

Dear Mr Cicek, President of the Grand National Assembly  
of Turkey,

Mr Vidal-Quadras, Vice-President of the European  
Parliament,

Mr Robert-Jan Smits, Director General for Research and  
Innovation of the European Commission,

Dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Amalia Sartori, the Chair of the ITRE  
Committee, I should like to begin by extending a warm  
welcome to the members of the National Parliaments of  
the EUREKA countries and to all our other guests who  
have travelled to be with us today. I should *also* like to  
express my sincere gratitude to the Turkish EUREKA  
Presidency for having organised the EUREKA Inter-  
Parliamentary Conference in the premises of the European  
Parliament this year.

## *Eureka Conference and Turkey*

The EUREKA Inter-Parliamentary conference represents a valuable opportunity for an exchange of views between the European Parliament, the different national parliaments in the EUREKA region and a whole series of stakeholders.

As such the programme forms a part of the necessary international cooperation in the domain of science and technology as this often represents a bridge to greater social, political and economic cooperation between nations and peoples. Turkey, for its part, has played a crucial role in building bridges between north and south, east and west in a range of fields including international scientific cooperation. This tradition is continued today as Turkey plays a central role in the European Research landscape.

### *Introduction*

Today's event is particularly timely. The European

Parliament is currently involved in finalising Horizon 2020, the forthcoming European Research and Innovation Framework programme. In this context, there are two main aspects that I should like to touch on. To begin with I should like to say a few words with regard to the current state of play concerning Horizon 2020. I shall then go on to briefly sketch in something of the real, tangible benefits that are to be derived from synergies between EUREKA and Horizon 2020.

### *Horizon 2020*

With regard to the state of play concerning H2020, the European Parliament is currently engaged in the final stages of the Trilogue with the Council and the European Commission. As co-legislators in this project, the Parliament has taken an extremely active role in all aspects of research policy, having tabled and voted on no less than 4 000 amendments. Indeed, there is much at stake: Horizon 2020 is a crucial component of Europe's growth strategy for the coming years. Over the seven years from 2014 to 2020, H2020 will be single largest

research programme in the world and will be the third largest item of expenditure in the European budget or the Multiannual Financial Framework.

The programme aims at coupling research with innovation by turning scientific breakthroughs into innovative products whilst addressing the challenges posed by globalisation in such fields as climate, environment, energy, transport and so on. This will enable H2020 to meet the needs of companies, universities and institutes in terms of rapid and simplified access to financial support. To achieve these goals, the programme identifies three priorities: excellent science, industrial leadership and societal challenges, each of which are divided into a number of definite objectives and activities.

The most significant novelties of the proposed programme include: a stronger focus on ‘societal challenges’ and competitiveness; better integration of research and innovation and more support for innovation and activities close to the market. At the same time, the programme foregrounds simplification and enhanced

possibilities for new entrants and young, promising scientists.

### *Synergy Between H2020 and Eureka*

Turning now to EUREKA, is an intergovernmental programme that has been running for almost thirty years with the objective of boosting productivity through technological led growth. For obvious reasons we should seek to enhance synergies between EUREKA and H2020.

One of the major advantages of EUREKA -- above all for the private sector -- is its adoption of a bottom up approach and EUREKA fosters science and technology at the level of Small to Medium Sized enterprises.

The attractive framework conditions -- plus the support by national funding agencies and governments -- has so far generated 5 310 projects representing a total budget of €34.0 billion. Time prevents me from saying more and so, to finish, I should just like to say a few words about Eurostars. Eurostars is a European joint

programme dedicated to SMEs and co-funded by the European Commission and EUREKA countries. The principle of creating synergies between European funded and national funded programmes is excellent -- a principle initiated by Eurostar -- and is increasingly being taken up by the European Institutions as a means of maximising investment and creating critical mass. The possibility of generating even greater synergies, I believe, will no doubt constitute a key subject in our panel discussions.

It only remains for me to wish you a successful and fruitful conference and to thank you for your attention.