

**Commissioner GEOGHEGAN-QUINN**

**CLOSING ADDRESS - INFO DAYS ON THE RESEARCH PPPs  
FACTORIES OF THE FUTURE, ENERGY- EFFICIENT  
BUILDINGS & GREEN CARS**

**Brussels, Charlemagne building, 12 July 2011, 12h30**

Distinguished Speakers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you again for your very active participation in the PPP Info Days.

I would like to especially thank the industry speakers who provided us with such encouraging information on the considerable progress the Research PPPs have made in contributing to the EU Economic Recovery Plan.

You have also had a first opportunity to learn about the new Calls for Proposals which will be officially launched in a few days from now. I hope that you will be inspired to make some excellent proposals to further increase the success of the PPPs.

I would like to take this chance to share with you some thoughts on the future of PPPs in the broader context of the successor programme to FP7 – Horizon 2020. This is the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation in the EU that will bring research and innovation actions together under one umbrella.

Simplification is a key priority for HORIZON 2020, as well as a focus on excellence, competitiveness and societal challenges and making the programme more accessible, in particular for SMEs.

I would like to thank those of you who sent contributions to the public consultation on the Green Paper that we published in February on the future of research and innovation funding at the EU level.

We received more than 2000 responses, including an impressive 775 position papers. The online public also voted to name the new common strategic framework HORIZON 2020. This "2020" designation clearly shows that HORIZON 2020 will be designed to support the research and innovation objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy, in particular the Innovation Union initiative that I launched last October.

The Commission's goal was to reach out to a wide range of stakeholders and I think I can safely say that we now have a clear view on what stakeholders – with all their diverse views - expect from the new programme.

I believe we have reached a consensus on the need for a common strategic framework at the European level that has the appropriate means to boost research and innovation in Europe. We will do our best to strike the right balance between the different views expressed when we make our legislative proposal on HORIZON 2020 this autumn.

There is a clear desire for a much simpler funding landscape, with fewer instruments, improved coordination and the elimination of unnecessary overlaps. The rules and procedures will be much simpler and applied more uniformly, while allowing for greater flexibility.

There is a consensus among stakeholders that we need to maintain strong support for collaborative research, which must remain the backbone of HORIZON 2020.

We must continue to support blue-sky, fundamental research, but there is also a demand for applied research and more actions that are closer to the market, to strengthen the competitiveness of Europe's industry.

Innovation requires multi-disciplinary approaches and therefore a broadening of the scope of the funding programme towards a wider variety of calls for proposals.

HORIZON 2020 will also address different elements of the innovation cycle, and in particular extend the scope of funding towards activities that are closer to market such as demonstration activities, trials and technology transfer.

I am sure you will be very pleased to hear that the draft legislative proposal in preparation for HORIZON 2020 will address the use of Public-Private Partnerships. It is important that there is a place for

large-scale strategic actions such as PPPs with the critical mass to reach their objectives.

We are developing the criteria for selecting the industry sectors that are most suitable for a PPP – for instance, criteria such as:

- (i) The added value of acting at European level;
- (ii) The scale of the impact on industrial competitiveness, sustainable growth and/or socio-economic issues;
- (iii) The long-term commitment from all parties based on a shared vision and clearly defined objectives;
- (iv) The scale of the resources involved, and the ability to leverage additional investments in research and innovation; and,
- (v) Clearly defined roles for each of the partners and agreed key performance indicators.

At the same time, we are developing our ideas for the governance and formalisation of PPPs.

Another important step on the path to HORIZON 2020 was taken two weeks ago when the European Commission made its proposal for the EU Budget for the period 2014 to 2020.

The figure proposed for research and innovation is 80 billion Euro over seven years, an increase of around 46% compared to the current 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme.

This proposed increase is a vote of confidence in the pro-growth and pro-jobs agenda that I have championed for research and innovation since I became European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science last year.

When the EU's Heads of State and Government gave their firm backing to Innovation Union in February this year, they made it very clear that public spending on research and innovation is an essential measure to create more growth, more jobs and secure the welfare of our citizens.

This is a vital issue – we estimate that reaching the Europe 2020 target of investing 3% of Europe's GDP in R&D could create more than three million jobs and increase annual GDP by 700 billion Euro by 2025.

Cutting back on research and innovation spending, even under difficult budgetary conditions, is a false economy that will only damage our economies in the longer term.

Before the end of the year, the European Commission will adopt its legislative proposals for HORIZON 2020, to be discussed in the European Parliament and with Member States in the Competitiveness Council.

We want our investment in research and innovation at the European level to have the greatest possible impact, making a

decisive contribution to the ambitious goals of Europe 2020 and Innovation Union.

I count on your support when we discuss our proposal and budget for HORIZON 2020 with the Member States and the European Parliament.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am convinced that research and innovation have a bright future in Europe. HORIZON 2020 is one of the key elements in building this future, and I look forward to working with all of you in building this future together.

Partnership is key - whether public and private; at regional, national or European level, or between academia and business.

The challenges and opportunities before us are so great that we must face them together.

Thank you.