

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM - EU

programs are also often cited as success stories illustrating the effectiveness of research collaboration in Europe.

To summarize, EURTD policy has played an increasingly central and catalytic role in this diversified research landscape, building on the strength of national complementarity.

### 2. Recent S&T Developments

#### *FP5 in 1999*

In the first half of 1999, the Fifth Framework Programme (1999-2002) was launched, and a first wave of calls for proposals issued with June deadlines. Following external evaluation of the proposals and final selection by the Commission, contract negotiations took place in the fall, and unconsolidated statistics and results became available in December 1999. Success rate was 20 % or lower depending on the programme.

#### *Reorganisation of the European Commission*

After the European Parliament elections in June 1999, the portfolio for research under the Presidency of Mr. Romano Prodi, was assigned to Mr. Philippe Busquin of Belgium. Responsibility for the Information Society Technologies (IST) and Innovation portfolios was given to Mr. Erkki Liikanen of Finland, and transport and energy to Mrs. Loyola de Palacio of Spain. The GMO crisis in Europe was one of the factors in the decision to consolidate research in agriculture and biotechnology under the Directorate General for Research. There have been important changes all over to improve accountability and transparency, including in the administration of FP5.

#### *FP5 in the Front Line of European Enlargement*

In fall 1999, European research opened up to the 150,000 or so researchers from eleven countries which are candidates for accession to the European Union early in this new millennium. These countries are Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia. Mr. Busquin's first key speech was made in October, at the launch of the Fifth Framework Programme in Poland, to illustrate the reality of the enlargement process and its dynamism, and to signal that research is in the front line in the enlargement process. While Poland has already been involved in 300 Fourth Framework projects, full access to FP5 resources should help increase significantly the participation of Polish researchers. This opening occurs at a time when a number of scientists hold high political offices in several Central and Eastern European countries.

#### *International S&T Developments*

Europe is a leading worldwide partner in the formation of international technology alliances such as G7 Information Society Pilot Projects, Intelligent Manufacturing Systems (IMS) and the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER). The EU has signed S&T agreements of "mutual interests" with many non-member countries, such as Australia, Canada, United States, South Africa, Israel, China and Russia. In 1999, Argentina was the first Latin American country to sign such an agreement. Such agreements are important instruments of European foreign policy, as illustrated by the fact that renewal of the agreement with Russia was postponed due to events in Chechnya. Further to the second EU-US New Vista Conference in Stuttgart in June 1999, EU-US implementing arrangements in standards measurement and