



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Ispra, 17 June 2016

### **Joint Statement by the JRC Board of Governors**

The JRC's Board of Governors is highly concerned by the discussions in the European Commission to apply a unified staff contracts regime to the differentiated categories of Grant Holders, made possible by a number of derogations to the current regime. This would prohibit the use of such contracts under national legislation for certain, very specific, categories of JRC staff.

The JRC's Board of Governors would like to draw attention to the particularities of the DG JRC in contrast to other Directorates General of the European Commission. It is a research institution of scientific excellence, which must offer adequate employment perspectives for research staff at different stages of their scientific career.

Very recently – in April 2016 - this has been reinforced by the adoption of the JRC Strategy 2030, which prioritises scientific collaboration with leading scientists, innovative PhD students and internationally renowned research centres.

Therefore, while the JRC's Board of Governors acknowledges the transformation of the former Grant Holders 30 category into European Commission Contract Agents, it strongly recommends maintaining the following current derogations:

- **Grant Holders 20 category for PhD students** – Without this category the JRC will no longer be able to engage PhD researchers which form a core part of the future Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships (CDP) initiative.

- **Grant Holders 30 category for visiting scientists from third countries who are not eligible to become Contract Agents** – Without this category, the JRC will lose its flexibility in employing the best researchers from all over the world, as the statutory staff recruitment is limited to the EU nationals.

- **Grant Holders 40 category for visiting leading scientists** – Without this category, the JRC will no longer have the possibility to engage senior scientific staff under attractive and competitive conditions, for instance for the envisaged Centre of Advanced Studies.

*Should the above derogations be abolished, there will be serious limitations in the ability of the JRC to engage scientific staff and to carry out strategic research projects, both of which are essential to maintaining a dynamic, up-to-date and excellent scientific basis underlying its mission and strategy.*

Dr Karel Aim

Acting Chairman of the JRC  
Board of Governors