

Good afternoon,  
ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin by saying that it is a great honour for me to participate in this workshop.

The theme of our discussion is the impact of the Trans-Atlantic free trade zone. Negotiations between the United States and Europe often concentrate on trade related issues, given their obvious importance for the economies of both regions.

However, trans-Atlantic negotiations should have a wider scope than just trade. They should include, for instance, regulatory and standardisation cooperation, IPR questions, how best to stimulate a culture of entrepreneurship at a trans-Atlantic level and so on.

Such negotiations should also cover questions of cooperation in the domain of research and innovation, a theme that is close to my heart.

In my talk, I shall begin by making a number of suggestions about the way in which our mutual interests in research and innovation might be built into future trade negotiations. I shall then go on to speak briefly about Horizon 2020.

### ***Five Recommendations***

So with regard to the suggestions that I should like to make: in general terms, we require a wider scope for trans-Atlantic cooperation, particularly in so far as it concerns improved policy coordination, increased regulatory cooperation and standardisation.

As for the ways in which I believe that such cooperation can be fostered within the specific context of

future negotiations, I should like to make four brief suggestions before going on to consider H2020:

- *My first point concerns sector-focused research programmes.* Collaboration in an Atlantic context will be more effective if the programmes ‘matter’ economically to the participants. Consequently, it is vital that we organise programmes to suit the needs of particular industries or disciplines, rather than broad efforts cutting across the entire economy;
  
- *Secondly, with regard to regulatory cooperation:* for many industries, such as pharmaceuticals, chemicals and ICT, the way in which regulators react to the emergence of new products and services has a profound effect on the process of innovation. Greater cooperation between regulators, in emerging fields of research, would help both sides.

- *Thirdly, we require improved cooperation among EU and US bodies responsible for standardisation.* Early thought - given by governments, industry, researchers and all the various stakeholders - to standards and norms for new technologies would help prevent unnecessary barriers appearing at a later point in the innovation process.
  
- *For my fourth point, let me say a few words about open dialogue on data management.* There are stark differences between US and EU views on data privacy and protection – and these will have a growing effect on research and innovation in both countries.

We need a rational and balanced approach to these issues. Exchange of data, it goes without saying is essential to the development of science and, providing that we exchange this data ethically, I am in favour of as much open access as possible.

### *Horizon 2020*

- At this point, let me turn to a fifth recommendation as this concerns *the question of bilateral participation in research programmes between the EU and US.*

While participation between researchers on both sides of the Atlantic is technically possible, we still need to make considerable efforts to simplify the terms under which trans-Atlantic cooperation in the domain is undertaken. From the European point of view, we have made significant progress in this respect. Horizon 2020 is much simpler and more open than its predecessors.

Indeed, Horizon 2020 will be a fundamental instrument in structuring research and innovation in Europe. The way in which the future programme functions involves a number of key factors. In particular,

it should be as simple as possible; effectively and adequately funded, include a comprehensive approach to the passage from research to market and be designed in such a way as to overcome fragmentation and to encourage trans-European and, indeed, international collaboration.

As the rapporteur for the Specific Programme Implementing Horizon 2020, I have been directly involved in the whole negotiation process. The not inconsiderable goal of Horizon 2020 is to - at once - improve industrial competitiveness, to encourage excellence in science and to find ways of resolving the societal challenges that we are currently confronted with. These include unresolved health problems, energy security and climate change and an ageing population to name but these.

The fact that Horizon 2020 brings together all the European member states and, is open to third countries,

means Horizon 2020 will serve, I believe, as a bridge between Europe and the United States.

Moreover, in a context of extremely complex and highly technical negotiations - something that will take a considerable time to resolve - I should like to finish by making one last recommendation. We should concentrate to begin with on those matters that unite us and seek to make progress there before tackling the more controversial matters.

It is in this spirit, that I hope cooperation on research and innovation will serve as one of the fundamental pillars to the bridge uniting our two continents.

Thank you very much.