



Euroscience

A European Association for the Promotion of Science and Technology
Association Européenne pour la Promotion de la Science et de la Technologie

(DRAFT) MEMORANDUM OF EUROSCIENCE **on the European Charter for Researchers** **and the related institutional policies within the European Research Area**

1. **EUROSCIENCE**, in its role of grassroots' voice of the wider research community, has supported since its inception the concept of European Research Area, to be promoted also through adequate European policies conducive to attractive research careers and a flourishing research environment across all of Europe.
2. **EUROSCIENCE** has followed the workings that led to the drafting of the *European Charter for Researchers* and the *Code of Conduct for their Recruitment* in a position of major contributor, also anticipating concepts and raising awareness on the needs and the requirements of a similar action.
3. **EUROSCIENCE** continues to draw attention to the issue of the career development of researchers, and notably to their professional choices of mobility between countries, institutions, sectors. The reported problems and the difficulties encountered remain an element of concern for **EUROSCIENCE**.
4. **EUROSCIENCE** recognizes the need for continued Europe-wide dialogue, exchange and dissemination of good practices in order to give substance to the policies of European Research Area, and welcomes the attention granted to the pillar of "the single market for researchers" in the context the debate on the *Green Paper* on the ERA - notably the analysis contained in the Report by the dedicated Expert Group
5. **EUROSCIENCE** notes that many aspects of the Recommendation containing the *Charter & Code* remain often only formally considered or subscribed, and welcomes the broad lines of the latest proposal put forward by the European Commission for a Human Resources Strategy to implement the *Charter & Code*, following already developed discussion - and refinement - with stakeholders and EU Member States
6. **EUROSCIENCE** invites each research institution within the European Research Area, be it a University, a public or private research performing organisation, or a research funding body, to take part in the voluntary Exercise of self-evaluation (or development) of their Human Resources Policy against the principles of the *Charter & Code*, and following up adequately that analysis with actions aimed at putting into closer alignment their institutional practice with those principles. In respect of the individual principles, where this closer alignment is not possible or desired, appropriate explanation or alternative good practice can be provided
7. **EUROSCIENCE** calls upon the States within the European Research Area to make their own part in the realisation of the principles of the *Charter & Code*, whereby legislation or other regulatory



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act is required to make possible the substantial achievement of the contents. EUROSCIENCE also recalls the commitment made by the European Councils of Lisbon and Barcelona in matters of knowledge-based economy, funding, and provision of human resources in R&D

8. **EUROSCIENCE** notes that in the context of the Open Method of Coordination more action can be requested to EU Member States in terms of reporting of progresses and evaluation. In particular, a template for the self-assessment in the field covered by the *Charter & Code* can be developed and proposed to States within the European Research Area. Research institutions will be encouraged to make their own part in the exercise if this will be taken up at all levels
9. **EUROSCIENCE** calls on the Commission to make operational the proposed mechanism of evaluation, and design an appropriate steering of the process, through the involvement of institutional stakeholders by way of a High-Level Group alongside with the States
10. **EUROSCIENCE** invites individual researchers to adhere to the ethical and professional standards required to them in the *Charter & Code*, in the context of an improved accountability of the researcher profession to society
11. **EUROSCIENCE** calls on researchers and their societies or unions to take further the issue of the proper implementation of the principles of the *Charter & Code*, promoting it widely within their institutions and in their public and political activities
12. **EUROSCIENCE** commits itself to following the Human Resources Strategy for the *Charter & Code* through appropriate dialogue with the Commission and other institutional stakeholders, and maintaining adequate contacts with the wider community of researchers as a permanent Open Forum for discussion.

Barcelona, ESOF 2008 and General Meeting of EuroScience