

Brussels, 26.03.2008
KV/cm

Dear Professor Yetis, *Dear Nüket,*

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to become one of the 22 members of the new European Research Area Board.

As a follow-up action to last year's Green Paper on new perspectives for science and technology in Europe¹, the European Commission decided to establish the European Research Area Board (ERAB). A copy of this decision is annexed to this letter.

ERAB is an independent, high-level advisory body whose mission is to advise the Commission on issues relating to European research policy, in particular the realisation of a European Research Area (ERA). It replaces a previous structure, namely the European Research Advisory Board (EURAB).

ERAB's establishment comes at a time when the political context is favourable towards an ambitious research policy. The European Council on 14 March 2008 endorsed the principle of the EU's Fifth Freedom for the free circulation of knowledge. The new Lisbon Treaty, to be ratified by Member States this year, consecrates the realisation of the European Research Area as the new objective of the EU's research policy. With the help of ERAB, I wish to seize this momentum.

Among ERAB's core tasks will be the publication of an annual report on the state of the ERA. In addition, ERAB will have functions such as:

- Participation in and organisation of ERA outreach tasks, such as high visibility events (conferences, Council presidency events, EU wide consultation activities etc).
- Participation and representation in the network of the "National Councils for S&T policy of the EU Member Countries".
- Organisation of an ERAB bi-annual Assembly to discuss with key stakeholders progress, impact and next steps for the realisation of ERA.

Professor Nüket Yetis
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¹ COM(2007) 161, of 4 April 2007: Green Paper "The European Research Area: New Perspectives".

ERAB shall comprise 22 members representing the scientific community, industry and civil society. You have been nominated as ERAB member by an independent identification committee, which consisted of Ms. F. Vike-Freiberga (former President of the Republic of Latvia), Ms. C. Haigneré (former French minister of Research and of European Affairs) and Mr. A. Dearing (Secretary General of EIRMA).

I am convinced that the quality of the Board's work will depend on its independence, to which I attach great importance. Members are appointed in a personal capacity and are invited to advise the Commission independently of any outside influence coming from scientific, industrial, institutional, national or other interests.

While work undertaken in the context of ERAB will not bear any remuneration, the Commission will always reimburse your travel expenses and provide you with allowances for your participation in meetings according to the rules in force. Most meetings are likely to take place in Brussels.

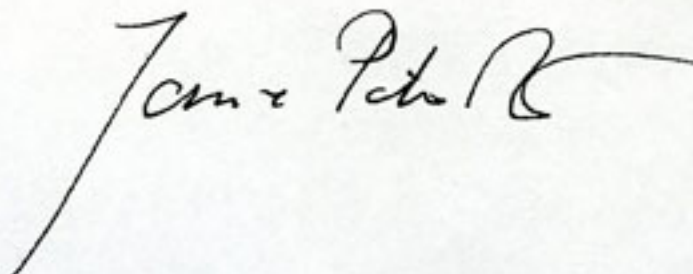
I would be grateful if you could let me know before Thursday 10 April at the latest whether you accept this nomination. It would give me great pleasure if you did so, as I would like to be able to rely on your knowledge and expertise in further developing and implementing our European research policy. The full list of nominees is attached to this letter. I would be very grateful if you would keep these names and your own nomination confidential until a formal public announcement is made.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact my cabinet (Mr. Kurt Vandenberghe, tel. 02/2969207 or email Kurt.Vandenberghe@ec.europa.eu) or my services at the Directorate General for Research (Mr. Kevin Walsh, tel. 02/2994914 or email Kevin.Walsh@ec.europa.eu).

I intend to call a first meeting of the Board in Brussels in late May or early June 2008.

I sincerely hope that you will be able to accept this appointment and look forward to working with you in the ERAB.

Yours sincerely,



Encl.:

Commission Decision Establishing the European Research Area Board
List of proposed Members
Green Paper "The European Research Area: New Perspectives"