

and to pave the way for progress toward the strategic goal adopted by the EU Heads of State at the Lisbon Council in March 2000: *“to make Europe the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion”*. Support for this goal was strengthened in March 2002, when the Barcelona Council of EU Heads of State supported the Research Commissioner’s proposal that each Member State aim to allocate a full 3% of their GDP to R&D by 2010.

In addition to its broad undertakings, the EU develops many specific policies and initiatives. For example:

- DG-Research is spearheading the development of a harmonized European strategy for space, which will see negotiations unfold between the EU and the European Space Agency in the coming year.
- the EU released a Biotechnology Strategy and Action Plan in early 2002: [http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2002/com2002\\_0027en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2002/com2002_0027en01.pdf)
- DG-Research is spearheading the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) Initiative (<http://gmes.irc.it/>)

The Spanish Presidency has set the following Science and Technology priorities for the first half of 2002, with the aim of further developing the Lisbon conclusions, and as a follow-up to the achievements in the previous Presidencies:

- Adopting the Sixth Framework Program for RTD Activities
- Boosting up the European Research and Innovation Area in a knowledge-based society
- Developing the international dimension of the European Research and Innovation Area
- R&D as the engine of sustainable and competitive growth

#### **4. Future S&T Directions in the European Union**

Since early 2000, the European Union has been drafting and debating legislation for the Sixth Framework Program for Research and Technology Development (FP6). FP6 is scheduled to run from 2002-2006. FP6 legislation regarding funding allocations and structural elements, and the separate but related legislative processes pertaining to the “The Rules for Participation” and the “Specific Programs”, should be resolved in 2002. The first FP6 Call for Research Proposals is expected late 2002, or early 2003. See the section on R&D Budget’s in 2002 for details on FP6 budgets.

There are three main innovations in FP6: To have a greater structuring effect on European research, in part through the three new instruments; to increase and focus resources on key fields; and to financially support the networking of national programs and activities. FP6 also has stronger horizontal priorities than its predecessors, including initiatives in support of human resources (e.g. researcher mobility), research and innovation (e.g. Géant and Grid), science and society, etc.

FP6 encompasses five Research Programs, as follows:

- *First Specific Program*: Concentrating and integrating Community research (includes the thematic priorities, and the so-called “eighth priority” covering the wider field of research and the strengthened foundations for the ERA)
- *Second Specific Program*: Structuring the ERA
- *Fourth Specific Program*: Research in the Nuclear Field (the Euratom component)