

EARTO (European Association of Research and Technology Organizations) is the trade association of Europe's specialised research and technology organisations. It presents the views of its members to European decision-makers, publishes policy papers and organises briefing sessions, working groups, task forces, seminars and conferences. EARTO members sit on the European Union's influential European Research Forum and Programme Advisory Committees. Members plan and perform major R&D projects, and through NEXUS they pool their expertise to tackle major international multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary assignments.

**ERCIM** <http://www.ercim.org/>

ERCIM - the European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics - aims to foster collaborative work within the European research community and to increase co-operation with European industry. Leading research institutes from thirteen European countries are members of ERCIM.

**European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO)** - <http://www.embo.org/>

Established in 1962, EMBO continues to promote molecular biology studies in Europe. It is funded by contributions from 23 Member States (LINK), which together form the European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC). EMBO itself is composed of almost 1000 scientists including 20 Nobel Prize winners, many of whom have strong links with industry.

**Association of European Research Establishment in Aeronautics (EREA)**

<http://www.erea.org/index-nn.htm>

Founded in 1994, the Association of European Research Establishments in Aeronautics (EREA) has the mandate to increase the scope and extent of cooperation amongst its members by developing joint research programs and technology transfer activities. EREA advises the European Commission on the aeronautics elements of the Framework Programs.

**ESCIN** <http://www.esf.org/escin/>

The European Science Communication and Information Network (ESCIN) aims to improve the appreciation and understanding of scientific research among Europe's citizens and opinion-formers. Set up in 1993, ESCIN brings together the heads of communication from 21 of Europe's major research councils, institutes and associations in nine countries.

**EASE (European Association of Science Editors)** <http://www.ease.org.uk/>

EASE promotes improved communication in science by providing efficient means for cooperation among editors in all disciplines of science, and assisting in the efficient operation of science publications. Although EASE is European-based, those working in science communication and publication anywhere in the world are welcomed as members.

### **3. What's New? 2002 S&T's Policies and Program Developments in the European Union**

The European Research Commissioner, Philippe Busquin, sees a place for research and development as one of the cornerstones of the European economy and society. In fulfilling this vision, much will depend upon the European Research Area (ERA), upon Framework Program 6 (FP6) as a key "structural element" of the strategy, and upon the building of "gateways" to, and between, the national research programs.

ERA and FP6 are designed to advance the harmonization of European research endeavours,