

SUMMARY

of the Opinion “Research and innovation as sources of renewed growth” COM(2014) 339 final

The Chamber of Deputies supports the position of the Romanian Ministry of National Education which considers that Romania:

- Has fully used the available resources of the structural funds, especially those of investment in infrastructure new facilities, being created for the field of research, and they have been distributed in the majority of the University centers; they have also been used for training the researchers and for developing programs for the doctor's degree and for the post doctor's degree;
- Uses an international evaluation system of the proposals for research drafts, planning to use the financing of some priorities in the top-down system by identifying the needs of the economic environment;
- Takes into account the national financial objective, assumed for the year 2020, respectively, to allocate 2% of the GDP, for research, development and innovation; there will be used 1% from the public budget and 1% from the economic environment, also taking into account the expenses of the foreign multinational companies which develop their activity on the national territory;
- Wishes that the patent matter should be settled, by introducing the European unitary patent.

The Chamber of Deputies informs that in Romania:

- There is the National Strategy for Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) for 2014 – 2020, which is implemented on the basis of certain governmental programs, together with some other public policies;
- The strategy and its main instruments introduced important changes of the Romanian system of research and innovation. The quality and the

quantity of the scientific publications have increased and the evaluation of the RDI projects reached a significant international recognition, so that the Romanian research is better connected to the international research;

- Taking into account the international standards and also the internal necessities, there are not currently a sufficient number of researchers; there are not sufficient human resources for the development of some promising fields and for the inter disciplinary research; the number of researchers in the business field is decreasing and the great companies which have branches in Romania hesitate to develop local development centers so that to develop specific activities as research-development activities;
- The national sector of research and innovation is undersized, due to a reduced financing (in absolute figures, in Romania it is spent 20-fold less, per capita, than the European average, for research and development; also, there is a low demand for research and innovation, these sectors are not enough stimulated and they do not stimulate other economic sectors either; the research-innovation sector proves to be scarcely connected to the business environment and the large public.

The Chamber of Deputies considers that in order to re launch the research and innovation sector in Romania, the educational system should be regarded as a main vector of stimulation of the whole field. In this respect a special attention should be paid to the continuous professional education (vocational education), also based on European programs and experience exchange among the Member states.

The Chamber of Deputies notes that the main challenge for Romania is the current low level of the competitiveness of the economy where are still prevailing the sectors of technologies of average and inferior levels and where the innovation culture and the demand for research are insufficiently developed.

The Chamber of Deputies welcomed this initiative and joins the position expressed by other EU Member states which asked for additional information on the European mechanisms of financial support for the policies in this field.