



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 12.6.2020  
C(2020) 4063 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera dei Deputati for its Opinion concerning the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (recast) {COM(2019) 331 final}, and the Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) 2021-2027: boosting Europe's talent and innovation capacity {COM(2019) 330 final}.*

*The Commission welcomes the favourable Opinion of the Camera dei Deputati. The Commission equally welcomes the support of the Camera dei Deputati for the increased budget proposed for Horizon Europe, which matches the ambitions of the EU to remain a global leader in research and innovation. The European Institute of Innovation and Technology, as a central element of Horizon Europe, aims at increasing the innovation capacity of the EU and its Member States thus contributing to the achievement of the objectives of Horizon Europe and the EU's objectives of sustainable growth, competitiveness and job creation. It is an important instrument in the EU response to the COVID-19 crisis, as provider of innovative solutions to the immediate threat as well as for the recovery of our economy.*

*The European Institute of Innovation and Technology acts in synergy with other EU initiatives, such as the European Innovation Council of the Horizon Europe programme, as well as initiatives taken at national, regional and local level in order to offer innovators a range of opportunities to accelerate the development of innovative solutions, bring them to the market, and scale up innovative ventures. With its unique intervention model based on a physical presence in innovation hotspots across the EU, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology builds on the existing strengths of our territories and acts as catalyst of the innovation process. Its agenda is built around the Smart Specialization Strategies and demonstrates that public policies can be successful when they are targeted and tailor-made to match the needs of the regions, and when they are firmly rooted in the local innovation fabric.*

*Mr Roberto FICO  
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*In this regards, the presence of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology in Italy, with co-location centers already established in Rome, Bologna and Trento, contributes to the development of vibrant local innovation ecosystems in which higher education institutions, research organisations, businesses and public authorities collaborate on common objectives and priorities. Between 2014 and 2018, Italian beneficiaries, such as entrepreneurs, universities or innovative companies, have received around €100 million through their participation in the activities of the Knowledge and Innovation Communities of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology.*

*For the period 2021-2027, the Commission is committed to ensure that the principles of excellence and transparency will remain the central criteria for the selection of Knowledge and Innovation Communities. Thanks to the Regional Innovation Scheme, the Commission will create incentives for more activities to take place in countries and regions that lag behind in terms of innovation, as the best way to increase the overall innovation capacity of the Union is to bridge the innovation divide.*

*The Commission welcomes the call of the Camera dei Deputati to harness the potential of the cultural and creative sectors, and in particular cultural heritage, which is indeed expected to be an important aspect of the future Knowledge and Innovation Community on Cultural and Creative Industries that the Commission has proposed to launch in 2022. The new Knowledge and Innovation Community should contribute to the recovery of these sectors severely impacted by the crisis by stimulating their capacity for innovation. In particular, it would recreate links between the various institutional and individual players, ensure the training of students and professionals, and support the transition of the whole sector to a more flexible economic model that would take advantage of digital technologies and their potential for growth and innovation. Similarly, the Commission concurs with the Camera dei Deputati on the importance of driving the digital transformation, including artificial intelligence, cyber-security and digital education. It is of paramount importance to equip our citizens with the relevant digital skills, including media literacy, to thrive in a fast changing environment. The COVID-19 disruption very clearly pointed out that digital technology can play a fundamental role in supporting education and training, but for that, the necessary digital readiness and skills need to be in place. In view of that, in September 2020, the Commission will put forward an update of its Digital Education Action Plan, and propose a comprehensive and more ambitious vision for education in the digital age. The Action Plan will be instrumental in the COVID-19 recovery period, reflecting the lessons learnt during the crisis, while pursuing its long-term objectives of inclusive and high-quality education. It will help close the digital skills gap and ensure digital literacy is a reality for all citizens. The Action Plan will also further boost the digital readiness of education and training institutions; promoting online learning at all levels of education, along with high quality European online learning content. In addition, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology will continue to deliver concrete solutions addressing the digital transformation.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Camera dei Deputati and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič*  
*Vice-President*

*Mariya Gabriel*  
*Member of the Commission*