

## **Launch Conference of the South Africa – COST Partnership**

*(COST is the European Cooperation in Scientific and Technical Research programme)*

**Tuesday 8 September 2009**

**Innovation Hub, Pretoria, South Africa**

The South African Department of Science and Technology, through the European South African Science and the COST Office in June 2009 concluded a reciprocal arrangement, to respectively fund South African and European researchers undertaking short-term scientific missions to Europe and South Africa, related to South Africa's participation in COST actions. Organised as a side event to the second South Africa - European Union Summit, this Launch Conference has the aim to present the COST programme to the South African research community and to encourage South African participation.

### **Agenda**

09:00 Opening Session

Welcoming speeches by:

*Prof Thomas Auf der Heyde, Deputy Director-General: International Cooperation and Resources of the South African Department of Science and Technology,*

*Mr Stefan Cairen, Representative of the COST Committee of Senior Officials, Swedish Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communication*

*Mr Gerasimos Apostolatos, Principal Scientific Officer, Directorate-General Research, European Commission*

09:45 General Overview of and introduction to COST

*Dr Martin Grabert, Director of the COST Office*

10:30 Refreshments

11:00 South Africa and COST

Presentation by the European South African Science and Technology Advancement Programme (ESASTAP) of the South Africa – COST Reciprocal Arrangement, including: Procedures for applying for funding and advisory and support services to be available to prospective participants.

*Ms Thabisa Mbungwana, Director: Strategic Partnerships, Department of Science and Technology*

11:45 Questions and Discussion

12:30 Lunch

13:30 COST Domains and South African R&D priorities and the Ten Year Innovation Plan

Thematic overviews of selected actions in the COST Domains:

Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences

*Dr Magdalena Radwanska (COST Office)*

Earth System Science and Environmental Management

*Dr Magdalena Radwanska (COST Office)*

Forests, their Products and Services

*Ms Melae Langbein (COST Office)*

Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health

*Dr Julia Stamm (COST Office)*

Overviews of the other COST domains will also be presented:

Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technology

Food and Agriculture

Information and Communication Technologies

Materials, Physical and Nanosciences

## Transport and Urban Development

15:00 Refreshments

15:30 Lessons from successful South African participation in COST (advice on how to secure participation and derive optimal benefit)

COST Action 929: A European Network for Environmental and Food Virology (University of Pretoria)

*Prof Maureen Taylor*

COST Action CM0701: Cascade Chemoenzymatic processes: New synergy between chemistry and biochemistry (CSIR Biosciences)

*Dr Dean Brady*

COST Action D39: Metallo drug-design and action (Mintek)

*Dr Judy Coates*

COST Action IS0602: International Law in Domestic Courts (Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria)

*Prof Erika de Wet*

17:00 Closure

Closing remarks:

*Dr Martin Grabert, Director of the COST Office and Mr Mmboneni Muofhe, Chief Director: Strategic Partnerships, Department of Science and Technology*