

A number of common concerns are evident from the written comments provided:

- **Stakeholders require further information about the Commission's proposals** in order to further the debate. This applies, in particular, to the new approaches proposed for basic research and for European technology initiatives. The Commission has in the meantime made available working documents covering many of the objectives set out in the Communication.²
- **Stakeholders want improvements in implementation of the Framework Programme.** Many of the concerns coincide with those found in the mid term evaluation of the effectiveness of the instruments of the 6th Framework Programme conducted by an independent panel led by Professor Marimon. Many of these concerns are being addressed by the Commission in its response to the panel's report and an action plan has been established.³

Responses to questions on the strengthening support for research at European level

	Do you agree that the support for research at a European level should be strengthened?	Do you agree that a strengthened European level research support will have an important impact on Europe's research capacities and capabilities?	Do you agree that a strengthened European level research support will contribute significantly to Europe's competitiveness, social welfare and sustainability?
agree	56.4%	56.7%	54.6%
mostly agree	41.2%	38.8%	37.5%
mostly disagree	0.5%	0.6%	1.0%
disagree	0.9%	0.4%	0.6%
don't know	0.9%	1.0%	2.3%

Responses to questions on the importance of the six main objectives in the Guidelines

Importance of the objective	Creating European centres of excellence through collaboration between laboratories.	Launching European technology initiatives	Stimulating the creativity of basic research through competition between teams at European level
very important	48.4%	41.9%	45.9%
Important	42.4%	44.1%	35.3%
not important	4.5%	6.3%	8.1%
Unnecessary	2.8%	1.5%	6.4%
don't know	1.3%	6.1%	4.2%

Importance of the objective	Making Europe more attractive to the best researchers	Developing research infrastructure of European interest	Improving the coordination of national programmes
very important	73.6%	43.4%	43%
Important	22.5%	42.4%	41.5%
not important	1.9%	5.7%	7.5%
Unnecessary	0.8%	1.4%	2.9%
don't know	1.1%	6.9%	5%

² All working documents can be found at http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/index_en.html.

³ See the Communication of the Commission "Responding to the observations and recommendations of the high-level Panel of independent experts concerning the new instruments of the 6th Framework Programme" COM(2004)574.