

## South Africa – European Union Summit 2009

Side event on “Enhancing SME participation in South Africa – EU science and technology partnerships”

Wednesday 9 September 2009

Table Bay Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa

### AGENDA

#### 09:00 High-level opening

Welcoming and introductory remarks by:

*South Africa’s Deputy Minister of Science and Technology, His Excellency Mr Derek Hanekom*

*South Africa’s Ambassador to the European Union, His Excellency Dr Anil Sooklal*

*Mr Stefan Cairen, Representative of the Swedish Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communication*

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

#### 09:45 Session 1: The policy context:

Supporting participation of South African SMEs in research and innovation within the context of the Ten Year Innovation Plan / Technological Innovation Agency

*Ms Kristin Klose, Director: Department of Science and Technology*

Sweden’s strategies for promoting SME involvement in research and innovation programmes

*Dr Anne Lidgard, Director: Innovation Actors Division, Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems, VINNOVA*

South Africa's strategic science and technology partnership with the European Union: the role of SMEs

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

Questions and Discussion

11:00 Break

**11:15 Session 2: Instruments for cooperation:**

Participation by and cooperation with SMEs under the EU Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) for Research, including:

- (i) Special research for the benefit of SMEs activity
- (ii) General opportunities for research-performing SMEs in various FP7 thematic programmes

*Mr Daan du Toit, South Africa's Senior Science and Technology Representative to the European Union*

The European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) Programme

*Dr Martin Grabert, Director of the COST Office*

The FP7 Industry-Academia Partnerships Pathways mobility instrument

*Ms Mamohlosing Tlhagale, Deputy Director: Department of Science and Technology*

Questions and Discussion

12:45 Lunch

**14:00 Session 3: Past experience of cooperation:**

The Swedish example: experience of SME participation in EU Framework Programmes

*Mr Christian Hansen, European Advisor, VINNOVA*

Case study: Framework Programme research for the benefit of SMEs: the Sixth Framework Programme “Collaboration at Rural – C@R” project

*Mr Danie Kok, Director of SAP Research CEC, South Africa*

Case study: South African SME participation in Framework Programme projects: the FP7 “Smart Transport Applications Designed for large events with Impacts on Urban Mobility” – STADIUM project

*Mr Rens Rezelman, Associate Director, Saha*

15:30 Break

**15:45 Concluding Session: Strategies for improving cooperation**

Presentation of “Seminar conclusions”, a set of proposed / strategies initiatives to improve SME participation in South Africa – EU S&T cooperation for implementation by South Africa’s FP7 National Contact Point for SMEs and the European South African Science and Technology Advancement Programme (ESASTAP)

*Presented by Ms Thabisa Mbungwana with comment by panel comprising Ms Klose, Dr Lidgard, Mr Apostolatos and Dr Grabert, and reaction from audience*

**17:00 Closure**

Concluding remarks

*Mr Mmboneni Muofhe, Chief Director: International Resources, Department of Science and Technology*