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Response Type:  
Normal ResponseCustom Value:  
emptyResponse Started:  
Thursday, August 1, 2013 12:30:04 PMCollector:  
Web Link  
(Web Link)IP Address:  
86.27.189.222Response Modified:  
Thursday, August 1, 2013 1:33:52 PM

1. Name:

2. Organisation (if applicable):

Sweet Environmental Consultants

3. Email address:

4. Address:

5. In responding, it would be helpful if you could indicate whether you are responding as

a business or business representative body

6. Keeping in touch

Please keep me informed by email of the progress of this review, and other BIS Balance of Competence reviews.

1. 1. Where has EU action had a positive impact for the UK on research, technological development, innovation or space? What evidence is there for this? Has EU action encouraged national action in any areas?

The EU has encouraged cooperation between research groups so that UK competences have been complimented by those from EU MS. This has led to research projects which exploit a greater diversity of expertise and knowledge and developed research results with relevance in a diversity of environments and communities. This in turn has opened the eyes of policy makers in UK who have a better perception of the direction research and innovation is heading and have allowed policy and investment to develop in these directions. Involvement in EU research is very competitive and has markedly improved the efficiency, competitiveness and international perspectives of UK researchers.

2. 2. Where has EU action had a negative impact for the UK in these fields? What evidence is there for this? Has EU action prevented potentially useful national action in any areas?

The allocation of UK resources into EU research programmes has been done at the expense of UK investment in research at home. Research council budgets have been cut, institutes closed and universities starved of R & D funds.

3. 3. How and where has UK engagement with partner countries or international bodies, both within and outside the EU, been helped or hindered by EU involvement?

Most EU FP programmes have encouraged and promoted R & D activities across the EU. However the R & D programmes are sometime limited in scope or duration, may not be of highest scientific priority and sometimes politically/socially motivated rather than science driven. Applications for research projects are extremely time consuming and EU projects are very bureaucratic which discourages involvement of smaller organisations and SMEs who are swamped by the additional admin load and costs.

4. 4. What benefits or difficulties has the objective of a European research area (ERA) delivered for the UK?

This is covered by the comments above

**5. 5. How has the EU sought to coordinate the policy instruments at its disposal across different policy areas to create an enabling environment for researchers and innovators? How successful has this been?**

EU research policies and priorities are derived from agreements between different DGs and also inputs from EP. Thus they are sometimes limited in vision, scope or duration, may not be of highest scientific priority and are sometimes politically/socially motivated rather than science driven. Policy decisions at EU level ( both EC and EP) often ignore scientific findings ( from EU projects) or are outweighed by social, political and economic considerations, particularly in the areas of environment, agriculture, fisheries etc...

**1. 6. What could the EU most helpfully do to promote scientific and technological progress and innovation (including in the space sector)? - How could the EU use its existing competence differently to deliver more in your area? - How might a greater or lesser degree of EU competence deliver more in your area? - How could improvements to existing EU activities make them more effective and efficient?**

Improve scientific consultation at all levels. Allow good societal inputs into policy discussions but Remove politics from scientific policy decision making. Streamline application procedures eg have a first round of concepts, tenders and outline proposals; and invite a selected few to make full applications. Improve administration procedures

**2. 7. Where might future EU level action be detrimental to your work in this area?**

There is a strong anti-biotech and anti-genetics ( and even anti-science) bias in the politics of some MS and in the EP. This is severely impeding research and development at a time when these areas are desperately required for a range of agricultural, food and medical/health purposes. These actions have encouraged a brain drain to other countries and even relocation of biotech activities by companies outside EU ( eg BASF, Limagrain etc. ) In addition the EU has failed to develop environmental, energy and agricultural policies in a range of areas which continue to impede or damage the environment and the climate for research in these areas. Hence there is insufficient research on alternative energy technologies, agriculture and fisheries, transport etc...

**3. 8. Where might action at national rather than EU level be more appropriate / effective?**

the policy failures described above (7) also apply to the UK which does not have a credible sustainable agriculture or energy policies for the future. The UK needs to consider greater self sufficiency of the EU in foods and energy rather than overreliance on imports, and renegotiation of the EU terms should have these as a priority. Research can support these objectives.

**4. 9. How could EU and national policies and funding streams interact better?**

as in 6. improve consultation and communication At present UK R&D priorities in some areas are not in line with those of DG Research and other EU policies.

**5. 10. What impact would any future enlargement of the EU have on this area of competence?**

Enlargement would have little impact as many candidate and satellite countries already participate in EU research programmes and bring their own funds ( eg Turkey, Norway Switzerland etc.. )

**6. 11. Are there any other points you wish to make which are not captured above?**

My general feeling is that the EU has been beneficial for R & D but that improvements could be made. However there are some indications that resources have been diverted from National funding to the EC and this is harming the UK research base. In addition science based policy making on R & D should be improved with good consultation at scientific (not political) levels and involvement of Anne Glover !

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