

Good evening,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin by thanking the organisers for their kind invitation. Today, my main purpose is to give you a brief overview of how I see the future of the different EU research and innovation programmes.

You will, of course, be aware of the importance of EU funding in research and innovation across Europe. This is a particularly crucial moment for us all as the Parliament, the Council and the Commission are in the process of preparing the successor to FP7: the Horizon 2020 programme and, at the same time, we have started negotiations on the future EU budget, post-2013.

As an MEP, I have been the rapporteur for the simplification of the EU research and innovation programmes. I am also the EPP permanent rapporteur for the research area in the Budget Committee.

In this capacity, I should like to speak briefly about three main areas.

~ Firstly, I shall outline the simplification process in broad terms.

~ Secondly, I shall sketch in the major guidelines for Horizon 2020.

~ Finally, I shall emphasise, the need for increased funding in the future budgets for EU research and innovation programmes.

1) *Simplification*

To begin with the simplification process: simplification is at the basis of our reforms and will supply the foundations upon which we can build better future programmes. In my report, I proposed a two-pronged approach:

~ On the one hand, I set out to simplify the administrative and the financial aspects of funded projects.

~ On the other hand, I set out to reinforce the technical and scientific assessment process. This meant a process of peer review and, with it, the application of excellence-based criteria for assessment.

It was gratifying to see that the report was adopted with the support of all the political groups without exception. However, this development is only the beginning of a long and difficult road ahead. Now we must make sure that our recommendations are properly implemented. At the moment, we are actively monitoring 72 different aspects of the process and we are optimistic that at the outset of Horizon 2020, all 72 aspects will have been implemented..

2) *Horizon 2020*

Let me turn now to my second theme: Horizon 2020 programme. As I see it, there are 5 key principles. The programme should involve:

- ~ Firstly, a trust based funding system.
- ~ Secondly, a chain from frontier research, to technological development, demonstration, valorisation of results and innovation.
- ~ Thirdly, a simpler FP with fewer instruments alongside a radical overhaul of the administration of the FP.

~ Fourthly, excellence based criteria for the FP in co-ordination with the structural funds for research capacity building.

~ And finally, enhanced international cooperation.

A key concern in all of this remains the constant desire to simplify, simplify. At the moment, there is a whole mass of programmes, sub-programmes and instruments. These should be drastically restructured. In fact, there should be three main pillars:

~ Firstly, a science driven pillar - ERC including research support activities (Marie Curie and European research infrastructures)

~ Secondly, an industry driven pillar - JTI's, SMEs etc.

~ Thirdly, a policy driven pillar – cooperative research projects addressing the great societal challenges

Research driven by a bottom up approach should not be the unique concern of the European Research Council. It is crucial to create a space for research in new and emerging areas in order to develop the next generation of technologies. The funding line "Future and Emerging Technologies" (FET) in the field of ICT has been extremely successful. We recommend the extension of this type of approach to other fields of research.

3) *The Budget*

Finally, let me say a few words about the budget. At the moment, we in the European Parliament are struggling to achieve a doubling of the Budget for the next European Programme for Research and Innovation as compared with the present programme. Hopefully, this will represent an increase from €50 billion to €100 billion. This figure was included in an amendment that I introduced and has recently been adopted by the European Parliament.

Since then, the European Commission has advanced an alternative figure of €80 billion as part of the post- 2013 7-year budget package. The next step will involve tough negotiations between the main three European Institutions, Parliament, Council and the Commission. A number of European countries, with Germany to the

fore, support a figure at the higher end of this spectrum. It is to be hoped that other Governments will follow this lead especially those countries with a reputation for academic excellence. In research, as in other domains in life, you only get out what you put in!

4) *Conclusion*

So, let me conclude by summing up the main points of what I have said:

- Simplification is the basis on which the future programmes must be built.
- For Horizon 2020, we need more trust, simplicity, flexibility, and excellence based criteria.
- Finally, we cannot but admit that European research is chronically underfunded and that, in my opinion at least, funding in Horizon 2020 should be doubled.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.