

## Recommendations regarding the creation of the ERC

In the perspective of the Lisbon agenda, Eurodoc, the European Council of PhD candidates and Junior Researchers, welcomes the creation of a European Research Council (ERC).

Eurodoc congratulates the ERC Expert Group for its work and the production of an important and comprehensive report<sup>1</sup>.

Eurodoc fully agrees with the ERC Expert Group in that “Recruiting, Training and Career Development for Researchers”<sup>2</sup> is an area where initiatives at the European level are needed. Emphasis should be put on the elaboration of funding mechanisms through the ERC to promote progress in this area.

Eurodoc sees the creation of the ERC as a unique opportunity to address the situation of young researchers at a European level. Therefore Eurodoc makes the following recommendations:

### **Independence and accountability of the ERC.**

1. Eurodoc strongly agrees with the views of the Expert Group in that the ERC should be both independent and accountable in all scientific and financial matters<sup>3</sup>.

### **Representation at the ERC.**

2. Eurodoc fully agrees with the Expert Group in that “Members of the governing body and the executives must be chosen so that the needs of the organisation are met and not for furthering national or other particular interests”<sup>4</sup>.
3. In order to achieve this objective, Eurodoc recommends that the diversity of the scientific community as a whole be fully represented at all levels of the ERC governing bodies, and in particular, young researchers should be included.

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<sup>1</sup> The final report of the ERC Expert Group is available online:  
[http://www.ercexpertgroup.org/documents/ercexpertgroup\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www.ercexpertgroup.org/documents/ercexpertgroup_final_report.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> ERC Expert Group final report, p.11

<sup>3</sup> ERC Expert Group final report, p.12

<sup>4</sup> ERC Expert Group final report, p.12

## Funding through the ERC.

4. Funding through the ERC should be conditional to the strict application of the principles mentioned in the European Charter and Code for Researchers<sup>5</sup> by the applicants and their institutions.
5. In that perspective, funding through the ERC must include all economic costs. In particular, all researchers receiving funding via the ERC should be entitled to all social rights including social security, pension and parental leave, regardless of the advancement of their career, their level of training, their gender or their nationality.
6. The ERC should also promote funding mechanisms that help young researchers achieve stable academic careers. In particular, mechanisms linking ERC funding with the perspective of tenured positions in academia should be examined. Such mechanisms have already been described elsewhere<sup>6</sup> and fully support the so-called excellence criteria, while allowing to face the expected shortage of researchers in Europe<sup>7</sup>.

## Funding of the ERC.

7. Funding of the ERC should not allow for a decrease in national budgets. Eurodoc requests a clear and official commitment of all member states of the European Union<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> COM(2005)576

[http://europa.eu.int/eracareers/pdf/C\(2005\)576%20EN.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eracareers/pdf/C(2005)576%20EN.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> See the 4th publication by the League of European Universities

<http://kampela-leru.it.helsinki.fi/file.php?type=download&id=183>

<sup>7</sup> Towards a European Research Area: Science, Technology and Innovation – Key Figures 2002 (Luxembourg 2002)

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.eurodoc.net/file/20050616\\_eurodoc\\_budget\\_communique.pdf](http://www.eurodoc.net/file/20050616_eurodoc_budget_communique.pdf)