

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection*

**2007/2187(INI)**

29.11.2007

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on The European Research Area: New Perspectives  
(2007/2187(INI))

Draftsman: Bill Newton Dunn

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Warmly welcomes the Commission Green paper on the European Research Area: New Perspectives (COM(2007)0161); underlines that the creation of the European Research Area (ERA) is vital to achieve the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs;
2. Underlines that a well-functioning Internal Market is important for a successful development of the ERA and in particular that the free circulation of researchers is vital; regrets that researchers still have obstacles hampering their mobility within the EU; calls for measures to improve the free-flow of researchers, in particular by lifting all the remaining transitional restrictions on the free movement of workers as well as improving the EU's infrastructure of research; supports the creation of the European Institute of Technology .
3. Regrets that the transatlantic net outflow of R&D investment is still increasing; underlines the importance of preventing the further outflow of competent European researchers; calls for appropriate measures to retain and re-attract researchers in the EU, notably by ensuring wide career prospects and attractive working conditions for both men and women;
4. Underlines the importance of attracting researchers also from third countries to the EU, particularly from the European neighbourhood countries, inter alia by way of a more rapid transposition of the Council Directive 2005/71/EC of 12 October 2005 on a specific procedure for admitting third-country nationals for the purposes of scientific research<sup>1</sup>, taking full account of the needs of researchers; also gives supports to the Commission's proposal for the creation of a blue card system which would be of great value for human resources in S&T not covered by the directive;
5. Highlights the vital importance of establishing a Community Patent and a high- quality, cost-effective, innovation-friendly judicial system for European patents which respects the competence of the Court of Justice of the European Communities; notes the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on enhancing the patent system in Europe (COM(2007)0165); notes that the resulting legal framework will provide better incentives for private business involvement in research and will strengthen the position of European innovators at the international level;
6. Highlights the importance of a legal framework for intellectual property in scientific publications which guarantees the best possible access to scientific information while safeguarding the major role played by EU undertakings in scientific publishing;
7. Regrets that figures for expenditure on research and development show that the EU average is only 1.84% of GDP against 2.68% in the USA and 3.18 % in Japan; and that expenditure varies from 0.39% in Romania and 0.4% in Cyprus to 3.86% in Sweden;

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 289, 3.11.2005, p. 15.

underlines the importance of increasing the average spending as well as raising expenditure in some Member States; highlights the importance of better focussing the diverse research and development efforts throughout the Union, especially in order to facilitate the transition towards the digital economy;. this is fundamental for the creation of appropriate conditions for the achievement of the knowledge-based economy called for in the Lisbon Strategy;

8. Notes that many Member States - especially those with less developed R&D structures - fear brain drain within the EU; calls for measures to prevent this by making national research policies complementary rather than competing, especially in order to promote the coordination of resources and prevent their duplication and dispersion;
9. Notes that consumers are one of the important market driving forces who, through the exercise of choice, can generate incentives for innovation; calls on the Commission and Member States to take further steps to stimulate public debate on the importance of the ERA;
10. Notes that the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy cannot be achieved without a serious increase of the involvement of private business in research activities; calls on the Commission to take actions to enhance the incentives for private business to invest and participate in research; supports the view that is necessary to develop a European lead in technology-intensive markets supported by strong standards of intellectual property protection; holds the view that expanding Public Private Partnerships within well-functioning markets is important to this end.
11. In stimulating innovation, draws attention to the enormous potential available by engaging public procurement as a driver of new products and services; believes that, within the ERA, research organisations should be encouraged to work closely with public authorities and to participate in development contracts.
12. Highlights the specific and major role of SMEs for achieving the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy through active participation and development of the ERA; welcomes the Commission's incentives towards attracting SMEs to the technology transfer process in Europe.
13. Underlines the need of strengthening coordination between national and regional research programmes and encourages the Commission to work closely with all stakeholders to ensure better coherence in research on issues of European interest.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	27.11.2007
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 37 -: 0 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Charlotte Cederschiöld, Corina Crețu, Mia De Vits, Janelly Fourtou, Vicente Miguel Garcés Ramón, Evelyne Gebhardt, Malcolm Harbour, Anna Hedh, Iliana Malinova Iotova, Pierre Jonckheer, Kurt Lechner, Lasse Lehtinen, Toine Manders, Arlene McCarthy, Nickolay Mladenov, , Catherine Neris, Bill Newton Dunn, Zita Pleštinská, Zuzana Roithová, Leopold Józef Rutowicz, Heide Rühle, Christel Schaldemose, Andreas Schwab, Eva-Britt Svensson, Alexander Stubb, Marianne Thyssen, Horia-Victor Toma, Jacques Toubon
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Emmanouil Angelakas, André Brie, Wolfgang Bulfon, Ieke van den Burg, Colm Burke, Giovanna Corda, András Gyürk, Filip Kaczmarek, Manuel Medina Ortega
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>	Roland Gewalt,