

**MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO  
THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION  
OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION  
AND STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL  
(BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND  
ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

BWC/MSP/2008/WP.1  
27 November 2008

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**2008 Meeting**

**Geneva, 1-5 December 2008**

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of oversight, education,  
awareness raising, and adoption and/or  
development of codes of conduct with the aim  
of preventing misuse in the context of advances  
in bio-science and bio-technology research with  
the potential of use for purposes prohibited by  
the Convention**

**DUAL-USE AWARENESS AND OVERSIGHT UNDER THE SEVENTH  
FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FOR  
RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND  
DEMONSTRATION ACTIVITIES (2007-2013)**

Submitted by Austria and Germany on behalf of the European Union

1. The Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (FP7) is the European Union's main instrument for funding research in Europe from 2007 to 2013. The Framework Programmes have played a lead role in multi-disciplinary research and cooperative activities in Europe and beyond. They have two main strategic objectives:

- (i) to strengthen the scientific and technological base of European industry; and
- (ii) to encourage its international competitiveness while promoting research that supports EU policies.

The European Community seeks to promote synergies in European research, thus providing a more stable foundation for the European Research Area. This will make a positive contribution to the social, cultural and economic progress of all member states.

2. Decision No 1982/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006<sup>1</sup> implemented the Seventh Framework Programme. Article 2 of the Decision lists the activities supported under the Programme, including, *inter alia*, cooperation on:

- (i) health;
- (ii) food, agriculture and fisheries and biotechnology;
- (iii) nano-sciences, nano-technologies, materials and new production technologies; and
- (iv) security.

The objectives and broad lines of those activities are set out in Annex I of the decision. Another activity outlined in this annex deals with issues related to science and society including support for strengthening and improving "safeguards for scientific domains open to misuse", and "broadening the engagement of researchers and the public at large, including organised civil society, with science-related questions, to anticipate and clarify political and societal issues, including ethical issues".

3. The decision also states that "the dialogue between science and society in Europe should be intensified in order to develop a science and research agenda that meets citizens' concerns, including by fostering critical reflection, and is aimed at reinforcing public confidence in science". It therefore requires that "all research activities carried out under the Seventh Framework Programme shall be carried out in compliance with fundamental ethical principles". This includes taking into account the opinions of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies<sup>2</sup>. Regulation (EC) No. 1982/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006<sup>3</sup> which lays down the rules of participation under the Seventh Framework Programme states that "a proposal which contravenes fundamental ethical principles ... shall not be selected".

4. The website of CORDIS (Community Research & Development Information Service)<sup>4</sup> provides specific information on the research programme, projects and FP7 Call documents. CORDIS is the official portal for participating in FP7. The website describes activities and requirements including the preparation and submission of research proposals (EPSS – Electronic Proposal Submission Service). For each individual proposal, EPSS leads step by step through required documents, including ensuring compliance with ethical issues.

5. The CORDIS "Ethics check list"<sup>5</sup>, dealing, *inter alia*, with the problem of dual-use research, provides information identifying the main ethical dilemmas that arise in research and indicates how each topic might be addressed to ensure compliance. In its Ethical Issues Report

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<sup>1</sup> Decision No 1982/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013) - <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:412:0001:0041:EN:PDF>

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/european\\_group\\_ethics/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/european_group_ethics/index_en.htm)

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under the Seventh Framework Programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013) - <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:391:0001:0018:EN:PDF>

<sup>4</sup> CORDIS – Community Research & Information Service – [www.cordis.europa.eu/fp7](http://www.cordis.europa.eu/fp7)

<sup>5</sup> [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ethics\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ethics_en.html)

(EIR)<sup>6</sup>, CORDIS asks for information if "the proposed research [has] direct military use, or potential for terrorist abuse". Independently from indicating dual-use problems already in the EIR, the dual-use capabilities of any research project will be reviewed internally by the scientific and legal experts of an ethics team. The EIR and the findings of the ethics team are intended to be part of the FP7 Evaluation Summary Report (ESR), which is the final outcome document of a panel review of each research proposal<sup>7</sup>. The ethics review may end up in concrete requirements becoming part of a research contract.

6. The procedures for handling dual-use problems of research implemented by the European Union may serve as a model for States and funding organizations to implement and/or improve awareness and oversight of dual-use research activities.

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<sup>6</sup> <ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/fp7-ethics-eir.doc> or [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html) (see under Ethics Review: Supporting documents)

<sup>7</sup> Rules for submission of proposals and the related evaluation, selection and award procedures – [ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/fp7-evrules\\_en.pdf](ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/fp7-evrules_en.pdf) or [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html) (see under Legal documents for implementation)