

## European Commission

### PROGRESS REPORT<sup>1</sup>

on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC  
(Mid June 2012 (Tirana meeting) till December 2012 (Belgrade meeting))

#### 1. Policy actions

Adoption of 2012 Progress Reports on Enlargement countries and monitoring progress on Chapter 25.

#### 2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

General Partial Agreement (GPA) reached on **Horizon 2020** at Competitiveness Council on 10 October 2012.

#### 3. Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

Second meeting of **Joint Research Committee** between EU and Montenegro in Podgorica on 31 July 2012

**Preparations and conduct of accession** negotiations with **Montenegro on Chapter 25**: opening of negotiations on 23 -24 September 2012; screening report adopted by Council; Draft Common Negotiating position under discussion in Council.

**Workshop on Innovation Union** with all enlargement countries in Brussels on 6-7 November 2012 (focus on Self-Assessment Tool and Smart Specialization Strategy);

Participation in Midterm Review Consultations on Regional Strategy for R&I for WBCs in Brussels on 15-17 October 2012 (RCC, WB, EC and beneficiary countries)

Participation in Advisory Body Workshop to discuss Regional Strategy on R&I for WBCs in Tirana on 19-20 November.

Preparing for 2013 European Semester exercise with Croatia.

---

<sup>1</sup> The progress reports are collected in preparation of the meetings of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries and will be provided for download from the WBC-INCO.Net homepage ([www.wbc-inco.net](http://www.wbc-inco.net)) about one week before the meeting takes place. Therefore please submit your report to [office@wbc-inco.net](mailto:office@wbc-inco.net) until December 1, 2012.

**4. Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA**

Adoption of Communication on 'Enhancing and focusing EU international cooperation in research and innovation: a strategic approach' (COM (2012) 497 of 14 September 2012).

**5. Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data**

NA

**6. Assessment of the developments and outlook on the next 6 months**

All work concentrated on facilitating integration of the enlargement countries in the European Research Area and allowing them to become familiar with the commitments expected from the Member States under the Innovation Union. In this context, policy discussions and analysis are also taken place in preparations of association to Horizon 2020. In the coming next 6 months, work will concentrate on the enlargement countries under Horizon 2020 and as the case may be, launch procedures for association.