

"How Research and Technology Organisations Strengthen the Research and
Innovation Base in Europe"

Brussels, European Parliament, June 23, 2011

Hosted by Maria da Graça Carvalho

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen;

Let me begin by saying how grateful I am to you all for having taken time from your busy diaries to attend this event today. I would like to express my particular gratitude to

* the various research and technological organisations from the different Member States

! * and their European Association EARTO for having organised this event.

"How Research and Technology Organisations Strengthen the Research and
Innovation Base in Europe"

Brussels, European Parliament, June 23, 2011

Hosted by Maria da Graça Carvalho

The subject of today's meeting is to discuss how best we might strengthen the European Research Area and what role research and technology organisations will be able to play in this process.

Before listening to our first speaker, could I just take this opportunity to say a few words about what I feel are three key aspects. These are:

*firstly, the importance of funding and the nature of the European budget for research and innovation;

"How Research and Technology Organisations Strengthen the Research and Innovation Base in Europe"

Brussels, European Parliament, June 23, 2011

Hosted by Maria da Graça Carvalho

*secondly, the need for simplification

* and lastly, what I see as being the role of the different research and technological institutions in this process.

With regard to the budget, I and a group of MEPs from the EPP group have recently called for the doubling of the FP8 budget by comparison with the FP7 budget. This was included in the FP7 mid-term review report and was voted on and adopted in Plenary. This proposal was included in the EU Parliament draft report for the Common Strategic

"How Research and Technology Organisations Strengthen the Research and Innovation Base in Europe"

Brussels, European Parliament, June 23, 2011

Hosted by Maria da Graça Carvalho

Framework. It was also included in the future budget report although we had to adopt the wording "a substantial increase" rather than "doubling" in this report. The report was also adopted in Plenary.

Secondly, with regard to simplification, it will not matter how sophisticated and elegant the CSF is, if we do not manage to build simplification into the new programme. This involves not only fewer instruments but also a radical overhaul of the administrative and financial rules.

"How Research and Technology Organisations Strengthen the Research and Innovation Base in Europe"

Brussels, European Parliament, June 23, 2011

Hosted by Maria da Graça Carvalho

As the MEP that has been responsible for the drawing up of the "simplification report" we have come up with no less than 71 separate recommendations. One third of these require changes to the financial regulations. To this end, I have introduced a series of amendments into the financial regulation report in order to ensure that the 71 recommendations will be implemented at the outset of the new framework programme.

Finally, with regard to the role of the specialised research institutes, I have tabled an amendment calling for a concerted public and private effort at

"How Research and Technology Organisations Strengthen the Research and Innovation Base in Europe"

Brussels, European Parliament, June 23, 2011

Hosted by Maria da Graça Carvalho

European and national levels in order to reach the Europe 2020 target of 3% of GDP on R and D.

This action should have a robust governance system as is the case with the proposed system for economic governance. In the proposed system for EU research, the RTOs will be able to play a central role. I envisage a similar system to that which was designed for the SET plan. By contrast with the SET plan, however, it is necessary that *binding obligations* are built into it.

It must be said that these are preliminary ideas.

Meetings such as this one here today will enable us

"How Research and Technology Organisations Strengthen the Research and
Innovation Base in Europe"

Brussels, European Parliament, June 23, 2011

Hosted by Maria da Graça Carvalho

all to sketch in the finer details and come up with a
concrete and convincing plan.

Well, no doubt, that is enough from me. Let me
hand you over to Mr. Jan Mengelers, chairman of
the board of TNO.