

**“HORIZON 2020 for a more sustainable and fairer knowledge society:
what role for the citizen, civil society and the public good? “**

Co-Hosted by ITRE MEPs: Maria da Graça Carvalho (EPP), Kent Johansson (ALDE), Ioannis Tsoukalas (EPP), Teresa Riera Madurell (S&D), Philippe Lamberts (Greens/EFA) in collaboration with the "Horizon 2020 NGO Alliance"

European Parliament, Thursday 7 June 12:00 - 15:00

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me begin by saying what a great honour it is to have been asked to speak before you today. For those of you who do not know me, I am Maria de Graça Carvalho. I am currently rapporteur, here in the EP, for the Specific Programme Implementing H2020. In addition to this I sit on the ITRE and the Budget committees in the Parliament.

In today's discussion, we shall be concentrating on the role of the citizen and of civil society in promoting the public good with particular reference to a more sustainable and fairer knowledge society. This is particularly important because active input from Civil Society contributes to increasing the quality, relevance and sustainability of innovation outcomes *by* integrating society's interests and values; *by* promoting broader

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social interest in science and innovation and *by* furthering their active participation in the development of science and technology.

Before beginning let me give you a brief idea of just two areas of particular importance with regard to the relations between H2020, civil society and the public at large.

*Firstly, in my report, I have given particular weight to the role of civil society and society in general as this includes a whole new section to be included in my report.

This section is called "Enhanced Dialogue between Science and Society". The goal of this section is to ensure effective dialogue between society and the scientific community, to recruit new talent for science and to pair scientific excellence with societal awareness and responsibility.

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This supposes activities such as promoting Science, Technology and Engineering at school level; fostering interaction between schools and researchers, promoting science literate citizens through formal and informal educational channels and shaping governance of responsible research and innovation. This latter entails engaging all concerned in the decision making process above all in domains involving societal controversies.

It also means such things as improving the quality and effectiveness of interactions between scientists, the media and the general public. It is desirable that the public is engaged whenever possible as participants in the definition of the goals of research, in monitoring outcomes and shaping policy.

* The second modification that I have made has been to include a chapter entitled "Europe in a Changing World". In this chapter, some of the key elements are: understanding changing labour markets and labour

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mobility, the impact of the economic crisis on the welfare state; social cultural and gender inequalities, immigration, discrimination and minority groups; combating poverty, the importance of education to social inclusion and the list goes on. Should you wish to consult my report it is available publicly on my website.

So, back to our immediate concerns today. After hearing each of the representatives of Civil Society Organisations, there will be a chance to discuss the questions raised. Unfortunately, prior obligations dictate that I will not be able to stay with you for the whole of your discussion. I am sure, however, that this will be both fruitful and thought-provoking.

Thank you very much,

Maria da Graça Carvalho