Good afternoon,

Ladies and gentlemen,

0) *Preamble*

I should like to begin by thanking the organisers for their kind invitation.

However, let me say a few words about myself and my work before going further. I have been a member of the EPP group in the European Parliament since the 14th July of 2009 and am a full member of the ITRE – Industry, Research and Energy Committee – and substitute member of the Budgets Committee. In this capacity, I have been the rapporteur for the simplification of the EU research and innovation programmes and I am also the EPP permanent

rapporteur for the research area in the Budget Committee.

I should like to speak briefly about three main areas.

~ Firstly, I shall refer to the importance of JTIs and the need to boost industrial participation.

~ Secondly, I shall emphasise, the importance of Hydrogen and Fuel Cells.

~Finally, I shall outline the role of EU parliament in implementation and development of fuel cell.

~The importance of JTIs and the need to boost industrial participation.

Industrial research is of course of absolutely prime importance in stimulating growth and Europe's competitiveness on international markets.

JTIs play a central role 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.

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.

Continuity on funding is crucial and EU institutions, national and regional governments, industry and research community must strengthen their own activities to jointly define a long lasting strategy for the final stages and roll out of these technologies.

~ Secondly, the importance of Hydrogen and Fuel Cells.

Hydrogen is of prime importance for energy security, climate change and environmental questions.

Fuel cells and hydrogen technology have great potential to contribute to addressing energy challenges facing Europe and to overcome the societal challenges associated with climate change and energy security.

Remarkable technological advances have been achieved but there still exist a number of barriers to the full commercial exploitation of the available technologies.

~ The role of EU parliament in implementation and development of fuel cell.

A central core of the discussions in the European Parliament was how best to overcome these barriers alongside the discussion of the contribution that Horizon 2020 can make in this respect.

EPP sees as main priorities, the following:

- Increasing the budget for the next Framework Programme for research and innovation;
- The coordination of the next Framework Programme with the Structural Funds;
- The inclusion of the concept "stairway to excellence";
- Creating the conditions for greater involvement of industry, particularly SMEs;
- Promoting the participation of young researchers;
- The financial and administrative simplification.

The contribution of Fuel Cells and Hydrogen to Community policies, in particular to energy, environment, transport, sustainable development and economic growth is enormous. It is vital to have a

stronger political commitment in the long term energy agenda.

Otherwise we are waiting for the report of the commission that is due at the end of the month.

- Connecting Europe Facility
- Project Bonds