

I am honoured to have been given this award. It is extremely gratifying to see that the energy that I and my team have expended - since we started work in the EU Parliament two years ago - has been so amply recognised. It is all the more gratifying since this recognition came, firstly, from a whole range of organisations working in Brussels and, secondly, from my peers.

Innovation and research are crucial to Europe's future. As I see it, designing a world class research programme requires three things.

- It is essential that you have got your scientific priorities right
- secondly, appropriate funding is, of course, a sine qua non
- and finally, as Einstein said, things should be as simple as possible but no more.

I have made a crusade of these three issues as the ITRE committee and the BUDG committees, in particular.

I shall like to thank my personal team who have worked tirelessly with me since my arrival.

I would like to congratulate all the nominees

One again, thank you all very much.