Joint Technology Initiatives - Innovation in Action
Hosted by Maria da Graça Carvalho

Opening ceremony
European Parliament, 4 October 2011

Good Evening;

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin by saying what a great honour it is to have been invited to open this exhibition and to host a number of events over the next two days.

Industrial research is of course of absolutely prime importance in stimulating growth and Europe's competitiveness on international markets. As the EPP rapporteur for research on the Budget Committee and as a member of a group of EPP MEPs who closely follow research related questions on the ITRE

Committee, matters of industrial research are dear to my heart.

Today's event is an opportunity to grandstand the central role of JTIs in furthering EUs economic and social goals. Bringing together industry, academia and different research centres, JTIs are a new and unique model of public-private partnership.

Let me say something about their funding and then something about their nature. They are funded in three ways: firstly from the European Commission via the 7th Framework Programme; secondly, from MS's research funds and, finally, by means of directing funding from industry.

As for their nature, there are five different JTIs. These are

Artemis - embedded computing systems

Clean Sky - sustainable Aviation

ENIAC Nano electronics

FCH JU Fuel Cells and Hydrogen

IMI Innovative medicines

Together, they represent a total investment of €10bn and today is an opportunity for the JTIs to show how much has been achieved.

In addition to highlighting the importance of JTIs, I sincerely hope that during the course of this exhibition, representatives of industry,

of academia, from the Commission and members of the Parliament will be able to meet and exchange views on the lessons learned, on the outcome of different projects and opportunities for the future.

With regard to opportunities for the future in particular, these include the potential role that the JTI instrument might play within the Horizon 2020 landscape in conjunction with the 2014 to 2020 EU budget.

A particular strength of the JTIs is that they cover the full innovation chain from frontier research to launching products on the market. Indeed, this is the main impetus of Horizon 2020. The lessons learned and the information

gained from these projects will play a central role in the future design of the Horizon 2020 programme.

As far as the next EU budget is concerned, you will be happy to learn that the Parliament is pushing for a doubling of the budget for the next EU programme for research and innovation as compared with the present programme. Hopefully, this will represent an increase from €50 billion to €100 billion. This figure was included in an amendment that I introduced and has recently been adopted by the European Parliament.

Since then, the European Commission has advanced an alternative figure of €80 billion as

part of the post- 2013 7-year budget package. The next step will involve tough negotiations between the main three European Institutions, Parliament, Council and the Commission. A number of European countries, with Germany to the fore, support a figure at the higher end of this spectrum. It is to be hoped that other Governments will follow this lead especially those countries with a reputation for academic excellence.

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Before finishing, le me draw your attention to an example of the startling progress that has been made in hydrogen based technologies. This is a hydrogen fuelled car that is currently

parked on the Square de Luxembourg. For those of you that so wish, there will be an opportunity to test-drive the car before the end of the exhibition.

And finally, let me take this opportunity to say what a great personal pleasure it is to see so many Portuguese scientists amongst us. They are here as a part of the Parliament's visitors' programme. I hope that they - and you all - will enjoy today's exhibition.