

TO:
Members of the ECP/GR Steering Committee
ECP/GR Working Group Chairs

Dear colleagues,

A Task Force (TF) on the Strategy for Phase VII of ECP/GR was set up at the last meeting in St. Petersburg (October 2001), with the objective to make proposals on priorities for Phase VII, taking into account developments in relevant science and technology and in international policy and economy.

The TF has operated through electronic communication and the Steering Committee members who volunteered to be part of it were the following: Martin Smith, UK, acting as the Chair; Lars Landbo, Denmark; Elina Nikkola and Leena Hommo, Finland; Dominique Planchenault, France; Frank Begemann, Germany; Laszlo Holly, Hungary; Miriam Waldman, Israel; Fabrizio Grassi, Italy; Bert Visser, Netherlands; Patrick Mulvany, NGOs; Eliseu Bettencourt, Portugal; Jens Weibull, Sweden; and Gert Kleijer, Switzerland. Correspondence was also copied to Lorenzo Maggioni and Jozef Turok, IPGRI.

As a first step, on 12 July 2002, the TF has circulated a questionnaire, to seek the views of key players in ECP/GR, in order to establish a basis for informed decisions to be taken for Phase VII. This document was sent to all Steering Committee members, Working Groups Chairs and Vice Chairs, Network Coordinating Group representatives, Database managers and the Internet Advisory Group.

The TF received back 28 replies. These replies were summarized and analyzed and a number of recommendations were drafted by Martin Smith and subsequently revised and approved by the TF.

The attached documents include the finalized results of the TF action, as follows:

- Analysis of results of questionnaire and recommendations
- Annex I: Summary of results of questionnaire
- Annex II: Summary of recommendations
- Annex III: Procedure for setting priorities and objectives and for monitoring progress towards their achievement

A few additional recommendations have been proposed by Germany. These are also attached in a separate file. They were not included together with the TF recommendations, since they have not been subject to discussion with other members of the TF.

All the attached background documents will serve for discussion during the next Steering Committee meeting in October. In particular, the proposed recommendations will be subject to approval or revision by the Steering Committee and are expected to define the strategy for Phase VII.

The Steering Committee members are invited, in the next six months, to analyze these documents, share them as appropriate within their

countries and come prepared to discuss their content at the Steering Committee meeting in October.

The Working Group, networks and task force Chairs are welcome to send their comments on these documents (in particular on the recommendations) to the ECP/GR Secretariat, not later than 31 JULY 2002. In preparation for the Steering Committee, Chairs of all the Networks will also be asked to prepare a very brief report on the progress made, focusing on the specific objectives and the achievements that have been accomplished towards reaching those objectives. A format for these reports will be distributed later by the Secretariat to facilitate this task. Replies received from the Chairs will be included among the background documents of the Steering Committee.

The ECP/GR Secretariat will also prepare a draft "Implementation document", based on the proposed recommendations, in order to facilitate the understanding by the Steering Committee of the impact of these recommendations "in real terms". This document will be circulated to the Steering Committee well in advance of the meeting.

In the hope that you will find this process useful and constructive for the formulation of the new strategy for Phase VII of ECP/GR.

Yours sincerely,

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