

Report on meeting with DG Enterprise

by Frank Leferink

Date: 31 January 2006
Location: Brussels
Present: Nikos Pantalos, Corrado Mattiuzzo (both DG Enterprise), Frank Leferink
Apologized: Julie Sors (from DG RTD)
Subject: How to obtain structural and supported relation/connection of the ETN-SEE with Technology Platforms and the EC

DG Research and Technological Development (RTD) is coordinator ('institutional part') of the European Technology Platforms (ETPs), but many other DG's are involved. Nikos Pantalos is the interface (from DG Enterprise) with other DG's in the Interservice Group. Pantalos: The EC supports approximately 30 ETPs with the objective to decrease fragmentation. However, if too many ETPs evolve then again fragmentation. Therefore the EC decided not to establish/support an ETP-SEE.

The EC however supports the ETN-SEE (!).

At this moment discussions within the Interservice Group are going on, and Pantalos is strongly supporting the idea to create an 'Associated TP' for the ETN-SEE. Later on in the discussion he said: 'to be honest, quite personally, the European Commission cannot afford to miss important issues. Imagine that EM fields will be harmful after all....'..... Pantalos suggested to create/write workplans (WPs) which should be used by the existing ETPs. Not a 'vision paper', and no proof for the need of the ETN-SEE is needed (anymore), because this is now well understood within DG Enterprise.

The EC would appreciate concrete research proposals in WPs. In my (FL) point of view, these workplans with research proposals should be linked with the existing ETPs as much as possible. Mattiuzzo and me (FL) mentioned that it is difficult to influence the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) and resulting WPs of the ETPs. Pantalos promised to promote the activities in the Interservice Group, and get an EC recognised status of the ETN-SEE (as Associated ETP). In the TPs many discussions between industries are going on, and EMC could be overwhelmed, but with the recognition of the EC we would have good chances. The ETPs shall be open to partners, and content, he said.

Reminder: the main task of the ETPs is to define the SRA and resulting WPs resulting in dedicated calls within FP7.

Our WPs should focus on research (for industrial needs) taking the EC policy perspectives into account, with clear ideas.

In order not to be overwhelmed by the 'functional topics' of the ETPs, the structural support of the EC is very important. Thierry Brefort (responsible for EMC Directive actions) left, and there is no follow-up. Corrado Mattiuzzo will leave in 3 months. Nikos Pantalos remains contact person within DG Enterprise. Julie Sors within RTD, and Jaako Aarnio in DG INFSO.

I have talked (phone)/mailed with Minna Wilkki about the EMF part. Her DG will not be responsible anymore in FP7, but DG Environment. The Director of this DG is Pierre Valette, and he has been informed about our ETN-SEE, as well as Jaako Aarnio from DG

INFSO.

Note: the difficult task of getting EMC recognised, and proof for the need of research, seems to be fulfilled, at least within DG Enterprise.

About funding of the ETN-SEE activities: they suggested to use an SSA or CA (Specific Support Action or Coordination Actions) existing in FP6. These are open calls. I will contact DG INFSO about this, because it is the most relevant unit.

Actions:

- Pantalos: get recognition for the associated ETN-SEE, within approximately 1 month. Then recognised by the EC.
- Mattiuzzo: find proper contacts within other DGs. (Already carried out.)
- ETN-SEE:
 - improve relation with ETPs and find a structural collaboration
 - improve contacts with RTD, INFSO and Environment (other DGs?)
 - finalise the SRA and publish the WPs
 - if necessary, find funding for coordination costs for ETN-SEE via SSA/CA

2 February 2006

Frank Leferink