



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 06/11/2012  
C(2012) 7473 final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the Commission proposal for amending the regulation establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) {COM (2011) 817 final} and its proposal for decision on the EIT's Strategic Innovation Agenda {COM(2011) 822 final}.*

*The Commission appreciates the support expressed by the Senato for much of what is addressed in the Commission proposals. This Opinion constitutes a valuable contribution to the continuous dialogue between the Commission and the national Parliaments concerning the political priorities of the Union.*

*Let me comment on the different points raised in your Opinion. First of all, the Commission would like to reassure you that the defining criterion of the EIT is excellence. The focus on excellence not only benefits those who are already among the top players, but is also of advantage to those who are aspiring to become excellent. It is a core element of the EIT's mission to spread the best practices and innovation models developed by the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) across the Union, thereby allowing emerging centres of excellence to develop faster.*

*Moreover, the flexibility and openness of the KICs allow them to adapt the structure and composition of their partnership to evolving circumstances, so they can take on board new partners whenever they are considered to add value to the partnership. As a clear representation of KICs' dynamic character, Italy has recently experienced the creation of a new co-location centre in the region of Trentino – in addition to the already existing regional innovation community in Emilia Romagna.*

*As you correctly pointed out, the launch of six additional KICs will trigger the mobilisation of a large number of partners across the Union. The Commission is of the view that in order to tackle today's important economic and societal challenges, the EU's excellent innovation stakeholders have to gather forces in integrated partnerships and focus their efforts on those areas where the EU has a strong innovation potential. The excellence focus and the high level of integration of the KICs partnerships around common objectives is the answer to concerns*

*Mr. Renato SCHIFANI  
President  
Senato della Repubblica  
Piazza Madama, 1  
IT – 00186 ROMA*

*that Europe's innovation efforts are often too dispersed. It is a guarantee that large, integrated partnerships can bring added value to the EU innovation landscape.*

*It is with the objective of enhancing impact and incentivising innovation in areas where the EU has a strong potential, that the Commission proposes a gradual approach to establishing the six additional KICs. The proposed KICs, which were identified on the basis of detailed criteria validated by an open public consultation, will be established in a progressive way so as to ensure that results and impacts, as well as the lessons learnt from the designation of both the first and second wave of KICs are taken into consideration in a third wave.*

*We also take note of your concerns regarding the EIT funding model and proposed budget. The financial contribution provided to the KICs targets 'added value activities', in addition to administration, management and coordination activities. The possibility of 100% funding of 'KIC added value activities' is aimed at strengthening the KICs' impact on the integration of the knowledge triangle and promotion of innovation. This possibility should be seen as a complementary – not contradictory – element to the EIT's smart funding model, aimed at catalysing a minimum of 75% of resources from other public and private organisations across the broad spectrum of KICs' activities.*

*I hope that these clarifications address the concerns raised by the Senato della Repubblica and look forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*