

## **New Research Studios Austria Statement Concerning the Draft of the New Programme Document**

In recent weeks, the BMWA and the Structural Programmes division of the FFG have drawn up a draft programme for the restructuring of the Research Studios Austria in accordance with the Austrian Council recommendation dated 14 May 2007. This paper has now been submitted to the Austrian Council. The following demands made by the Austrian Council have been met: In particular, measures have been taken to ensure transparent competition in application procedures and to ensure that the RTD guidelines and the EU framework for state aid are observed.

The programme will be managed by the Structural Programmes division of the FFG. It is open with regard to fields and topics and all university and non-university scientific institutions are eligible to participate. The Austrian Council welcomes the restructuring of the Research Studios Austria in line with its recommendation, but calls for the implementation of those points which have still not been fulfilled:

- Ex-ante evaluation by an independent and suitably qualified institution which is not subject to directives from the responsible ministry
- Inclusion of the Austrian Council's expertise in the development of the terms of reference for the programme evaluation
- Retention of the thematic focus on the emerging thematic area information and communications technologies
- Measures to ensure that the contract for the coordination function is awarded to one or more external institutions following a competitive tender procedure.