



Fraktion der Europäischen Volkspartei (Christdemokraten) im Europäischen Parlament
Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) in the European Parliament
Groupe du Parti Populaire Européen (Démocrates-Chrétiens) au Parlement européen

Research and Innovation Policy

The European Institute of Innovation & Technology

The EPP Group elaborated and shaped the final proposal to create a European Institute of Technology (EIT), establishing a better link between the three key areas of the economy - education, research and innovation (or the 'knowledge triangle'). Due to the efforts of the EPP Group a slimmer, less bureaucratic and decentralised 'network' structure for the EIT has been achieved.

European Institute of Innovation and Technology: <http://eit.europa.eu/>

Promoting the potential from the European Research Area

EPP Group played a strategic role in pushing further for the successful running of the European Research Area. The EPP Group's priorities have been secured, that is the need to improve the link between research institutions and industry, as well as spread good practice on the management of knowledge and intellectual property. The EPP Group supported the creation of a single labour market for researchers, ensuring wider carriers prospects and attractive working conditions. The Group succeeded in introducing the "open innovation concept" where public and private sectors become full partners and share the knowledge provided.

The EPP Group stresses the necessity to promote the 5th freedom of movement, the mobility of researchers. It is a key priority for our Group to promote better conditions for researchers in Europe and increase the number of women and young people in research.

European Commission on ERA: http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index_en.html

Boosting research an innovation through the 7th framework programme (2007-2013)

With the support of the EPP Group, the European Parliament succeeded in obtaining extra €341million fresh funds for the 7th Framework Programme (FP7), with an amount of €50,5 billion over the period 2007-2013.

FP7 is organised in several specific programmes:

- ✓ **Cooperation:** The objective is to gain EU leadership in key areas through co-operation of industry and research institutions. Support is given to research activities carried out in transnational and cross-thematic cooperation, from joint projects and networks to the coordination of national research programmes. A couple of themes have been identified: health, food, agriculture and biotechnology; information and communication technologies; nano-sciences and nano-technologies; materials and new production technologies; energy; environment; transport; socio-economic sciences and the humanities; and security and space. With the EPP Group's commitment, "fisheries" was added to the food and agriculture theme. On the health theme, the EPP Group obtained the promotion of research on child health and paediatric diseases, as well as the health of an ageing population. Our Group insisted on the importance of transnational research, not only in major diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases and rare diseases, but also on rheumatic diseases, musculo-skeletal diseases and respiratory

diseases including allergies. Our Group also underlined the importance of the development of research for the cultural heritage where Europe is a leader.

- ✓ **Ideas:** The objective is to strengthen the excellence of our science base by fostering competition at EU level. An autonomous European Research Council (ERC) is created to support “frontier research” carried out by research teams, either individually or in partnership, competing at European level, in all scientific and technological fields. Our Group managed to keep the administrative expenditure to a minimum, and not exceeding 5% of the total financial allocation for the ERC.
- ✓ **People:** The aim is to reinforce career prospects and mobility for our researchers. Activities supporting individual researchers (“Marie Curie” actions) are reinforced to strengthen the human potential of EU research by supporting training, mobility and career development. Efforts were made by the EPP Group to encourage early-stage researchers, increasing their mobility, and to ensure that researchers could achieve an appropriate work/life balance.
- ✓ **Capacities:** Funding is allocated to develop research infrastructure, so that the EU science community has the best possible capacities at its service. The EPP Group underlined the importance of research to SMEs and small research centres, facilitating their participation and taking into account their needs across the Framework Programme. On the sensible issue of research activities involving human embryonic stem cells, the text clarifies the parameters under which this kind of research projects are eligible for EU funding. With the support of the EPP Group, certain fields of research, such as activities aimed at human cloning for reproductive purposes or intended to modify the genetic heritage of human beings, are not be eligible. In addition, the EPP Group secured that the European Commission will continue with the current practice and will not submit to the Regulatory Committee projects which include research activities which destroy human embryos, including for the procurement of stem cells.

7th Framework Programme: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html

GALILEO - Europe's global navigation satellite system

Galileo will be Europe's own global navigation satellite system, providing a highly accurate, guaranteed global positioning service under civilian control. It will be inter-operable with GPS and GLONASS, the two other global satellite navigation systems. The new system will have a much broader range of applications than the common GPS.

European Space Agency on Galileo: <http://www.esa.int/esaNA/galileo.html>

European Commissioner for Research and Innovation Máire Geoghegan-Quinn: http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/geoghegan-quinn/index_en.htm

European Commission - DG Research <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm>