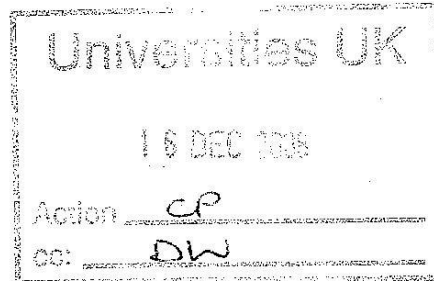


JANEZ POTOČNIK

Member of the European Commission

Brussels, 10 -12- 2008
WN D(08) 830

Baroness Diana Warwick
Chief Executive
Universities UK
Woburn House
20 Tavistock Square
UK – London WC1H 9HQ



Dear Baroness Warwick,

Thank you very much for your letter of 13th November 2008 regarding the implementation of the TRAC EC FP7 costing methodology for research projects.

In the context of the European Research Area objectives, the Commission recognises the strategic importance for European universities to move to full cost accounting. As such I very much welcome the co-ordinated and pro-active approach of the UK in this matter. From our perspective, the TRAC EC FP7 Guidance provides a sound reference framework for the costing of FP7 grants. I am grateful that you appreciate the close involvement of the Commission officials in the preparatory work and share your hope that this document will serve the UK Universities in their effort to apply correctly the FP7 financial provisions and submit applications for Certificates on Methodology.

I note your commitment to accompany the implementation of the TRAC EC FP7 framework with permanent support for the relevant UK Research Institutions. Indeed in this context the Commission services and officials are available to assist and guide you with issues that might arise in the future. Enquiries should preferably be submitted via the dedicated "Research Enquiry Service" (<http://ec.europa.eu/research/enquiries>), in order to ensure co-ordinated and consistent answers.

I wish you success in the future implementation of the TRAC EC FP7 Guidance and look forward to seeing the results of this harmonised approach.

Yours sincerely,