

**Message from Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn for the ANPRI
international satellite event at ESOF 2010**

***"Towards criteria of evaluation of research and researchers - state
of the art five years after the European Charter for Researchers"***

I am very pleased to have been asked to provide a message for your very important workshop today, and am only sorry that I cannot be with you personally to take part.

As you know, the Commission produced the Europe 2020 Strategy in March of this year, and it was recently endorsed by our Heads of State and Government. As a key flagship of the Strategy, President Barroso has asked me to deliver an Innovation Union Strategy, and I have committed to do so by September. The document will be discussed by Heads of State and Government towards the end of the year in the first ever Council dedicated to discussion of Research and Innovation. I am happy to say that Research and Innovation are at the heart of the Europe 2020 Strategy, and therefore an essential foundation stone in the building of a strong economy which will deliver growth and jobs, while tackling society's grand challenges such as climate change and health in an ageing society.

Researchers are our key producers of new knowledge and motivated, innovative researchers are essential if we are to turn those great ideas into products and services, to turn Europe into the Innovation Union. In order to attract and retain the best research talents in Europe, researchers' career structures as well as their working conditions must be made more attractive, and I am determined to do all I can to make this possible. In broad terms, I am committed to delivering an open, cohesive European Research Area (ERA), in which researchers are free to move, sharing and building their skills as they go. These skilled people must be enabled to move freely between universities, research institutes and industry, and I am working hard on the practical issues which will make this happen, for example transferability of pensions and social security rights.

The European Partnership for Researchers works on four key actions in this respect, including meeting the social security and supplementary pension needs of mobile researchers and ensuring attractive employment and working conditions. These actions support the implementation of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers at institutional level, which set out the roles and responsibilities of researchers and their employers and funders.

At a very concrete level, I am pleased to announce that the Commission finalised a feasibility study which examined the possible practical solutions to the supplementary pension needs of internationally mobile researchers. According to the study prepared by Hewitt Associates, it is now possible to set up a pan-European framework for occupational pension arrangements for researchers. The Commission will follow up and raise awareness among interested stakeholders that aim to establish such a pan-European pension fund. I hope to progress this issue very soon.

I am pleased to note that you in Italy have embraced the European Charter for Researchers and the Code for their Recruitment, and that these have proven helpful tools for Italian universities.

I would like to wish you every success at today's workshop, and as I will be at ESOF tomorrow (Saturday 3 July), I hope to meet some of you during the course of the day.

With very best wishes,


Máire Geoghegan-Quinn