

CIP consultation – February 2011

A.- Preliminary questions - Profile of the respondent

A.1. Responding on behalf of an organisation.

A.2.a Organisation – Intelligent Energy Programme UK National Contact Point (contractor to the UK Department of Energy and Climate Change).

A.2.b Job Title – UK National Contact Point for FP7 Energy and Intelligent Energy Europe

Response

The consultation addresses the design of a future EU programme for Competitiveness and Innovation (CIP). As National Contact Point (NCP) for the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) programme our response to the consultation is focused on energy and in particular on the IEE programme.

We have three main points to raise:

- The need for consideration of whether a future IEE programme should be part of the CIP.
- The consideration of support for commercialisation of innovative energy products/services which currently is not addressed by the CIP.
- The need for continuation of the IEE programme.

IEE under CIP

The current positioning of the IEE programme under CIP can be misleading. Those attracted to the CIP programme because of an interest in commercialisation of innovative products and services find that there is no opportunity to obtain funding for this type of energy projects, as the IEE programme does not fund commercialisation activities. Likewise potential participants for the IEE programme may be put off by the “commercial” nature of the CIP, when in fact the IEE programme is appropriate for the proposal they wish to put forward for funding.

The funding of tender opportunities under IEE and the growing IEE ELENA facility for project development support are again a poor fit with CIP and counter the positioning of IEE under CIP.

Support for commercialisation of innovative energy products/services

There would appear to be a need for support for the commercialisation of innovative products and services in the energy sector under CIP (although not under the IEE programme). As UK NCP we are contacted by organisations looking for this opportunity, although we could not make an estimate of the overall demand.

With regard to section B3 of the questionnaire, there is not necessarily a need for a sector-specific programme for energy, but it may be easier if related sectors were kept together, for example some contacts assume energy innovation fits under the wider sense of eco-innovation.

With regard to section C3a of the questionnaire – actions to support under eco-innovation - we would suggest that consideration be given to extending actions/support to include energy.

IEE programme continuation

With regard to section C5a of the questionnaire – follow up to the IEE programme - we would support all the areas outlined for inclusion under the IEE programme, however as outlined, this is based on the need for an IEE programme in itself rather than its positioning under the CIP.