social implications and improved and innovative solutions in respect of accessible design.

Application of fuel cells in transport should involve financial resources also from this priority theme.

Amendment 59
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 7 "Transport(including Aeronautics)", subtitle , Activities, bullet 3

• Support to the European global satellite navigation system (Galileo): precise navigation and timing services for use in a range of sectors; efficient use of satellite navigation and support to the definition of second generation technologies.	• Support to the European global satellite navigation system (Galileo): precise navigation and timing services for use in a range of sectors; efficient use of satellite navigation and support to the definition of second generation technologies. ***Enhancement of convergence between Galileo and all other existing transportation systems.***

Justification

It is necessary to emphasize the need for Galileo to join the existing trend towards a "quadruple" concept including voice, data, video, mobile communications, thus enhancing the general principle of ubiquity, encompassing transportation and communication systems.

Amendment 60
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 8 "Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities", subtitle "Rationale", paragraph 3

The activities to be supported are listed below and are expected to contribute significantly to improve the formulation,	The activities to be supported are listed below and are expected to contribute significantly to improve the formulation,

implementation, impacts and assessments of policy in a wide range of areas such as economic, social, education and training, enterprise, international trade, consumer, external relations, justice and home affairs and official statistics policies. In addition, opportunities will be provided to address emerging socio-economic challenges as well as to undertake research on new or unforeseen policy needs.	implementation, impacts and assessments of policy in a wide range of areas such as economic, social, education and training, ***cultural heritage,*** enterprise, international trade, consumer, external relations, justice and home affairs and official statistics policies. ***Non-profit civil society organisations will be included in research and technological development activities.*** In addition, opportunities will be provided to address emerging socio-economic challenges as well as to undertake research on new or unforeseen policy needs.

Justification

Research on the cultural heritage should be continued in the FP7.

Cultural heritage should go together with education and social issues. The inclusion of the CSO in research and technological development activities will improve public awareness on scientific and research issues and will promote achieving the goals under "Capacities" programme of 7FP. Regarding this, a horizontal cooperation with society should be performed in order to fulfil the idea behind "Science in society"

Amendment 61
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 8 "Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities", subtitle "Activities", bullet 1

• Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society: developing and integrating research on the issues affecting growth, employment and competitiveness, ranging from innovation, education including life-long learning and the role of scientific and other knowledge, to national institutional contexts.	• Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society: developing and integrating research on the issues affecting growth, employment and competitiveness, ranging from innovation, education including life-long learning and the role of scientific and other national institutional contexts***; the central role of knowledge and intangible goods in the production of economic, social and cultural wealth and for social and environmental well-being***.

Justification

Central role should be given to knowledge for achieving Lisbon goals in creating knowledge-based economy and thus ensuring competitiveness and growth in Europe. This will promote also environmental, social and cultural well-being.

In regard to the R&D and Social-economic sciences and Humanities, knowledge and

immaterial goods can promote research activities and development, particularly in respect to making science more popular for young researchers and raising the awareness on the main research challenges in Europe.

Amendment 62
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation" , subtitle "Themes", point 8 "Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities", subtitle "Activities", bullet 3

• Major trends in society and their implications: such as demographic change including ageing and migration; lifestyles, work, families, gender issues, health and quality of life; criminality; the role of business in society and population diversity, cultural interactions and issues related to protection of fundamental rights and the fight against racism and intolerance.	• Major trends in society and their implications: such as demographic change including ageing and migration; lifestyles, work, families, gender issues, health and quality of life; ***the situation and quality of life of disabled persons; urban areas as complex eco-systems; urban competitiveness; public and private actors in the development of planning of cities and urban areas; growing inequalities;*** criminality; the role of business in society and population diversity, cultural interactions and issues related to protection of fundamental rights and the fight against racism and intolerance.

Justification

In respect of quality of life initiatives, there is an important need for funding to be made available to investigate, in a comprehensive and thorough way, the situation of disabled persons living in institutions in Europe. A recent preliminary investigation undertaken by a Commission funded initiative indicates that little information exists at present about residential institutions and services in Europe. The project final report states that further investigation is necessary in this area and that the issues should be addressed in the future research framework of the European Union.

In addition, much more research is needed to provide comparative data on what exists across the different EU Member States and accession countries in respect of personal assistance support for disabled people, direct payment schemes and independent living centres for disabled people. Research is also necessary to assess how disabled persons and their families can exert free choice in respect of independent living.

Amendment 63
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 8 "Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities", subtitle "Activities", bullet 5

• The citizen in the European Union: in the context of the future development of the	• The citizen in the European Union: in the context of the future development of the

EU, addressing the issues of achieving a sense of democratic "ownership" and active participation by the peoples of Europe; effective and democratic governance including economic governance; and building a shared understanding and respect for Europe's diversities and commonalities in terms of culture, institutions, history, languages and values.	EU, addressing the issues of achieving a sense of democratic "ownership" and active participation by the peoples of Europe; ***continuous building of civil society in the enlarged Europe;*** effective and democratic governance including economic governance; and building a shared understanding and respect for Europe's diversities and commonalities in terms of culture, institutions, history, languages and values.

Justification

Research on the building of the civil society should be continued in the FP7.

Amendment 64
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 8 "Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities", subtitle "Activities", bullet 7a (new)

	• The enlargement of the European Union: research addressing the problems of EU enlargement, including economic transformation, delocalisation of industry, demographic changes, migrations, democracy developments, development of self governance, cultural heritage

Justification

Numerous, large-scale changes, not yet completed and still inadequately known.

Research on the enlargement of European Union should be continued in the FP7.

Amendment 65
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 9 "Security and Space", title and subtitle "objective", paragraph 1

9. Security ***and Space***	9. Security
Objective	Objective
To develop the technologies and knowledge for building capabilities needed to ensure the security of citizens from threats such as terrorism, and crime, while respecting fundamental human rights; to	To develop the technologies and knowledge for building capabilities needed to ensure the security of citizens from threats such as terrorism, and crime, while respecting fundamental human rights; to

ensure optimal and concerted use of available technologies to the benefit of European security, and to stimulate the co-operation of providers and users for security solutions.	ensure optimal and concerted use of available technologies to the benefit of European security, and to stimulate the co-operation of providers and users for security solutions.
Supporting a European Space Programme focusing on applications such as GMES with benefits for citizens and for the competitiveness of the European space industry. This will contribute to the development of a European Space Policy, complementing efforts by Member States and by other key players, including the European Space Agency.	***deleted***

(The deleted text will become the text of a new Heading 10. Space)

Justification

The deleted text will become the text of a new Heading 10. Space.

Amendment 66
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 9.1 "Security", title

9.1 Security	***deleted***

Justification

Amendment 67
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 9.2. "Space"

9.2 Space	***10.*** Space ***Objective*** ***Supporting a European Space Programme focusing on applications such as GMES with benefits for citizens and for the competitiveness of the European space industry. This will contribute to the development of a European Space Policy, complementing efforts by Member States and by other key players, including the European Space Agency.***

(The text of the new Heading 10. Space correspond to the deleted text in Heading 9.)

Justification

The text of the new Heading 10. Space correspond to the deleted text in Heading 9.

Amendment 68
Annex I, Chapter I "Cooperation", subtitle "Themes", point 9.2 "Space", subtitle "Activities", bullet 1, indent 3 a (new)

– Development of space-based systems for risk prevention and risk management and all kinds of emergency, enhancing convergence with non-space systems.

Justification

This amendment underlines the one introduced above for Galileo's convergence and stresses the need to focus on risks, civil protection when considering space-based services.

Amendment 69
Annex I, Chapter II "Ideas" II, subtitle "Rationale", paragraph 3

A Europe-wide competitive funding ***mechanism*** for frontier research executed by individual teams is a key component of the European Research Area, complementing other EU and national activities. It will help reinforce the dynamism and attractiveness of Europe for the best researchers from both European and third countries, and for industrial investment.	A Europe-wide competitive funding ***structure*** for frontier research executed by individual teams is a key component of the European Research Area, complementing other EU and national activities. It will help reinforce the dynamism and attractiveness of Europe for the best researchers from both European and third countries, and for industrial investment.

Justification

In order to avoid any misunderstanding about the fact that the ERC must operate as an autonomous body better referring to it as a "structure" which should be legally independent and established according to Article 171 of the EC Treaty.

Amendment 70
Annex I, Chapter II "Ideas", subtitle "Rationale", paragraph 3 a (new)

The interaction of the European Research Council with collaborative research,

	ERA-NETs and national programmes will be clarified in the Rules for Participation, so as to eliminate duplicate financing of research at European and national level.

Amendment 71
Annex I, Chapter II "Ideas", subtitle "Activities", paragraph 2

The EU activities in frontier research will be implemented by a European Research Council (ERC), ***consisting*** of a scientific council***, supported by a dedicated implementation structure***.	The EU activities in frontier research will be implemented by a European Research Council (ERC), ***a legally independent structure established under Article 171 of the Treaty***. ***It will consist*** of a scientific council and ***an administrative board***. ***The management of the ERC will be carried out by staff either recruited for that purpose or seconded from EU institutions and will cover only the real administrative needs***

Justification

The Expert Group on the European Research Council, chaired by Mr Federico Mayor, clearly stated in its report that "the ERC must operate as an autonomous body with its basic expertise derived from the international research community. It is both advantageous and necessary to exploit the capacity for self-government of the research community. This will be essential if the ERC is to obtain trust and credibility within the research community and with society at large". The European Parliament fully supports this recommendation and strongly believes that such autonomy can be achieved only if both the scientific decisions and the management are truly independent from the European Commission, Council and Parliament. Thus the ERC should be established according to Article 171 of the EC Treaty.

The ERC will be governed by an administrative board and a scientific council, made up of high-level scientists; a worldwide network of peer reviewers should be set up for the evaluation of proposals.

Amendment 72
Annex I, Chapter II "Ideas", subtitle "Activities", paragraph 3

The scientific council will consist of representatives of the European scientific community at the highest level, acting in their personal capacity, independently of political or other interests. Its members will be ***appointed by the Commission following an independent procedure for their***	The scientific council will consist of representatives of the European scientific community at the highest level, acting in their personal capacity, independently of political or other interests. Its members will be ***chosen by the scientific community, following general criteria set by the***

identification. The scientific council will, inter alia, ***oversee*** decisions on the type of research to be funded and act as guarantor of the quality of the activity from the scientific perspective. Its tasks will cover, in particular, the development of the annual work programme, the establishment of the peer review process, as well as the monitoring and quality control of the programme's implementation from the scientific perspectiv***e***.	***European legislator, under the co-decision procedure, and formally appointed by the administrative board. Members of the scientific council will be in office for a limited period of five years, renewable once for a maximum of five years on a rotating system which will ensure the continuity of scientific Council's work***. The scientific council will, inter alia, ***be fully responsible*** for decisions on the type of research to be funded and act as guarantor of the quality of the activity from the scientific perspective. Its tasks will cover, in particular, the development of the annual work programme, the establishment of the peer review process**,** as well as the monitoring and quality control of the programme's implementation from the scientific perspective**.**

Justification

The scientific council will be composed of high level scientists, independently chosen by the scientific community and will be in charge for a limited period of five years, renewable once for a maximum of five years . In the process of selection general rules will be followed which will be set by the European Council and Parliament, after a proposal from the Commission, under co-decision procedure. Since the administrative board will bear legal responsibility of all ERC actions, it will also formally appoint the members of the scientific council.

In order to guarantee the continuity of the scientific council's work, which would be lost in case all members decayed at the same time, a rotating system will be adopted in renewing its members.

Amendment 73
Annex I, Chapter II "Ideas", subtitle "Activities", paragraph 4

The dedicated implementation structure will ***be responsible for*** all aspects of implementation and programme execution, as provided for in the annual work programme. It will, in particular, implement the peer review and selection process according to the principles established by the scientific council and will ensure the financial and scientific management of the grants.	***The administrative board*** will ***assume legal responsibility for all ERC actions***. ***It will be responsible for*** all ***administrative and financial*** aspects of implementation and programme execution, as provided for in the annual work programme. It will, in particular, implement the peer review and selection process according to the principles established by the scientific council and will ensure the financial and

scientific management of the grants.

Justification

Beside the scientific council, which will be fully responsible for all the scientific decisions, the ERC will be governed by an administrative board, which will bear legal responsibility for all ERC actions, and will organise and cover all administrative and financial aspects of implementation and execution of the programme.

Amendment 74
Annex I, Chapter II "Ideas", subtitle "Activities", paragraph 5

The implementation and management of the activity will be reviewed and evaluated at appropriate intervals to assess its achievements and to adjust and improve procedures on the basis of experience.	The implementation and management of ***the ERC*** will be reviewed and evaluated at appropriate intervals ***by a Board of Trustees*** to assess its achievements and to adjust and improve procedures on the basis of experience.

Justification

The ERC activities, especially as far as funding procedures are concerned, will be periodically monitored by a Board of Trustees, where the European Parliament, Council and Commission will be represented. This periodic review will be very helpful if the ERC is to obtain trust and credibility within the research community as well as the civil society.

Amendment 75
Annex I, Chapter II "Ideas", subtitle "Activities", paragraph 6

The European Commission will ***act as the guarantor of the ERC's*** full autonomy ***and integrity***.	***During a transitional phase – which will not be longer than two years –*** the European Commission will ***assume the role of the administrative board***, ***guaranteeing the Scientific Council*** full autonomy***. At the same time the European Commission will take all the initiatives necessary, under the co-decision procedure, to implement the European Research Council as a legally independent structure based on Article 171 of the Treaty. This organisation will define its final procedures under its own authority and will be operational by 1st January 2009 at the latest.***

Justification

In order to allow a quick start of the ERC, during a short transient phase the European Commission will act likewise the administrative board. This phase will last not more than two years, during which the Commission will submit to Parliament and Council a proposal on the actual implementation of the ERC as an independent structure based on Article 171 of the Treaty. As already stated, this structure will be governed by an administrative board and a scientific council and will be operational by 1st January 2009 at latest. Once established, the ERC must work according to its own decisions, which implies that it will define its final procedures under its own authority.

Amendment 76
Annex I, Chapter III "People", subtitle "Rationale", paragraph 1 a (new)

	Special measures to encourage young researchers and support early stages of scientific carrier, as well as measures to reduce the "brain drain", such as reintegration grants, will be introduced.

Justification

Special attention and clear actions are necessary not only in view of the expected dramatic demographic shortage of researchers of European origin but also in creating attractive, competitive conditions for young scientists from around the world.

Amendment 77
Annex I, Chapter III "People", subtitle "Rationale" , paragraph 2

Mobility, both trans-national and intersectoral, including stimulating industrial participation and the opening of research careers and academic positions at European scale, is a key component of the European Research Area and indispensable to increase European capacities and performances in research.	Mobility, both trans-national and intersectoral, including stimulating industrial participation and the opening of research careers and academic positions at European scale, is a key component of the European Research Area and indispensable to increase European capacities and performances in research. ***The "People" programme will be closely coordinated with the Training and Education Programmes as well as with other parts of the Framework Programme***

Justification

Research training is the element of Networks of Excellence, Programme "People" and some education Programmes. Coordination and common actions will be beneficial for the efficient

use of researchers' mobility. Visible link must be introduced to the Education and Training Programmes to assure the continuous development of scientific career of young people.

Amendment 78
Annex I, Chapter III "People", subtitle "Activities", bullet 1, paragraph 2

This will be implemented through Marie Curie Networks with the main objective to overcome fragmentation of and to strengthen at European level the initial training and career development of researchers. Members of the trans-national networks shall exploit their complementary competencies through integrated training programmes. Support will comprise recruitment of early stage researchers, organisation of training events also open to researchers outside the network and senior chairs and/or industry positions for knowledge transfer and supervision.	This will be implemented through Marie Curie Networks with the main objective to overcome fragmentation of and to strengthen at European level the initial training and career development of researchers. ***Twinning networks, assuming closer integration of a few partners will be introduced based on the Erasmus scheme.*** Members of the trans-national networks shall exploit their complementary competencies through integrated training programmes. Support will comprise recruitment of early stage researchers, organisation of training events also open to researchers outside the network and senior chairs and/or industry positions for knowledge transfer and supervision. ***Reintegration grants for young researchers, after their initial training period will be provided. Moreover, a permanent mechanism for horizontal coordination between the FP7 "People" programme and the higher education programme "Erasmus" will be introduced.***

Justification

Twinning networks will enhance young researchers mobility between a few centres specialised in the same area and strengthen links between their staff. They will provide opportunity for young researchers to stay in a mother institution and to be trained abroad.

Making FP7 more friendly for young researchers requires that scheme of reintegration is the same for all researchers.

It is necessary to fully realise the education and research integration as a part of the knowledge triangle. For instance, in view of the fact that the higher education and research sectors may overlap (the doctoral studies being a part of one or the other), it will be necessary to closely coordinate actions with the Education and Training Programmes.

Amendment 79
Annex I, Chapter III "People", subtitle "Activities", bullet 2

• Life-long training and career development to support the career development of ***experienced*** researchers. With a view to complementing or acquiring new skills and competencies or to enhance inter/multidisciplinarity and/or inter-sectoral mobility, support is foreseen for researchers with particular needs for additional/complementary competences and skills, for researchers to resume a research career after a break and for (re)integrating researchers into a longer term research position in Europe, including in their country of origin, after a trans-national/international mobility experience. This action line will be implemented through *both* individual fellowships awarded directly at Community level and through the co-financing of ***regional, national or*** international programmes***.***	• Life-long training and career development to support the career development of researchers. With a view to complementing or acquiring new skills and competencies or to enhance inter/multidisciplinarity and/or inter-sectoral mobility, support is foreseen***: for the best doctoral students who could join well established research teams to work on their PhDs,*** for researchers with particular needs for additional/complementary competences and skills, for researchers to resume a research career after a break and for (re)integrating researchers into a longer term research position in Europe, including in their country of origin, after a trans-national/international mobility experience. This action line will be implemented through both individual fellowships awarded directly at Community level and through the co-financing of international programmes. ***At the same time, a pilot stage for the co-funding of national and regional mobility programmes will be introduced***

Justification

The opportunities for the initial training limited only to institutions cooperating under Marie Curie Networks. Individual grants could serve for the most talented young researchers.

Danger of unequal treatment if not all the countries/regions have mobility programmes. Possible administrative, formal and legal constraints.

Amendment 80
Annex I, Chapter III "People", subtitle "Activities", bullet 3

• Industry-academia pathways and partnerships: Support to longer term co-operation programmes between organisations from academia and industry, in particular SMEs, aims at increasing knowledge sharing through joint research partnerships, supported by the recruitment	• Industry-academia pathways and partnerships: Support to longer term co-operation programmes between organisations from academia and industry, in particular SMEs, aims at increasing knowledge sharing through joint research partnerships, supported by the recruitment

of experienced researchers to the partnership, by staff secondments between both sectors, and by the organisation of events.	of experienced researchers ***and young researchers*** to the partnership, by staff secondments between both sectors, and by the organisation of events.

Justification

The opportunities of working in the industry environment should be available for young researchers too.

Amendment 81
Annex I, Chapter III "People", subtitle "Activities", bullet 5

• Specific actions to support the creation of a genuine European labour market for researchers, by removing obstacles to mobility and enhancing the career perspectives of researchers in Europe. Furthermore, awards to improve the public awareness of Marie Curie actions and their objectives will be provided.	• Specific actions to support the creation of a genuine European labour market for researchers, by removing obstacles to mobility and enhancing the career perspectives of researchers in Europe. ***Incentive measures for public institutions that promote the mobility, quality and profile of their researchers***. Furthermore, awards to improve the public awareness of Marie Curie actions and their objectives will be provided.

Justification

Public institutions promoting the mobility of their researchers deserve some incentives, including financial, for further development of action of this type.

Amendment 82
Annex I, Chapter III "People", subtitle "Activities", last paragraph (new)

	To enhance interregional mobility (including within the same country), the activities under structural and other funds will be coordinated with those under the Framework Programme.

Justification

Interregional mobility is an important element of the in-country and trans-border mobility, but few funding schemes enable it.

Amendment 83

Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", paragraph 1, indent 6

- Horizontal actions and measures in support of international co-operation	– Horizontal actions and measures in support of ***cross-border and*** international co-operation**.**

Justification

The same principle that goes for international co-operation has to be used for cross-border and interregional co-operation.

Amendment 84
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", paragraph 2, indent 3

- Coordination of research policies, including trans-national cooperation initiatives undertaken at national or regional level on issues of common interest.	Coordination of research policies, including trans-national cooperation initiatives undertaken at national or regional level on issues of common interest. ***Special attention will be paid to a synergetic approach to the development of research potential in combination with innovation-driven Structural Funds and other programmes***.

Justification

Research and Innovation strands in structural funds, 7FP, CIP have to be complementary.

Amendment 85
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research Infrastructures", subtitle "Rationale", paragraph 2

The development of a European approach with regard to research infrastructures, including computing and communication based *e*-infrastructures, and the carrying out of activities in this area at Union level, can make a significant contribution to boosting European research potential and its exploitation.	The development of a European approach with regard to research infrastructures, including computing and communication based *e*-infrastructures, and the carrying out of activities in this area at Union level, can make a significant contribution to boosting European research potential and its exploitation ***and contributing to the development of the European Research Area***.

Justification

Research infrastructures have a vital role not only for the research itself but also for high-

technology innovation.

Amendment 86
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research Infrastructures", subtitle "Rationale", paragraph 3

The EU can and should play a catalysing and leveraging role by helping to ensure wider and more efficient access to, and use of, the infrastructures existing in the different Member States, by stimulating the development of these infrastructures in a coordinated way and by fostering the emergence of new research infrastructures of pan-European interest in the medium to long term.	The EU can and should play a catalysing and leveraging role by helping to ensure wider and more efficient access to, and use of, the infrastructures existing in the different Member States, by stimulating the development of these infrastructures in a coordinated way and by fostering the emergence of new research infrastructures of pan-European interest in the medium to long term. ***In this respect, the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) plays an important advisory role in identifying needs and proposing an initial roadmap for the construction of European research infrastructures. The final decision making power lies with the Member States.***

Justification

The role of the ESFRI needs clarification and the decision-making entity should be indicated. More transparency and evident criteria are required for preparation of the infrastructure roadmap.

Amendment 87
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research Infrastructures", subtitle "Rationale", paragraph 3 a (new)

	The research potential of the convergence regions will not be neglected in taking decisions about new infrastructures, since they may provide low-cost operational conditions. The development of infrastructures will be closely coordinated with structural funds and other financial instruments available at European and national level.

Justification

Some convergence regions have high research potential. It can be significantly strengthened for the benefit of ERA by the support from structural funds. This measure may contribute to the development of large infrastructures outside the "core countries". FP7 should provide additional funds (matching funds) for investments with a European dimension of investments while assuring their incorporation into ERA.

Amendment 88
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research Infrastructures", subtitle "Activities", bullet 1 , indent 1

- trans-national access to ensure that European researchers may have access to the best research infrastructures to conduct their research, irrespective of the location of the infrastructure	- trans-national access to ensure that European researchers, ***including researchers from industry and SMEs***, may have access to the best research infrastructures to conduct their research, irrespective of the location of the infrastructure

Justification

To avoid doubts and ensure equal treatment of all researchers regardless where the work..

Amendment 89
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research Infrastructures", subtitle "Activities", bullet 2 , paragraph 1

	In both cases, the level of EU support (as a percentage of total costs) will be clearly indicated in the Rules for Participation.
Infrastructures projects proposed for funding in this respect will be identified on the basis of a series of criteria including in particular:	Infrastructures projects proposed for funding in this respect will be identified on the basis of a series of criteria including in particular

Justification

The EU contribution should be clear for proposers, facilitating the financial planning from the very beginning.

Amendment 90
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research Infrastructures", subtitle "Activities", bullet 2, paragraph 1, indent -1 a (new)

	- Scientific excellence

Justification

This criterion is indispensable for any research project.

Amendment 91
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research Infrastructures", subtitle "Activities", bullet 2, paragraph 1, indent 5

- Possibilities for European partnership and commitment of major stakeholders	- Possibilities for European partnership and commitment of major stakeholders***, the EIB and structural funds***

Justification

Major stakeholders should give considerable financial contribution to the development of new infrastructure. For greater impact, matching funds from structural funds, EIB and other sources should be considered.

Amendment 92
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research Infrastructures", subtitle "Activities", bullet 2, paragraph 1, indent 6

- Construction and operating costs evaluated	***- Feasibility of*** construction and operating costs***, as well as financial viability as confirmed by the cost- efficiency analysis***

Justification

Both criteria are indispensable for taking the accurate decision.

Amendment 93
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research for the benefit of SMEs", subtitle "Objectives"

Strengthening the innovation capacity of European SMEs and their contribution to the development of new technology based products and markets by helping them outsource research, increase their research efforts, extend their networks, better exploit research results and acquire technological know how.	Strengthening the innovation capacity of European SMEs and their contribution to the development of new technology based products and markets by helping them outsource research, increase their research efforts***, access pre-seed funding***, extend their networks, better exploit research results and acquire technological know

how

Justification

Before a technology start-up is able to attract seed money, it must first achieve the more challenging task of securing pre-seed money. Pre-seed money is used to fund activities aimed at proving to investors that a new technology has a certain level of commercial and technical viability. These activities often include: a) conducting a marketing assessment, b) creating a working prototype, and c) other activities like: underwriting of consultants, initial human resource development costs, grant writing assistance and assistance seeking investors. Pre-seed money is vital, requires timely deployment and is in very short supply compared to seed funding..

Amendment 94
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research for the benefit of SMEs", subtitle "Rationale"

SMEs are at the core of European industry. They should be a key component of the innovation system and in the chain of transformation of knowledge into new products, processes and services. Faced with an increasing competition in the internal market and globally, European SMEs need to increase their knowledge and research intensity, expand their business activities on larger markets and internationalize their knowledge networks. Most Member states actions relevant to SMEs do not encourage and support trans-national research cooperation and technology transfer. Actions at EU level are necessary to complement and enhance the impact of actions undertaken at national and regional level. In addition to the actions listed below, the participation of SMEs will be encouraged and facilitated, and their needs taken into account, across the Framework Programme.	SMEs are at the core of European industry. They should be a key component of the innovation system and in the chain of transformation of knowledge into new products, processes and services. Faced with an increasing competition in the internal market and globally, European SMEs need to increase their knowledge and research intensity, ***develop projects facilitating the market accessibility of research products,*** expand their business activities on larger markets and internationalize their knowledge networks. Most Member states actions relevant to SMEs do not encourage and support trans-national research cooperation and technology transfer. Actions at EU level are necessary to complement and enhance the impact of actions undertaken at national and regional level. In addition to the actions listed below, the participation of SMEs will be encouraged and facilitated, and their needs taken into account, across the Framework Programme. ***The synergies between the Framework Programme and EUREKA can be harnessed to support partnering between large companies and SMEs.***

Justification

To improve the competitiveness of SMEs, close integration of research with demonstration and other actions such as take up according to the state-aid rules for research and innovation should be introduced. As the next step they should be linked to instruments offered by CIP, stimulating commercialization of products.

The experience of EUREKA can be beneficial for SMEs, to encourage their involvement and facilitate their participation in projects.

Amendment 95
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research for the benefit of SMEs", subtitle "Activities", paragraph 1

Specific actions in support to SMEs are conceived to support SMEs or SME associations in need of outsourcing research to universities and research centres: mainly low to medium tech SMEs with little or no research capability. Research intensive SMEs who need to outsource research to complement their core research capability may also participate. Actions will be carried out in the entire field of science and technology. ***Financial means will be allocated through two schemes***:	Specific actions in support to SMEs are conceived to support SMEs or SME associations in need of outsourcing research to universities and research centres: mainly low to medium tech SMEs with little or no research capability. Research intensive SMEs who need to outsource research to complement their core research capability may also participate; ***they may also serve as research providers for other project partners***. ***Support will be given also to the creation of spin-offs as a means to commercialise research results.*** Actions will be carried out in the entire field of science and technology. ***Actions will cover research and demonstration activities bringing results closer to the market and linking this action line with instruments offered by the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme.***

Justification

To improve the competitiveness of SMEs, close integration of research with demonstration and other actions such as take up should be introduced. As the next step they should be linked to instruments offered by CIP, stimulating commercialization of products.

Amendment 96
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research for the benefit of SMEs", subtitle "Activities", paragraph 1, indent 1a (new)

- Pre-Seed Phase: To support researchers in accessing pre-seed financing in order to conduct a market assessment, develop pilot and demonstration projects and a working prototype, and proceed to all other related activities leading to the start-up of a company; to support SMEs in commercialising new research products

Justification

Before a technology start-up is able to attract seed money, it must first achieve the more challenging task of securing pre-seed money. Pre-seed money is used to fund activities aimed at proving to investors that a new technology has a certain level of commercial and technical viability. These activities often include: a) conducting a marketing assessment, b) creating a working prototype, and c) other activities like: underwriting of consultants, initial human resource development costs, grant writing assistance and assistance seeking investors. Pre-seed money is vital, requires timely deployment and is in very short supply compared to seed funding.

Amendment 97
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research for the benefit of SMEs", subtitle "Activities", paragraph 1 a (new)

These two schemes will replace the Cooperative research activities and Collective research activities, implemented for SMEs in the 6th Frameowrk Programme. In doing so, no change will be made in the administrative and management rules except where essential for the sake of simplification.

Justification

To ensure continuity and simplification, making programme more friendly for users.

Amendment 98
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research for the benefit of SMEs", subtitle "Activities", paragraph 1 b (new)

In addition, support will be granted to "national exploratory awards" schemes providing financial means to SMEs or SME associations to prepare proposals for the Framework Programme.

Justification

To remove one of the existing barriers, national support measures for the initial phase of preparations of SMEs to participate in FP7 should be supported at European level. National exploratory award should for example enable to cover the cost of bridging meetings and costs of preparation of proposals.

Amendment 99
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research for the benefit of SMEs", subtitle "Activities", paragraph 2

The Competitiveness and Innovation Programme will provide support to networks of intermediaries and national schemes for actions to encourage and facilitate the participation of SMEs in the Framework Programme.	The Competitiveness and Innovation Programme will provide support to networks of intermediaries and national schemes for actions to encourage and facilitate the participation of SMEs in the Framework Programme. ***Simple, short, quick-procedure projects devoid of complex financial principles, and unnecessary reporting, will be introduced. Common application and contractual principles will be applied in both the Framework Programme and the CIP where possible.***

Justification

To make both programmes more friendly for users. It will reduce difficulties in project preparation by SMEs and facilitate their management and financial administration resulting in the increase of SME participation in the research and innovation programmes. The EU programmes will be attractive for SMEs when projects have three crucial features to offer: money, short time decision and application simplicity.

Amendment 100
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Regions of knowledge", subtitle "Rationale", paragraph 2

The actions undertaken in this area will enable European regions to strengthen their capacity for investing in RDT and carry out research activities, while maximising their potential for a successful involvement of their operators in European research projects. **.**	The actions undertaken in this area will enable European regions to strengthen their capacity for investing in RDT and carry out research activities, while maximising their potential for a successful involvement of their operators in European research projects. ***Action will facilitate the creation of regional centres/clusters contributing to the development of the European***

Research Area. Attention will be paid to the development of cross-border clusters.

Justification

To fully develop the potential of ERA, the regional clusters and centres throughout all EU regions must be developed involving close integration of education with research .

Institutions in neighbouring regions of two countries can be interested in creating common clusters.

Amendment 101
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Regions of knowledge", subtitle "Activities", paragraph 1

The new Regions of Knowledge initiative will involve and bring together regional actors involved in research: universities, research centres, industry, public authorities (regional councils or regional development agencies). Projects will cover joint analysis of research agendas of regional clusters (in coordination with other activities on the broader issue of regional innovation clusters) and the elaboration of a set of instruments to address them in specific research activities, including through "mentoring" of regions with a less developed research profiles by highly developed ones. This will comprise measures aiming at improving research networking and access to sources of research funding as well as better integration of research actors and institutions in regional economies. These activities will be implemented in close relationship with EU regional policy and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme and the Education and Training Programmes.	The new Regions of Knowledge initiative will involve and bring together regional actors involved in research: universities, research centres, industry, public authorities (regional councils or regional development agencies). Projects will cover ***actions supporting implementation of regional innovation strategies*****,** joint analysis of research agendas of regional ***or cross-border*** clusters (in coordination with other activities on the broader issue of regional innovation clusters) and the elaboration of a set of instruments to address them in specific research activities including through "mentoring" of regions with a less developed research profiles by highly developed ones ***and direct support to emerging Regions of Knowledge***. This will comprise measures aiming at improving research networking and access to sources of research funding as well as better integration of research actors and institutions in regional economies. These activities will be implemented in close relationship with EU regional policy ***(use of structural funds)*** and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme and the Education and Training Programmes.

Justification

Successful development of Regional Innovation Strategies in FP5 and FP6 allows now to enter into the implementation phase. Institutions in neighbouring regions of two countries can be interested in creating common clusters.

Amendment 102
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research Potential", subtitle "Objective"

Stimulating the realisation of the full research potential of the enlarged Union by unlocking and developing the research potential in the EU's convergence regions and outermost regions, and helping to strengthen the capacities of their researchers to successfully participate in research activities at EU level.	Stimulating the realisation of the full research potential of the enlarged Union by unlocking and developing the research potential in the EU's convergence regions and outermost regions, and helping to strengthen the capacities of ***high potential centres and enable*** their researchers to successfully participate in research activities at EU level.

Justification

Creation of the European Centres of Excellence in FP5 and the Transfer of Knowledge Centres in FP6 was a real success. These types of activities should be continued in FP7. Since there are several different names used to distinguish the best centres (CoE, Centres of Competence) and sometimes the "excellence" notion is considered as too strong it is proposed to introduce a neutral name for them: high potential centres.

Amendment 103
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research Potential", subtitle "Rationale"

Europe does not fully exploit its research potential, in particular in less advanced regions remote from the European core of research and industrial development. In order to help researchers and ***institutions*** of these regions to contribute to the overall European research effort, while taking advantage of the knowledge and experience existing in other regions of Europe, this action aims at establishing the conditions that will allow them to exploit their potential and will help to fully realise the European Research Area in the enlarged Union.	Europe does not fully exploit its research potential, in particular in less advanced regions remote from the European core of research and industrial development. In order to help researchers and ***high potential centres (with existing or emerging excellence)*** of these regions to contribute ***fully*** to the overall European research effort, while taking advantage of the knowledge and experience existing in other regions of Europe, this action aims at establishing the conditions that will allow them to exploit their potential and will help to fully realise the European Research Area in the enlarged Union. ***The actions will build on past and existing measures such***

	as the European Centres of Excellence and Transfer of Knowledge Centres.

Justification

Creation of the European Centres of Excellence in FP5 and the Transfer of Knowledge Centres in FP6 was a real success. These types of activities should be continued in FP7. Since there are several different names used to distinguish the best centres (CoE, Centres of Competence) and sometimes the "excellence" notion is considered as too strong it is proposed to introduce a neutral name for them: high potential centres.

Amendment 104
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research Potential", subtitle "Activities", bullet 1

• Trans-national two-way secondments of research staff between selected ***organisations*** in the convergence regions, and one or more partner organisations; the recruitment by selected centres of incoming experienced researchers ***from other EU countries***;	• Trans-national two-way secondments of research ***and managerial*** staff between selected ***high potential centres*** in the convergence regions, and one or more partner organisations; the recruitment by selected centres of incoming experienced researchers ***and managers from Member States, associated countries and third countries;***

Justification

For the development of high potential centres it is important to enquire also managerial staff (for instance a half year secondment of a top manager from a leading European research institute). No further restrictions are necessary - they may come also from third countries.

Amendment 105
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research Potential", subtitle "Activities", bullet 2

• The acquisition and development of research equipment and the development of a material environment enabling a full exploitation of the intellectual potential present in the selected centres in the convergence regions;	• The acquisition and development of research equipment and the development of a material environment enabling a full exploitation of the intellectual potential present in the selected ***high potential*** centres in the convergence regions

Justification

Creation of the European Centres of Excellence in FP5 and the Transfer of Knowledge Centres in FP6 was a real success. These types of activities should be continued in FP7. Since there are several different names used to distinguish the best centres (CoE, Centres of Competence) and sometimes the "excellence" notion is considered as too strong it is

proposed to introduce a neutral name for them: high potential centres.

Amendment 106
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research Potential", subtitle "Activities", bullet 4

• "Evaluation facilities" through which any research centre in the convergence regions can obtain an international independent expert evaluation of the level of their overall research quality and infrastructures.	***deleted***

Justification

General evaluation of research centres cannot be a way to prove scientific excellence. The implementation would involve a number of practical difficulties. It can be realised by interested centres simply by inviting appropriate experts. Such action is enabled above.

Amendment 107
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Research Potential", subtitle "Activities", last paragraph

Strong synergies will be sought with the EU's regional policy. Actions supported under this heading will identify needs and opportunities for reinforcing the research capacities of ***emerging and existing centres of excellence*** in convergence regions which may be met by Structural and Cohesion funds.	Strong synergies will be sought with the EU's regional policy. Actions supported under this heading will identify needs and opportunities for reinforcing the research capacities of ***high potential centres*** in convergence regions which may be met by Structural and Cohesion funds. ***Simple administrative, organisational and financial mechanisms and supporting structures will be created to facilitate merging funds from different sources; the rules of complementary funding from the Structural Funds will be based on previous experience, such as that gained with the BONUS funding scheme.***

Justification

Obstacles met by project coordinators trying to use funds from different programmes.

Amendment 108

Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Science in society", subtitle "Activities", bullet 7

Improved ***communication*** between the scientific world and the wider audience of policy-makers, the media and the general public, by helping scientists better communicate their work and by supporting scientific information and media.	Improved ***mutual understanding*** between the scientific world and the wider audience of policy-makers, the media and the general public, by helping scientists better communicate their work and by supporting scientific information and media.

Justification

The communications means one-way relation. The involvement of the society is necessary.

Amendment 109
Annex I, Chapter IV "Capacities", subtitle "Non-nuclear actions of the Joint Research Centre", subtitle "Activities", bullet 2, indent 3a (new)

- To provide the future system of governance of the GMES programme with all the necessary research and services, consistent with the Commission's central role in the programme.

Justification

European Commission should play a central role in the future GMES governance, with a deep involvement of the JRC. In fact, JRC has unparalleled experience in GMES, so, without underestimating the role of other Agencies contributing to GMES, the JRC co-ordination among GMES service providers should be the centrepiece of GMES' governance.

Amendment 110
Annex III, point a, point 1, paragraph 1a (new)

Collaborative projects will replace the two sixth Framework Programme instruments: Integrated Projects and STREPs. In doing so, no change will be made in the administrative and management rules except where essential for the sake of simplification.

Justification

To ensure continuity and simplification, making programme more friendly for users.

Amendment 111
Annex III, point a, point 2, paragraph 1a (new)

	The target of Networks of Excellence already established under the Framework Programme will be progressively enhanced from integration among partners towards attaining additional specific research targets.

Justification

The FP7 introduces a number of instruments such as ERC, TPs, JTIs, large Collaborative Research projects, large National Research Programmes coordinated by ERA-Net, large infrastructure, JRC activities and EURATOM programme, and their results may be damaged by fragmentation, overlapping and lack of integration. It is not clear how these separated programmes will interact with each other. Furthermore, it is not clear how integration of efforts at European, national and regional levels will be assured. One possible solution is to extend the role of NoEs to have more coordination and integration tasks.

Amendment 112
Annex III, point a, point 4.

Support to projects carried out by individual research teams. This scheme will mainly be used to support investigator-driven "frontier" research projects funded in the framework of the European Research Council	Support to projects carried out by individual research teams. This scheme will mainly be used to support investigator-driven "frontier" research projects funded ***through portable grants*** in the framework of the European Research Council.

Justification

Grant agreements are signed between the Commission and another legal entity. However, if responsible researcher moves to another research organisation, the grant should be transferred with him/her.

Amendment 113
Annex III, point a, point 6.

Support to research projects where the bulk of the research is carried out by universities, research centres or other legal entities, for the benefit of specific groups, in particular SMEs or associations of SMEs.	Support to research projects where the bulk of the research is carried out by universities, research centres or other legal entities, for the benefit of specific groups, in particular SMEs or associations of SMEs. ***Efforts will be undertaken to mobilise additional financing from the***

EIB Group.

Justification

Before a technology start-up is able to attract seed money, it must first achieve the more challenging task of securing pre-seed money. Pre-seed money is used to fund activities aimed at proving to investors that a new technology has a certain level of commercial and technical viability. These activities often include: a) conducting a marketing assessment, b) creating a working prototype, and c) other activities like: underwriting of consultants, initial human resource development costs, grant writing assistance and assistance seeking investors. Pre-seed money is vital, requires timely deployment and is in very short supply compared to seed funding.

Amendment 114
Annex III, point b, paragraph 1, footnote 25

25. Or by the Council in consultation with the European Parliament	***deleted***

Justification

Support action should be implemented under the co-decision procedure.

Amendment 115
Annex III, point b, bullet 2

A financial contribution from the Community to the implementation of Joint Technology Initiatives to realise objectives that cannot be achieved through the funding schemes identified in point 1 above. Joint Technology Initiatives will mobilise a combination of funding of different nature and from different sources, private and public, European and national. This funding can take different forms and can be allocated or mobilised though a range of mechanisms: support from the Framework Programme, loans from the European Investment Bank, support to risk capital. Joint Technology Initiatives may be decided and implemented on the basis of Article 171 of the Treaty (this may include the creation of joint undertakings) or through the Specific Programme Decisions. Community support will be	A financial contribution from the Community to the implementation of Joint Technology Initiatives to realise objectives that cannot be achieved through the funding schemes identified in point 1 above. Joint Technology Initiatives will mobilise a combination of funding of different nature and from different sources, private and public, European and national. This funding can take different forms and can be allocated or mobilised though a range of mechanisms: support from the Framework Programme, loans from the European Investment Bank, support to risk capital. Joint Technology Initiatives may be decided and implemented on the basis of Article 171 of the Treaty (this may include the creation of joint undertakings) or through the Specific Programme Decisions. Community support will be

provided subject to the definition of an overall blueprint of financial engineering, based on formal commitments from all parties concerned.	provided subject to the definition of an overall blueprint of financial engineering, based on formal commitments from all parties concerned. ***Rules for Participation will include specific measures to ensure that as regards the implementation of Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs), access and participation by SMEs and small research groups, including their adequate involvement in the decision taking procedures, is encouraged and supported. This aspect of the JTIs must be an element in their periodic evaluation after their establishment***.

Amendment 116
Annex III, point b, paragraph 4 a (new)

	The Community will support technology transfer activities and contribute to bridging the gap between research and its commercialisation by providing finance to the European Investment fund (EIF) to manage a "Technology Transfer Facility".
	Subject to and in accordance with detailed arrangements to be established by the regulation adopted pursuant to Article 167 of the Treaty and Council decisions adopting the specific programmes, the facility will finance technology transfer activities from universities, research centres or other legal entities active in the field of technology transfer.

Justification

The technology transfer landscape in Europe suffers from a number of structural weaknesses that have been identified by various studies (e.g Techology transfer accelerator study from DG RTD, UK presidency EU biotechnology working group). In order to tackle this market failure, it is essential to develop a specific facility which could play an important role in preparing projects from universities or research centres to a development stage where venture capital for example could thereafter play a role.

As of today, no Community instruments address this particular gap which is essential for the competitiveness of the European economy and the commercialisation of research. Given the importance of such gap, this technology transfer facility could be implemented through the

7th Research Framework Programme and operated by the European Investment Fund (EIF) which would be able to bridge the gap between the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme and the Research Framework Programme.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Europe deserves better

The Lisbon Summit endorsed the creation of the European Research Area (ERA) integrating research and innovation activities throughout Europe, while at the Barcelona European Council it was agreed that overall spending on R&D in the Union should be increased with the aim of approaching 3% of GDP by 2010, with two thirds of this new investments coming from the private sector.
In its report on the Lisbon Strategy, the High-Level Group chaired by Mr Wim Kok[1] identified the development of a knowledge-based society as one of top five policy areas. The following actions were recommended: "setting up of an area of research and innovation; boosting spending on R&D to 3% of GDP; making Europe more attractive for its best brains; promoting new technologies".
In its resolution on Science and technology- Guidelines for future European Union policy to support research (*Locatelli Report*)[2], the European Parliament agreed with the Commission communication on the same subject[3], according to which, in order to realize these objectives the budget of the 7th Framework Programme must be doubled. In line with this strategy the Commission has presented a proposal for FP7 with an overall amount of Community financial participation of EUR 72.7 billion. The proposed budget was firmly supported by the European Parliament in its resolution on Policy Challenges and Budgetary Means of the enlarged Union 2007-2013 (*Boege report*)[4].

In the *Locatelli report*, besides the budgetary issues, there are a number of top priorities which remain of uttermost importance for the EP. The Commission proposal for FP7 meets a great majority of these recommendations and objectives. Therefore, the 7th Framework Programme is broadly accepted by the European Parliament.

Nevertheless, it is essential to stress that only by preserving the original level of financing, as indicated by the European Commission and the European Parliament, will it be possible to guarantee a realization of the objectives mentioned below. Any cuts in FP7 budget are against the Lisbon Strategy and in disagreement with all the declarations of European Union leaders. Thus, a clear vision and strong leadership are necessary. We expect both of these features to emerge in the European Council decisions.

It is important to focus on basic research and support "investigator-driven" basic research activities, selected on the basis of the sole criterion of scientific excellence. This will confer to basic research a European added value, boosting creativity at the highest level, through Europe-wide competition. In this field the research process is often long and complex. Therefore, only a critical mass of financing can lead to the final success.

Also the renewed emphasis given to the programme "People", supporting training and career development of researchers (at all levels) was particularly well received by the EP.

[1] http://europa.eu.int/comm/councils/bx20041105/kok_report_en.pdf
[2] Texts adopted, P6_TA(2005)0077
[3] COM(2004)0353
[4] Texts adopted, P6_TA(2005)0224

Considering the fact that Europe is lacking at least 700 000 researchers, if the target of 3% investment in R&D is to be met by 2010, a strong support for young researchers is necessary.

In addition to these new measures, a high degree of continuity with FP6 in the specific activities for SMEs, namely, research for SMEs and SME associations in the entire field of science and technology, should be preserved.

Following the recommendations in the report of the High-Level Expert Panel chaired by Professor Ramon Marimon[1], the programme "Cooperation" shows high degree of continuity with FP6, in the thematic priorities and a series of important new instruments and corrective measures is introduced. The European Parliament believes that an adequate budget should be preserved to all the areas covered by this Programme, in order to boost and consolidate the research efforts at EU level. It will be of crucial importance for increasing the quality of life in the EU as well as European growth, competitiveness and employment. However, special attention must be paid to those fields where long-term research activities are particularly needed, and thus support from the public sector is more essential. We cannot imagine how possible budgetary cuts could affect such sensitive areas as for instance health (considering aging population and several dangerous emerging diseases), energy (giving the arising urgency of energetic problems) or environment (in order to face challenges deriving from climate change).

FP7 objectives

1. Enhance cooperation within ERA, including cooperation in basic research, acting as a lever to increase national research budgets, improving the conditions for researchers.

2. Contribute to sustainable development of the European Research Area in all EU regions, development of new large infrastructure, making optimal use of existing potential, bringing closer scientists form more developed with convergence regions and exploring the possibility of use of the structural funds for development of R&D capacities in ERA.

3. Develop highly qualified human resources, stimulate attractiveness of research career for young researchers and facilitate their participation in FP7, increase mobility of researchers within ERA and increase attractiveness of Europe for foreign researchers; special attention should be paid to women's access and career in the field of research.

4. Bridge the research-innovation gap by stimulating private investments in areas crucial to competitiveness, promoting public-private partnership, stimulating SMEs participation in Community R&D activities.

5. Creation of the Triangle of Knowledge: supporting the aims of the Lisbon Agenda through Community funded research activities, focusing on building the European knowledge-based economy and society.

6. Introduction of simpler and transparent administrative procedures in order to facilitate participation in FP7.

[1] http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/instruments_review/

FP7 instruments - strengthening the European Research Area

The development of a ERA is supported in FP7 in many different ways. All these efforts must be a continuation of the achievements of FP6 in strengthening the realisation of ERA. To reduce fragmentation and overlapping as well as to assure a significant integration with national and regional actions the role of Networks of Excellence will be extended. Important role of integrating R&D activities across Europe should be assigned to ERA-Nets and EUREKA as well.

Basic research - European Research Council

Crucial for economic development is the establishment of the European Research Council supporting basic research at European level on the basis of scientific excellence, conferring a European added value through Europe-wide competition and promotion of scientific excellence at highest level. The ERC should be adequately funded at European level, being autonomous and independent for its activities. It will support research projects which will be selected on their scientific merit and on topics that are chosen by the researchers themselves, through a bottom-up approach. The individual grant scheme will be introduced which can accommodate either individual teams or a combination of teams.

Industry-driven research - Joint Technology Initiatives

To face challenges of global competitiveness the European industry will be supported by wide variety of research and demonstration projects ranging from small Collaborative Projects (CP) to large Joint Technology Initiatives (JTI). The last ones will benefit from long-term public-private partnership and will be the result of the activities of European Technology Platforms (ETPs) which are an important instrument bringing together all interested stakeholders (research institutions, industry and SMEs, financial institutions and policy makers) from all Europe. It is important that ETPs will contribute to integration of ERA by developing a common long-term vision to address a specific challenge, create a coherent strategy to achieve that vision. They should also integrate national and regional strategies, especially those developed by national technology platforms and regional clusters.

Special role of SMEs should be underlined by direct intensive involvement in CPs and JTIs as well as special support measures such as specific calls for SMEs, “national exploratory awards” schemes providing financial means to SMEs or SME associations to prepare proposals for the Framework Programme.

Human potential

Development of human resources, assuring their flexible mobility as a ‘mass phenomenon’ among scientists, facilitating scientific career of young researchers, developing the position of women in science, as well as opening Europe for international cooperation are the major objectives of the “People” programme. Strong measures should be introduced to attract and to retain world-class researchers in Europe.

A special attention should be paid to gender mainstreaming - questions regarding maternity leave and childcare should be seriously taken into consideration. Developing the equal start position of women and men in science will permit to unlock a consistent human potential in the field of research.

Special measures to promote young researchers participation and encouraging them to undertake European scientific career are introduced throughout all actions of FP7. E.g. within the "Ideas" there are introduced special calls for young researchers with so called excellence grants for young researchers. Within "People" it is proposed to introduce "Twinning networks", assuming closer integration of a few partners with a special offer for early stage researchers. Moreover, different types of reintegration grants for young researchers are provided.

Infrastructure

For the development of ERA it is vital to increase availability, coordination and access in relation to top-level European scientific and technological infrastructure. The development of new infrastructure will be closely coordinated with structural funds and other financial instruments available at European and national level. For instance, "Capacities" may contribute to the development of large infrastructure at national level, in particular supported by structural funds, by assuring its accessibility and networking within ERA.

Regions of knowledge

Actions will facilitate creation of the Regions of Knowledge and Innovation (exploring all education-research-innovation triangle actions) contributing to the development of European Research Area. This will include "mentoring" of highly developed regions with a less developed ones as well as the direct support to emerging Regions of Knowledge and Innovation. Measures facilitating better access of SMEs to technological innovation will be pursued.

Research potential

It is the most important to fully realise the ERA in the enlarged Union. It is necessary to support existing and emerging high potential centres such as Centres of Excellence and Centres of Transfer of Knowledge in the convergence regions. They should be reoriented, fully networked and integrated with ERA. Their transformation should be supported from structural funds as well.

Triangle of Knowledge

Successful realisation of all FP7 objectives requires a sustainable development of excellent human resources, basic research and new technologies leading to commercialisation and contributing to increasing the competitiveness of European industry. Therefore we have to create an integrated Triangle of Knowledge: education - research - innovation. A key success factor will be sustainable development of all elements of the Triangle of Knowledge as well as their deep integration and networking through seamless interfaces.

Education - research

Strengthening the role of universities in research is necessary if research career is to be promoted among students. Young researchers are one of the most important aspects of FP7. Education is mainly a question of national policy but there should be some measures introduced that would link FP7 with the Education & Training Programmes in the European Higher Education Area to allow a smooth research career development of young people.

Research - innovation

The continuity between research and innovation should be maintained also thanks to Joint Technology Initiatives and European Technology Platforms. They can contribute to integrate closely FP7 activities with Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) in order to facilitate a continuous support at all stages of technology development, from the research, through demonstration up to commercialization. There are foreseen longer term co-operation programmes between organisations from academia and industry, in particular SMEs, which aim at increasing knowledge sharing through joint research partnerships, supported by the recruitment of experienced researchers to the partnership, by staff secondments between both sectors. There should be some extended measures supporting fellowships for researchers employed by industry and research activities undertaken by people from industry.

Multidisciplinarity of research should be strongly supported as it is the basis of development of such leading disciplines as biotechnology and nanotechnology. Moreover, in order to ensure economic return on the results of research, intellectual property rights should be adequately protected. This is a crucial issue especially in such important and dynamic sector as ICT, where additionally, in combination with other models, also an open source development model is proving its utility as a basis for innovation, increasing collaboration and dissemination of knowledge.

Perspectives for the future research and innovation policy

FP6 was oriented towards development of European Research Area. Many successful initiatives were commenced and developed throughout FP6. Now, FP7 will ultimately strengthen the ERA introducing new instruments and integrating the old ones. Particularly, the creation of European Research Council proposed in FP7 will strongly support basic research at European level.

Perhaps a similar way could be chosen for strengthening applied research by creating a European Research and Innovation Area (ERIA), which will orient our efforts towards a closer integration of research with innovation and convert the scientific knowledge into innovation and commercial products. This idea was foreseen in the Lisbon Strategy and in the Kok report which suggested the creation of strict links between research and innovation. Its rationale derives from the necessity to incorporate more industrial funds and risk capital in research and innovation process and collect from these investments concrete financial benefits. That's why it is so important to coordinate the actions of FP7 with CIP. It is worthwhile to analyze whether such a structure as a European Institute of Technology (EIT) could also contribute to the creation of synergy between these two programmes. Thus, EIT, acting as a liaison structure for technology transfer, would generate new technologies and their direct implementation, creating spin-offs, facilitating operations and incubating high-tech start-ups, micro and small enterprises as well as disseminating knowledge.

Obviously, the overall success of such a broad policy cannot be guaranteed only by the Framework Programmes for research and innovation. It is also a matter of macro-economical approach. Making R&D investment attractive for industry it's an absolute necessity and requires stronger efforts. A properly integrated European common market should strengthen the technology transfer, creating a wide interface between industry and research.