

Good morning

It is a great pleasure to welcome you here today. This reception has been organised by Google and it is a great honour for me to have been invited to co-host this event together with my colleague Ms Pilar del Castillo.

This working lunch aims at bringing together people from across the European Parliament, Commission, and Council, government and various businesses to demonstrate the importance of internet as a powerful economic engine in history, offering opportunities for innovation, business growth and productivity.

I would like to introduce the participants in the event:

- Simon Hampton, director, European public policy, Google (welcoming remarks)
- Taylor Reynolds, OECD (keynote)
- Bertin Martens, IPTS (discussant)
- Megan Richards, Director Coordination at DG CNECT (discussant)
- Pilar del Castillo, MEP (closing remarks)
- followed by discussion

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The role of ICT in boosting economic growth is today well known. ICT has fostered the restructuring of markets and changed the ways

we do business, and continues to offer a great opportunity for innovation.

We need to invest in ICT as one of the main pillars to foster growth and create jobs, especially in the context of the dramatic economic downturn that the world economy is facing.

The opportunity for Europe is not merely to build broadband infrastructure or support ICT sector. It is to unleash the potential of the Internet across all the sectors of the economy and leverage it for the recovery. Initiatives that allow for this growth to be facilitated should be placed as a central pillar of the European

economic policy and reflected in the Horizon 2020.

Last 28 November 2012, ITRE committee adopted almost by unanimity the Horizon 2020 package delivering a formal mandate to the EP to start the negotiations with the IRL PRES aiming at achieving a first reading agreement by June 2013.

The overall aim of EU research and innovation in information and communication (ICTs) under Horizon 2020 is to bring the benefits of progress in these technologies to European citizens and businesses.

This EU investment will support the ICT research and innovation that can best deliver

new business breakthroughs, often on the basis of emerging technologies. In particular, ICT in Horizon 2020 will support the development of ICT in Science, ICT in industrial leadership and ICT in societal challenges.

Horizon 2020 will also have a strong focus on developing European industrial capabilities in Key Enabling Technologies (KETs). ICT-wise this includes micro- and nanoelectronics, and photonics, using a multi-disciplinary, capital-intensive approach.

Horizon 2020 represents considerable progress with regard to previous framework programmes and, in particular, it is simpler and more flexible. Significantly, this is the

first time that the research and innovation framework programme will be as a tool to promote industrial competitiveness with special attention paid to SMEs.

I am particularly looking forward to hearing your inputs. I am sure that you will have a valuable contribution to these questions.

Well, that is enough from me. Let me now introduce Mr Simon Hampton, director of European public policy in Google.

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