

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen

Let me begin by welcoming you to the European Parliament. It is a great honour to have been invited to give this welcome address to you.

EIT is a new but very promising programme. It is the only EU Commission funded programme that combines education, research and innovation. At the moment, there are three KICs within the EIT programme and these are throwing down roots and beginning to blossom. Due to the success of the programme - even after such a short period in operation - it is anticipated that much more

funding will be ploughed into EIT under the new Horizon 2020.

This is the result of the active commitment of the Commission and Parliament. We have to make sure that this money is well spent. This means that the design of the future programmes of the EIT should expand to meet the challenges that have been set. Our vision in the Commission and the Parliament has been ambitious and we believe that EIT will be able to respond positively to the increased burden that we wish to place on it.

Events such as the events of yesterday and today are of key importance, in this respect, in determining the priorities for this expanded

EIT and gathering new ideas about how best to
deploy its resources.

Thank you very much.