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The Ljubljana Process : a decisive step for the implementation of ERA ?

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Origins and assessment at the end of 2007 (1/2)

- **Commissaire Busquin launched the concept of « European Research Area » in 2000. Do not leave the FP's isolated, but establish links with national policies in the field of R&D.**
- **First efforts out of FP's : Open Method of Coordination (OMC) under the responsibility of CREST ; Target 3% of GDP for R&D set in Barcelona in 2002.**
- **But main effort of implementing ERA through FP6 first, then through FP7 : ReX, IP (FP6), ERC, JTI's (Artemis, Eniac, Clean Sky, IMI, FCH) and RSFF (FP7) + articles 169 (EDCTP under FP6, AAL and Eurostars to date under FP7)**
- **Impulse from the Commission progressively lost with time. Integration through FP's recognized as too superficial. Necessity of a deeper involvement of member states.**

Origins and assessment at the end of 2007 (2/2)

- **Variable national reactivity to the ERA concept : « small » MS vs « big » MS ; North/South/East; etc.**
- **Experience harshly gained from the first article 169 (EDCTP) : building ERA is a real challenge !**
- **Key point : the overall governance of ERA, to be carefully balanced between Commission and Member States (MS).**
- **European policy with shared responsibilities at EU level, national level, and even regional level in some MS. Subsidiarity principle makes things difficult. Impact of the eventual implementation of the Lisbon treaty ?**
- **Many MS refuse to leave the management of ERA to the sole Commission. How to go further on the way of an increased coordination for a more efficient and competitive R&D in Europe ?**



A policy initiative designed to enable the full realization of the ERA (1/2)

- As a 6 month Presidency of the EU is definitively too short to take up such a challenge, a Trio strategy gathering FR, CZ and SE has straightaway been formed, with the very precious help of SI and the early involving the next Trio (ES, BE, HU).
- Exchanges and debates with the Commission on a regular basis in order to avoid misunderstanding. The aim is to establish a fruitful and balanced partnership.
- First discussions were launched within CREST in February 2008 in Bled (SI), then at the informal meeting of the ministers, in April 2008, under Slovenian Presidency, next to Ljubljana (Brdo).
- Outcomes were very positive : a consensus was achieved, allowing the SI Presidency and the FR-CZ-SE Trio to move forward.

A policy initiative designed to enable the full realization of the ERA (2/2)

- **Conclusions of the Council adopted on May 30 of 2008 :**

- « ACKNOWLEDGES that Europe now needs to develop a **common vision** and **effective governance** of the European Research Area (ERA) » (...)
- « AGREES to launch the "Ljubljana Process" of **enhanced governance based on a long-term vision on ERA** developed in partnership by Member States and the Commission with broad support from stakeholders and citizens » (...)

- **In the same time, a joint declaration of the next TRIO of Presidencies (FR, CZ and SE) was distributed to all member states :**
« The next three Presidencies of the European Union (France, Czech Republic and Sweden), identified as “the Trio”, maintain their wish to closely cooperate to enable the development and the full success of the Ljubljana Process. This process has its aim to achieve, by the end of 2009, the objective to reach a consensus between Member States for a new political governance of the European Research Area (ERA) » (...)

The outcomes of the French Presidency 2008 (1/3)

- The ERA Vision 2020 has been adopted by research ministers on December 2 as a result of a long lasting negotiation involving all ERA countries (member states and associated countries) and the Commission, in particular through CREST.
 - « **ENDORSES the attached "2020 Vision for the ERA"**, which was developed in partnership by the Member States and the Commission in the context of the **first phase of the "Ljubljana Process"** » (...)
 - « INVITES future Presidencies to take this vision and its potential evolution into consideration in the development of their proposals for the **future governance of the ERA** and STRESSES the need to use the full potential of existing coordination structures such as CREST in dealing with ERA initiatives » (...)
- Ambitious but realistic roadmap for the next decade, providing an azimuth for the next initiatives aiming at the reinforcement and the deepening of ERA.

The outcomes of the French Presidency 2008 (2/3)

- **Very important Conclusions of the Council on Joint Programming (internal dimension of ERA) were also adopted on December 2. A new “dedicated configuration” of CREST, called GPC (“Groupe de haut niveau pour la Programmation Conjointe”) has been set up in this respect. First meeting : 13 February ; next planned : 15 April. Pilot programme decided on neurodegenerative diseases, especially Alzheimer’s disease.**
- **Conclusions of the Council on international cooperation (external dimension of ERA) were finally adopted on December 2. An other dedicated configuration of CREST called SFIC (“Strategic Forum for International Cooperation”) has also been set up in this respect. First meeting : 18 February ; next planned : 6 May.**

The outcomes of the French Presidency 2008 (3/3)

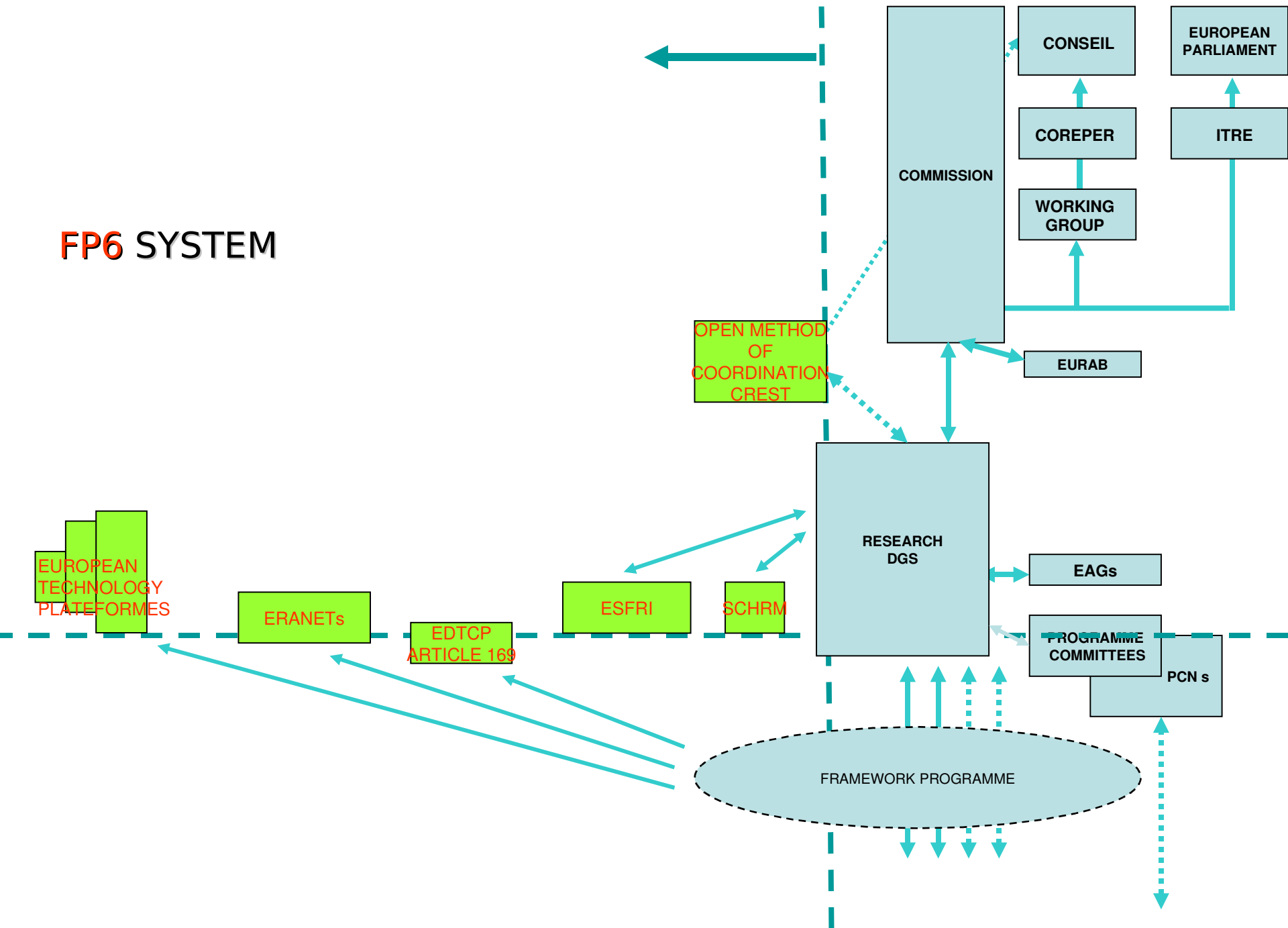
■ **ERA current governance at political level :**

- Competitiveness (Research) Council (build on Research Working Party and COREPER I) at EU level (4 per year);
- Informal meetings of the ministers of research (every semester in the country holding the Presidency of the EU – 4 May in Prague).

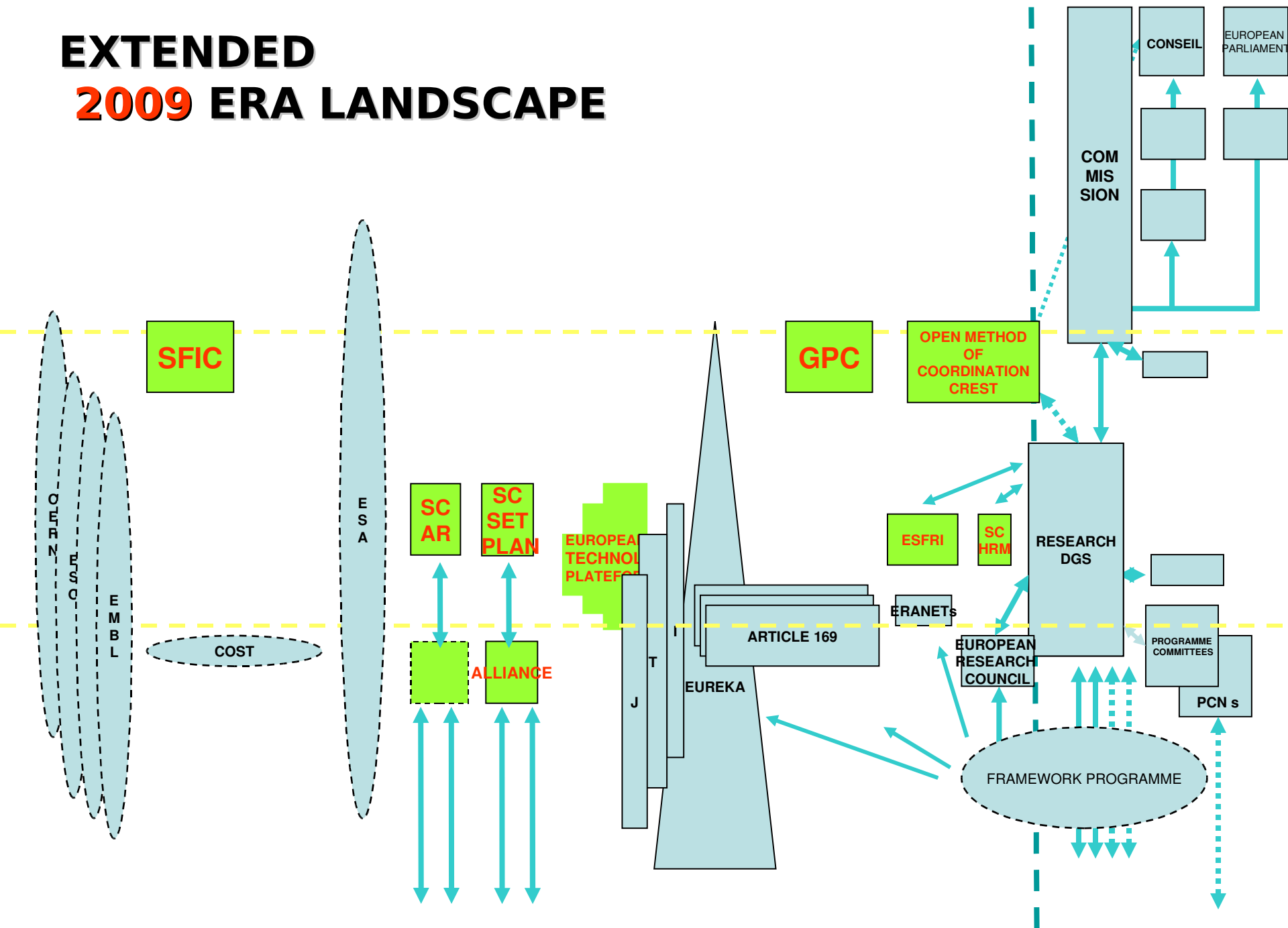
■ **ERA increasing complexities at « programming » level (two next slides to be compared) :**

- European Commission with the support of programme Comitees for FP7 (EU R&D activities) + « new born » IET;
- CREST, GPC and SFIC at intergovernmental level, with a link with EU activities : coordination between national and EU levels;
- ESFRI for R&D infrastructures : Forum created at the initiative of the Commission on the basis of conclusions of the Council;
- Articles 169, articles 171, Eurêka, COST, etc.

FP6 SYSTEM



EXTENDED 2009 ERA LANDSCAPE



Open questions and perspectives (1/2)

- **How strengthen the new « programming backbone » of ERA ? Find the proper articulation between DG's of the Commission, GPC, SFIC, ESFRI, CREST and other ERA-related structures.**
 - Reach an enhanced coordination between ERA public policies targeted on « Grand Challenges » (GPC, with the support of the Commission) ?
 - Better coordinate the ERA participation in « global » R&D programmes (SFIC, with the support of the Commission) ?
 - Take up the challenges of the updated ESFRI list (how to implement it in the current economic context ?) and get the benefits of the draft legal EU status « ERIC » for R&D infrastructures ?
- **How improve the higher political governance of ERA, at the level of ministers ?**
 - Change the semestrial « informal meeting of research ministers », without any real decision-taking power for an « ERA Council », as decision-taker complementary to the Competitiveness Council ?

- **Czech Presidency : Explore ways and means to how begin to implement the ERA Vision 2020. Adoption of Council conclusions on the Ljubljana process on May 29 ?**

- **Swedish Presidency : Main objective of decisions on the overall governance of ERA, to be taken in december 2009. Answer the most difficult questions.**

- **Spanish Presidency (first half of 2010) : Should be in charge of the concrete implementation of principle decisions taken, in partnership with the new Commissioner for research and maybe in application of the Lisbon treaty. Prepare complementary decisions in order to complete the whole system.**

- **Belgian and Hungarian Presidencies : Continue the deepening and the strengthening of ERA with the aim of making the « Vision 2020 » come true before the end of next decade.**

Thank you for your attention.

Ready to answer to your questions, even difficult ones !

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