

# Simplifying the implementation of the Research Framework Programs

Maria da Graça Carvalho

## ITRE Committee - Consideration of amendments

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Good afternoon

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank all my colleagues for the amendments that they have tabled.

I was very gratified to see that almost exclusively the amendments contribute to the main drift of the report and are welcome contributions that have enriched the content of the report.

Today, I would like to begin by making a number of general remarks concerning the amendments and then I should like to go onto consider what I believe are the three main categories of suggestions or criticisms that have been made. Finally, I should like to devote a little time to three or four bones of contention.

### General remarks on the amendments:

With regard to the general remarks, there are four main points:

- the vast majority of amendments aim to add new ideas to the draft report ;
- No real amendment criticizes or refuses the ideas of the draft report;
- I signed and co-signed several amendment to complete the draft with new ideas that where not integrated due to the limited space available;
- There were no conflicts between the political groups.

### Detailed analysis of the amendments

As I see it, the amendments fall into three main categories:

- **amendments introducing new ideas** that I generally fully support;
- **amendments linked to ideas already existing in the draft report.** We need to keep the final report simple, short and sharp. Therefore, new ideas will be accommodated in the compromise amendments as much as possible.
- **amendments falling outside the scope of the report.** This report should be seen as the first step in a long process that will lead to the adoption of

FP8. In the meantime, the EP will have several opportunities to make its views heard,

- namely at the time of the Midterm revision of FP7,
- the Communication on the priorities for FP8
- and finally all the package of the texts composing the FP8 (rules of procedures, programs, etc...).

Although the content of such amendments to FP8 are perfectly valid, I consider it a little premature to enter into a debate that has only just begun.

### Bones of Contention

Turning now to my third point, the bones of contention, there are four things that I should like to consider.

- **Firstly, result-based research:** some amendments are radically in favour of one or another idea: some defend only market-oriented or result based research and others defend fully bottom up or "independent" research. I prefer something between the two - a balanced approach - one that encourages a science based funding system with a high degree of trust and a risk-tolerant approach;
- **Secondly, differentiation between entities and activity types:** all amendments agreed with the idea of distinguishing between universities, industry and SME's as this was laid out in the draft report. However, there are some stakeholders wish to go further and propose a uniform rate for all activities (management, research, demonstration, dissemination). Applying a uniform rate will lead to lowering the rate to the lowest common denominator, affecting, for example dissemination). I supports a reduction of the number of applicable rates instead of a single uniform rate;
- **Thirdly, actual costs/flat rate/lump sums:** some stakeholders defend the real-cost approach instead of a flat rate. Again, I am of the view that a balanced approach should be found. Although both solutions have advantages and are well tailored to specific situations, individual institutions should be able to make their own choices in the matter.
- **Fourthly, New Member States:** some amendments were tabled focusing on the difficulties Member States experienced in accessing FP7. Although the Commission has a clear picture of the rate of participation by Member States, the rapporteur intends to draft a specific compromise on the topic;

So, to finish with, over to you now. I am looking forward to hearing your comments and suggestions.