

	Netherlands
2005	Luxembourg
	United Kingdom
2006	Austria
	Finland

Insofar as support for the Research Council is concerned, the General Secretariate includes a Research Directorate-General, which reviews research policies and budgets, and is responsible for intergovernmental coordination. The Council also funds and operates COST: European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (<http://cost.cordis.lu/src/home.cfm>), which supports basic and applied research actions. COST involves nearly 30,000 scientists from 32 European Member countries and more than 50 participating institutions from 11 non-member countries, including Canada. Relative to the FPs, COST is fairly streamlined in its structures and procedures.

The European Council:

The European Council is distinct from the Council of the EU. The European Council consists of the Heads of State of the fifteen Member States of the European Union and the President of the European Commission. Thus, it has a more senior composition than the Council of the EU. However, it does not have a formal legislative role in EU affairs. It is more of a "think tank", through which European leaders review and comment upon EU affairs, make recommendations, and perhaps commit their nations to particular courses of action relevant in the European context. The European Council meets at least twice a year, generally in June and December. Meetings take place in the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council.

The European Commission:

The European Commission (EC) is in many ways the "work horse" of the EU. It is the guardian of the Treaties. It has the sole right to initiate EU legislation. It is also the EU's executive body. The EC is divided into various Directorate Generals (DGs) with different portfolios, of which several have mandates relating to elements of S&T and R&D.

The **Research Directorate-General**, with some 1,300 staff, manages implementation of the Framework Programs (http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/research/index_en.htm). It is currently drafting the final policies and program texts for the European Research Area (ERA) and the guidelines for the Sixth Framework Program (2002-2006). Under the newly-appointed Director General Achillos Mitsos, DG Research was reorganized in early 2001 to better support the ERA and its key themes. At the same time, the INCO Directorate (international cooperation) was replaced by two international scientific cooperation units, for policy and projects. As of May 1, 2002, these report to Deputy Director General Hugh Richardson. Some further reorganization of the DG may occur as FP6 comes on line in late 2002.

The **Joint Research Centre (JRC)**, administered by DG Research, carries out research and provides technical know-how in support of European Union policies (www.jrc.cec.eu.int). It employs about 2,100 staff and has a budget of over 300 million Euro per year. The research effort at the JRC is customer-driven, and most projects are formulated and carried out in close collaboration with Member State organisations.

The JRC refocused its activities late in 2001 to strengthen its organization and to ensure a successful contribution to the European Research Area and the pending Sixth Framework