

## **First European Innovation Area Forum kicks-off in Brussels with the special presence of the President of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola**

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**The first European Innovation Area Summit – Impact Innovations for a Sustainable Future**, which precedes the much-anticipated publication of the **Commission Innovation Communication**, kicks-off this Monday in Brussels, with the special presence of the **President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola**. The event is organized by the **Knowledge for Innovation Network (K4I)** with the patronage of the European Parliament.

“This event comes at a very important time, on the verge of a communication by the European Commission that, we hope, will finally bring us confirmation of the creation of a European Innovation Area (EIA)”, says Portuguese MEP Maria da Graça Carvalho, chair of the K4I Forum, who will be responsible for opening the event.

**“The EIA is something that the Knowledge for Innovation Forum has been fighting for since its creation, in 2009”,** she adds. **“Last year, we launched [the EIA Manifesto](#), strongly supported by all the key stakeholders,** where we have outlined **8 key focus areas**, which we consider essential to achieve Europe’s ambition to become a global innovation leader”.

It is worth mentioning that the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, **Mariya Gabriel, will deliver the keynote speech** of the European Innovation Area Summit, this Wednesday, the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, at 13.00 CET, and there are **great expectations about what she may anticipate about the upcoming Commission’s Innovation Communication.**

The K4I network is an independent, non-profit platform for debate on the future of innovation in Europe, comprising active and retired politicians, academics, researchers, European innovative enterprises, start-ups, and investors.