

## **Recommendation regarding “research and technology” for the Government Programme for the legislative period starting in 2006**

In accordance with its statutory mandate the Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development submitted a recommendation to anchor research and technology in the coming legislative period. The recommendation is based on Strategy 2010 and other Council publications. The Austrian Council draws up its recommendations in close consultation with the key players in the Austrian innovation system. Experts from politics, the civil service, the relevant funding agencies and from science and industry participate in the process in working groups and similar dialogue forums. The original texts of the Austrian Council recommendations are published on the Council’s website [www.rat-fte.at](http://www.rat-fte.at).

### **The Austrian Council recommends**

- Strategy 2010 is the Austrian Council’s position paper concerning the development of the fields of action in Austrian research and technology policy. It should serve as the basis for the Government’s research and technology policy in the new legislative period.

#### **Strategy 2010**

Strategy 2010 is directed toward one central objective: strengthening the competitiveness and dynamism of the Austrian economy in order to enable sustainable economic growth and an expansive employment trend. For that purpose, measures for ten fields of action have been recommended: Universities, business enterprises, the co-operative sector (collaboration between science and industry), the strategy of excellence, international orientation, the regional dimension, human resources, the state as a driving force, the funding portfolio and the allocation of resources.

The basic principles of Strategy 2010 are:

- to promote quality on a broad level and excellence at the top
- to strengthen networking and co-operation between science and industry
- to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the funding system.

Strategy 2010 can be downloaded from the Austrian Council’s website <http://www.rat-fte.at>

- The Barcelona target of a 3 percent R&D quota can and must be achieved and should be funded by industry and the public sector.
- Particular attention in the forthcoming research policy period should be given to human resources, i.e. the people who work in science and research.
- The effectiveness of research and technology policy measures must be verified.
- The key areas initiated in addition to the general programmes will be consistently advanced. The entire portfolio must be analysed and optimised. The Austrian Council is considering defining additional key areas in the fields of energy and materials.
- A system of incentives should be created to open up sources of private risk capital for investments in research by making them tax deductible or giving them other preferential treatment.
- The ministerial structures in the area of research must be made more efficient. At the political level, the Austrian Council recommends combining the portfolios at two ministries (balancing of interests between science and technology).
- Competition within the university system must generally be strengthened, budget funding for basic research must be guaranteed.
- The funds of the National Foundation for Research, Technology and Development must be used in accordance with the statutory mandate. This will involve transferring the funds used for general programmes (FFG/FWF) to the ordinary budgets of the ministries.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This will free up the budget funds at the National Foundation for long-term high-risk projects.