

Good afternoon, President

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

I should like to begin by thanking all my colleagues who have worked on Horizon 2020 and, in particular, Teresa Riera Madurell with whom I have worked in close collaboration. I should also like to thank all my shadow rapporteurs and the EPP working group.

The specific programme report involves the implementation of H2020 and as a result it entails all the priorities and lines of activities. This follows on from Ms Riera Madurell 's report but develops - in more detail - the themes that were laid out there.

As I see it, my contribution to this report breaks down into four main elements:

a) excellence as a major driver for Horizon 2020;

b) building synergies between Horizon 2020 and the structural funds;

c) competitiveness of European industry;

d) horizontal issues such as scientific coordination and leadership across the three pillars.

a) With regard to excellence, excellence should be the main driver for Horizon 2020 as a whole. This also supposes the widening of participation in order to stimulate excellence across Europe on the one hand, and the widening of bottom up scientific excellence across the three pillars of Horizon 2020, on the other hand.

Moreover, Horizon 2020 should include the concept of “stairway to excellence”. To this end, the report also includes a number of instruments: for example, the creation of ERC *return grants* and twinning scheme. Lastly, the Future Emerging Technologies instrument has

been widened to include science (giving the acronym FEST) and has also been spread across all three pillars.

b) As for building synergies between Horizon 2020 and the structural funds, it is important to ensure as much complementarity as possible between the two programmes. As such, the structural funds have a role to play – both upstream and downstream – with regard to the Horizon 2020 objectives. A number of concrete measures have been included in the report whose aim is to foster such greater synergy. Some examples are:

- a “seal of excellence” on positively evaluated projects that have not otherwise been able to achieve funding because of budgetary limitations.
- financing or co-financing the follow up to Horizon 2020 research projects (e.g. pilot scale and demonstration projects);
- valorisation of research results to facilitate the deployment of the resulting knowledge in terms of

its direct economic or societal use.

c) Thirdly regarding the competitiveness of European industry, it is essential that Europe's industrial basis is strengthened and that industrial participation is given a key role in H2020. Several amendments have been introduced to this end.

- industry participation should not be narrowly restricted to consideration under the Industrial Leadership pillar but should be designed with the three pillars constantly in mind.
- SMEs are central to reinforcing the competitiveness of European industry as a whole and several amendments have been proposed in order to achieve this goal. An example is the creation of innovation vouchers.

d) Fourthly, horizontal issues involving scientific coordination and leadership across the three pillars remain a fundamental concern.

Some horizontal issues have been strengthened such as horizontal scientific coordination concerning such questions as health, enhanced dialogue between science and society, balance between large and small projects, gender balance and youth employment, to name but these.

Ladies and gentlemen

As for the priorities already included in the COM proposal, I have added a number of topics that I consider to be of particular importance. These include: water, natural hazards and forest fires; cultural heritage; energy storage and decentralisation of energy production.

Before finishing, I should like to reiterate the fact that, in general, my report agrees with Ms Riera Madurell 's report *apart from the fact* that I have chosen

to maintain "science and society" within Societal Challenges 6 (whereas Ms. Riera Madurell has opted to move it within pillar 1).

By way of conclusion, let me say that I now look forward to receiving the different opinions and comments of my colleagues and it is with pleasure that I anticipate continuing along the path that we have already travelled so productively together.