

President Sartori,

Dear colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin by thanking all the colleagues, rapporteurs and shadow rapporteurs, for their hard work and constructive comments as well as the Council and the Commission with whom I have worked in close collaboration.

I would like to give you some feedback on the ongoing negotiations.

I welcome the openness of the Presidency to discuss the Horizon 2020 as a package and treat the Specific Programme accordingly.

Until now we had a kick-off and two trilogues in which the institutions showed their commitment and willingness to

negotiate and reach agreements on the few topics that are still under discussion.

Only the articles of the Framework have so far experienced significant developments. Recitals and annexes are by now being worked at technical level in details and should be discussed at political level at our next trilogue meeting next 9 April.

Political points under discussion

These points include issues such as

- ~ Widening participation: the scope of measures to be covered, their application and the fact that they should have a proper funding line
- ~ Synergies with the Structural Funds
- ~ Scientific led Panels for exchanging of information and setting research priorities
- ~ Science with and for Society

Regarding these points that require further development the Parliament provided background papers in order to clarify and further develop the Parliament's position that was voted last November in this Committee.

MFF outcomes

Finally, let me say that I also feel disappointed, as some of the colleagues, regarding the MFF outcomes. At this point we should be aiming at a stronger programme that will deliver real growth and jobs. For the moment, the EC didn't provide us yet with the final budget to be allocated to the Horizon 2020 programme. An estimation is nevertheless quiet often referred as an amount between 71 and 74 bn depending on the calculation method used.