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VCs; International Officers; European Officers; Research Officers

Action

For information

Executive Summary

Informing members of the forthcoming conference on the role of research in the Europe of knowledge, in Liege, Belgium.

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The Europe of knowledge 2020: A vision for University-based research and innovation

1. Registration is currently taking place for the above conference which will be held in the Liege Conference Centre, Belgium on 25-28 April 2004. The conference will unite vice-chancellors, researchers, industrialists and policy makers to discuss the best ways for universities in Europe to meet the challenges of the 21st century. **The deadline for participants is 15 February 2004**, and registration is conducted online, at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2004/univ/registration_en.html

2. The conference stems from the Commission's communication on 'The role of Universities in the Europe of knowledge'¹, and will pay particular attention to research. The communication itself was produced in response to the calls for a European Higher Education Area² in the Bologna Declaration and a European Research Area³ in the Lisbon agenda.

3. Over 140 responses to the Commission's communication were used as the basis for a series of preparatory workshops ahead of the conference. Discussions will be divided into nine sessions⁴, each headed by a panel of experts, where participants will have the opportunity to present their views to the Commission.

The themes for discussion are:

- knowledge creation and certification;
- university-industry relations;
- interdisciplinary research;
- a new paradigm in relations between HE and research;
- the new demands of research training;
- universities driving regional development;
- enhancing internationally competitive research in Europe;
- research for the service industry;
- university autonomy and governance.

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4. The aim of the conference is to produce a 'roadmap' for European universities to achieve their full potential in the knowledge society of the 21st century. UK participation is strongly encouraged to ensure that the views of the UK HE sector are fully expressed on key issues such as the proposed creation of the European Research Council⁵ and the funding of research.

Notes:

¹The full text of this communication can be found at: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2003/com2003_0058en01.pdf

² For further details of the European Higher Education Area see: <http://www.bologna-berlin2003.de/pdf/Communique1.pdf>

³ For further details of the European Research Area see: http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/era/index_en.html

⁴ For details of the nine sessions, see: http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2004/univ/parrallel_sessions_en.html

⁵ For details of the European Research Council, see: <http://www.ercexpertgroup.org/default.asp>

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