

“Towards the creation of a high-tech building industry. Turning energy efficiency into a sustainable business”

European Parliament, 23 April 2013

Speech from Maria da Graça Carvalho

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Dear speakers,

Dear colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon

It is a great pleasure to welcome you here today. This reception has been organised by ECTP and E2B and it is an honour for me to have been invited to host this event.

This debate aims at bringing together people from across the European Parliament, Commission and various businesses to debate the research and innovation potential of a high-tech building industry in order to accelerate the development of the economy in Europe.

European industry and, in particular, the building industries have the scientific, technological, and financial know-how to spearhead the shift to a sustainable resource-

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efficient utilisation of energy and materials and, by so doing, lead the world into a new economic era.

Horizon 2020 covers the whole innovation cycle and aims at an enhanced Industry participation in the R&D framework, a participation that has been dropped significantly over the last years.

Pillar II of the Horizon 2020 is entirely dedicated to industrial leadership based on R&D and innovation agendas defined by industry, including SMEs. Industry plays also a crucial role in the various Societal Challenges of Pillar 3.

By giving determined support to innovation, Horizon 2020 will ensure a business-driven approach where research results are effectively converted into innovative products and services that reach the market.

Similarly, by supporting the industrial potential of policies of innovation, research and technological development, Horizon 2020 will reinforce the leveraging effect of public and private investment. This will create new

job opportunities and ensure Europe's long-term sustainability, economic development and industrial competitiveness.

To this end, the PPP instrument pursues ambitious common research objectives at European level, involving industry, the research community and public authorities.

Indeed, PPPs are a very useful instrument that allow us to boost innovation and research at European level through the crucial involvement of key stakeholders. In this respect, PPPs, namely the Energy Efficient Buildings PPP, have already demonstrated their potential as a mobilising force for converting aspirations into action. Their ability to contribute to a more dynamic and competitive European industry and economy is something that has already proven to be successful in the case of the building sector.

At the crucial stage in which we currently find ourselves – in which the rapporteurs from the Parliament are negotiating the final details of Horizon 2020 with the Council and Commission – it is important to learn the lessons of the past as these will help us to develop new PPPs on the basis of simplification and transparency.

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It is equally important that we furnish ourselves with the opportunity to listen to your views on how we can improve the future PPPs. Indeed, this is something of the *raison d'être* for today's meeting. It is with this goal in mind, as a result, that I am looking forward to hear this fruitful discussion.