



Report:

**Second meeting of the High-Level Expert Group on
Key Enabling Technologies
16 July 2013, Berlaymont, 14h30-16h30**

A successful second meeting of the High-Level group on Key Enabling Technologies was held with the delivery of the Status Implementation Report, an explicit acknowledgment by the two Commissioners of the ten recommendations, and strong expectations with regard to the next phase of the High-Level Group's work plan.

- Opening remarks were given by **VP Antonio Tajani** who thanked the group and its President for their personal commitment to the implementation of the European KETs policy and underlined the **importance of industry to growth, competitiveness and employment**. He considered the ten recommendations to support the re-industrialisation of Europe through KETs innovation as particularly relevant and ambitious.
- **VP Neelie Kroes** highlighted recent progress on the adoption of Horizon 2020 which will support KETs and industrial pilot lines, and with the establishment of several public-private partnerships. She considered the recommendations of the High-Level Group very useful and she **outlined some extra dimensions to consider**, in particular: (1) more active cooperation between different areas of Horizon 2020; (2) better integration of SMEs; (3) active engagement with regional authorities to promote KETs in smart specialisation strategies; (4) the development of regional innovation clusters and (5) the contribution of the Grand Coalition for Digital Jobs to tackle skills shortages.
- **Jean Therme**, President of the High-Level Group and Director of CEA TECH provided an overview of data documenting the decline of European manufacturing and

the related risk of losing R&D. He then presented initial **recommendations for accelerating the implementation of the European strategy for KETs deployment**, organised into two themes: **reindustrialisation of Europe through KETs innovation** and **KETs enablers to support European competitiveness and jobs**.

- The **focus of the ten recommendations** was on (1) implementing KETs industrial pilot lines; (2) multi-KETs priority pilot lines of high industrial interest; (3) effective solutions for combined financing (including H2020, ESIF, EIB, ESF); (4) adaptation of state aid rules; (5) pan-European access for SMEs to European KETs technology platforms; (6) anchoring globally competitive manufacturing in Europe and accelerating access to finance through the EIB; (7) developing KETs skills (role for ERC and KIC on Advanced KETs-enabled Manufacturing); (8) first exploitation of IP from public funded R&D&I in Europe to contribute to European growth; (9) leverage of societal challenges to stimulate KETs market and supply, and (10) promotion of KETs in smart specialisation strategies.
- **Priorities over the next 6 months** will include the priority pilot lines in four strategic industrial sectors, KETs industrial ecosystems, pan-European access for SMEs to KETs technology platforms, KETs skills and education, integrating KETs into the societal challenges pillar of Horizon 2020 and public procurement strategies to support KETs deployment.
- Several members of the High-Level Group highlighted the importance of the recommendations. **Thierry Tingaud** (STMicroelectronics) underlined the need to support pilot line initiatives across Europe, which are crucial for reindustrialisation and job creation. The needs for pilot lines, for the multi-KETs pilot lines in four strategic industrial sectors and for the involvement of SMEs and regions, were stressed by **Jean Botti** (EADS), **Emmanuel Forest** (Bouygues; Energy Efficient Buildings PPP), **Massimo Mattucci** (Factories of the Future PPP) and **Giuseppe Tartaglione** (Volkswagen; Green Cars PPP). **Ulrike Rabmer-Koller** (UEAPME) emphasised the need for SMEs to have access to technology platforms, training opportunities and finance. **Brendan Cannon** (INTEL) highlighted the importance of industrial ecosystems and the impact of financial framework conditions for the competitiveness of manufacturing facilities in Europe. **Alfred Hoffman** (Infineon) emphasized the need to adapt the state aid framework to ensure a global level playing field. **Javier Eguren** (CECIMO) and **Luigi Ambrosio** (European Society for Biomaterials) stressed the urgency of accelerating the KIC on Advanced KETs-enabled Manufacturing to foster

long-term innovation. **Gernot Klotz** (CEFIC) emphasized the importance of utilising European KETs building blocks in product solutions to respond to societal challenges. **Bernadette Segol** (ETUC) emphasized that innovation activities must have a positive impact on the economy and specifically on jobs and **Pascale Sourisse** (Telecom-Paristech) underscored the need to provide specific initiatives in Europe for technological research excellence and the role that the ERC should play in this respect.

- **VP Antonio Tajani** concluded by reminding participants that the ultimate goal of Europe's industrial policy is to increase industry's contribution to 20% of GDP by 2020 considering industry's role in growth and job creation. He stated that the **report of the High-Level Group is particularly timely** as it will contribute to a new Communication on industrial policy to be unveiled in September 2013 at the Competitiveness Council, and given the role of KETs in the new generation of EU financial programmes. He expressed his **support for the four test cases** identified by the Group, as such ambitious cross-sectorial projects - requiring co-financing - would demonstrate that Europe is capable of ensuring complementarity between European and national/regional policies and instruments, in order to help industry creating growth and jobs. In addition, he highlighted the importance of the recommendation on **European KETs technology platforms that harness SME innovation** - and the role of Horizon 2020 and COSME programmes in this respect - as well as the recommendation on **skills** and related actions foreseen by the Commission. For the next phase of the HLG's work plan, he invited the group to continue promoting their recommendations and sign a **Memorandum of Understanding expressing the engagement** of European stakeholders, industry in particular. Furthermore, he encouraged the group to work on **KETs industrial ecosystems, trade relations and demand-side innovation**.