



## Ideas – Frontier Research

Objectives

- To reinforce excellence, dynamism & creativity in European research
- Create a Europe-wide competitive funding mechanism for frontier research executed by individual teams

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## Ideas - Activities

Frontier Research = a new understanding of basic research

- Risky venture, but of critical importance to economic & social welfare
- Characterised by an absence of disciplinary boundaries
- Investigator-driven approach
- All areas of S&T supported
- Supports individuals in national or transnational teams
- Evaluated on the sole criterion of excellence

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## European Research Council

- **Scientific Council:** Main decisions, created by EC, propose 'work programme', establish peer review, oversight, annual report
- **Programme Management Committee:** Member State Representatives, no say in evaluations or in topic areas, view oversight reports by EC
- **Secretariat:** Provide day-to-day support to the Scientific Council
- **European Commission:** No major decisions, approve programmes, legal signatories
- **Implementation Body:** Responsible to EC, information and support, registration of proposals, organise peer review, follow-up, annual implementation report

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## Scientific Council - ERC

- Members nominated by EC decision following an independent identification procedure in July 2005
- Independent; respected scientific personalities, reflecting the full scope of European research; acting in their personal capacity
- Responsible for scientific strategy, operational methods and overall quality assurance in scientific aspects of the ERC's activities
- SC met in Oct '05 & Jan '06

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## Implementation Structure - ERC

- autonomous
  - independent of political interest
- efficient
  - low bureaucracy
- accountable
  - scientific, financial

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## European Added Value

- Encouraging and supporting the best talent
- Selecting the most promising research areas
- Giving European/international visibility to research leaders
- Catalysing the creation of a more efficient European research system

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