

**Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn
High-Level Group on Key Enabling Technologies
27 February 2013
Berlaymont (Meeting Room Schuman) 14h30 – 17h30**

SPEAKING POINTS

- When I addressed the KETs High Level Group in June 2011 at its final meeting, I thanked the Group and the Sherpas for the significant amount of work and analysis that had gone into producing the recommendations and the final report. I also promised that we would do our homework and consider each recommendation carefully in preparing the proposals for Horizon 2020.
- It is just over a year since the Commission adopted its ambitious proposals for Horizon 2020, setting out ideas for radical simplification, the full integration of research and innovation, and a streamlining of objectives.
- Horizon 2020 can and will provide a significant boost for European competitiveness and the creation of jobs and growth.
- Horizon 2020 will provide extensive support to the EU's manufacturing industries which, with around 31 million employees (in 2009), and accounting for 80% of innovations, are a prime source of growth and job creation.

- The successful deployment of Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) by industry is a key factor in strengthening Europe's competitiveness, and one of the main goals of Horizon 2020 is to help capture a larger share of the rapidly expanding markets of KETs.
- Even though negotiations are still taking place with the Council and the European Parliament on Horizon 2020's technical details and rules for participation, I am confident that the approach to Key Enabling Technologies proposed by the Commission will remain intact. This approach closely follows the recommendations of the report of the High Level Group.
- First of all, the Group emphasised the importance of cross-cutting KET actions, given the potential of combinations of different KETs to lead to unforeseen advances and innovation, and to new markets. We have taken this on board. While the bulk of financing will be allocated to individual technologies, a significant amount (around 30%) will be earmarked for research and innovation linked to two or more KETs.
- And secondly, also following the High Level Group recommendations, Horizon 2020 activities will address the whole innovation chain with "technology readiness levels" spanning the spectrum from "basic research to the higher levels preceding mass production". So, there will be dedicated support for larger-scale pilot lines and demonstrator projects in order to facilitate industrial take-up and commercialisation.
- Horizon 2020 is not only about new priorities and new programme structures; we must also ensure a new approach to implementation.

- Even more than in the past, the work programme for Horizon 2020 will be based on an overall evidence-based strategy to help us recover from the economic crisis and meet societal challenges.
- The strategic orientations will focus resources on areas of high EU added value and enable a full portfolio of actions to be supported across the research and innovation cycle.
- The key message I wish to pass on to you today is that KETs are instrumental in our efforts to recover from the crisis and meet societal challenges, and we must not pursue them in isolation.
- Instead, we will take an integrated approach, which is particularly important to make the link between developing Key Enabling Technologies and applying them to address societal challenges.
- In addition, to help deliver growth and jobs and kick start the economy, we need measures to support innovation, to provide better access to financing and to help revitalise our industrial production base, including the SMEs. Horizon 2020 will deliver on these.
- We are also aiming for better coordination between Horizon 2020 and other instruments: the proposed common provisions of the new Cohesion Policy will make it possible to combine financing of KETs projects through Horizon 2020, structural funds and EIB loans.
- I am confident that this group will be able to give valuable policy advice to the Commission on how to best exploit the enabling character of KETs in developing systemic solutions to the societal challenges identified by Horizon 2020.

- Member States, industry, public authorities, researchers and representatives of civil society must all work closely together in delivering Horizon 2020 and the other, equally important elements of the European strategy for Key Enabling Technologies. This group has a very valuable role in acting as a single interface between the Commission and the key stakeholders.
- I am counting on your support and I am looking forward to receiving your input and suggestions for assisting the Commission in the follow-up, evaluation and adaptation of KETs related policies.