

Good afternoon,
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure for me to co-chair this conference together with my colleague Correia de Campos.

This debate represents an opportunity for the representatives of industry, of academia, from the Commission and members of the Parliament to meet and exchange views on the lessons learned and opportunities for the future.

JTIs are a new and unique model of public-private partnership bringing together industry, academia and different research centres.

JTIs are at a crucial point both in terms of development of their respective technologies as some are now reaching maturity stages.

Much has been achieved but there still exist a number of barriers to the full commercial exploitation of the available technologies.

With regard to opportunities for the future in particular, these include the potential role that the JTI instrument might play within the Horizon 2020 landscape in conjunction with the 2014 to 2020 EU budget.

A particular strength of the JTIs is that they cover the full innovation chain from frontier

research to launching products on the market. Indeed, this is the main impetus of Horizon 2020.

As you know we have voted last week (26 September) Horizon 2020 and the EPP sees as principal guidelines the following:

- Increasing the budget for the next Framework Programme for research and innovation;
- The coordination of this with the Structural Funds;
- The inclusion of the concept "widening participation";
- Creating the conditions for greater involvement of industry, particularly SMEs;
- promoting the participation of young researchers;
- The financial and administrative simplification.

Horizon 2020 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, JTIs are a very useful instrument that will allow us to boost innovation and research at European level through the crucial involvement of key stakeholders. In this respect, JTIs have already demonstrated their potential as a mobilising force for converting aspirations into action.

However, there are still open questions which I would like to launch to the debate:

- Openness
- Transparency
- SME participation
- Balance in geographical distribution

Before handing over to my colleague and co-chair - who is Mr Correia de Campos - let me finish by expressing my warm gratitude to all of our speakers today.