

Informal Research council on 15 and 16 July

The priorities

The 2 priorities of the Belgian Presidency in relation to Research:

- Generate jobs
- Simplify European programmes

When asked to select, from 20 fields run conjointly at the level of the European Union, the decision level which appears to them to be most effective, 72% of Europeans mention research into science and technology, which puts it in 2nd place just behind the war on terror (80%) and ahead of protecting the environment (70%) (Eurobarometer, February 2010).

Europeans are therefore perfectly aware that a lot has to be done in relation to converging the policies of the different Member States of the European Union.

It is with this in mind that the Belgian Presidency aims to formalise the "2020" strategy in its aspects relating to "Research and Innovation", by taking a global option for creativity.

If we want Europe to be more effective at converting Research into economic activities and job creation, it is essential that we reinforce the links between research, innovation and education and continue to support fundamental research as an investment into a sustainable society and the well-being of future generations.

A second theme fundamental to the Research policy of the Belgian Presidency is the simplification of European programmes. One of the channels that will be explored consists of a change from the current approach, which is based on costs, to a new approach based on results, all the while remembering that research always contains an element of risk and uncertainty.

The result of the Informal Joint Council for European Research and Industry will be available on this same site as of 19 July.