



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 12.02.2020  
C(2020) 776 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinions 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 general support of the Camera Deputaților to the proposals. They are currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council.*

*The Commission would like to point out that the European Institute of Innovation and Technology will be an important element of the future Horizon Europe programme. Its mission of increasing the EU's innovation capacity will contribute to the EU's objectives of supporting growth, competitiveness and job creation.*

*The Commission confirms that the European Institute of Innovation and Technology will continue to support its Knowledge and Innovation Communities in order to strengthen the innovation ecosystems that help to tackle global challenges. It will do so by fostering the integration of education, research and business, creating environments conducive to innovation, supporting a new generation of entrepreneurs and stimulating the creation of innovative companies.*

*The Commission emphasises that the European Institute of Innovation and Technology and its Knowledge and Innovation Communities are indeed based on the principles of excellence and innovation relevance. Fostering excellence in higher education, research and innovation will remain the key aspect of the European Institute of Innovation and*

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*Technology's partnerships. The Commission believes that the principle of excellence will allow the participation of entities active in emerging technologies and representing progressive innovation in their fields. The participation of such entities will be actively encouraged and promoted.*

*The Commission recognises that education and human capital play a crucial role in the innovation process and highlights that the European Institute of Innovation and Technology addresses exactly that. The Commission believes that the proposed new education action will support the innovation and entrepreneurial capacity of higher education institutions, thus increasing the impact of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology in the higher education sector. It will enable the sharing of experience more broadly and beyond the European Institute of Innovation and Technology Community, as well as increase the openness of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology and its Knowledge and Innovation Communities. The new education action will build on the positive results of the Institute and its Communities in developing entrepreneurship education and training while emphasising the lifelong learning perspective in the acquisition of skills. It will also provide a strong link with the European Institute of Innovation and Technology's Regional Innovation Scheme given that innovative and entrepreneurial education institutions play a crucial role in local innovation ecosystems.*

*In order to improve the innovation capacities of the local ecosystems, the Commission confirms its intention to further increase the regional outreach of the Institute by supporting the capacity building activities and closer interactions between the local and regional innovation actors, i.e. clusters, networks, regional authorities, research organisations, higher education institutions or vocational education and training institutions. The co-location centres of the Knowledge and Innovation Communities will help link the local innovation ecosystems to those having pan-European scale.*

*The Commission reiterates that openness and transparency are criteria common to all European Partnerships under Horizon Europe and that the Knowledge and Innovation Communities will have to abide by these criteria. Openness and transparency will apply to the selection of new members and projects, communication of the selection results and reporting. There will also be more calls open to third parties, regardless of their legal status. The Commission confirms that the Knowledge and Innovation Communities' partnerships should include the full spectrum of stakeholders, including civil society and small and medium-sized enterprises. Furthermore, the primary objective of the Institute's Regional Innovation Scheme, as proposed by the Commission, would be to widen participation in the activities of the Communities to organisations and individuals from European countries that are moderate and modest innovators.*

*The Annex to this letter provides further clarifications to more technical issues raised by the Camera Deputaților in its Opinions. The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

*Mariya Gabriel  
Member of the Commission*

*The Commission has carefully considered each of the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților in its Opinion and is pleased to offer the following clarifications.*

- *The Commission believes that the alignment of the future Knowledge and Innovation Communities with the strategic planning of Horizon Europe has been taken into account. Given the two-staged approach of the Horizon Europe strategic planning process (2021-2024 and 2025-2027), the Commission proposes to launch a new Knowledge and Innovation Community on Cultural and Creative Industries in 2022 and to leave the specification of the topic of the second Knowledge and Innovation Community open for a later stage in order to ensure alignment with the second phase of the strategic process. This will also allow flexibility to respond to new developments in society, science and technology.*
- *The Commission takes note of the position of the Camera Deputaților concerning the information mechanisms on the efficient use of public funds and the assessment of their impact. The Commission reiterates that the role of the Institute's Governing Board in monitoring, evaluating and reviewing the Knowledge and Innovation Communities will be strengthened in order to improve control mechanisms and increase the accountability of the Board, including through the funding allocation process.*
- *The European Institute of Innovation and Technology will continue to organise regular meetings of a Stakeholder Forum in order to inform about its activities, experiences, best practices and achievements as well as to allow the various stakeholders and interested parties to express their views.*
- *The Commission confirms that the European Institute of Innovation and Technology will apply an updated evaluation, reporting and monitoring framework ensuring coherence with the overall approach taken under Horizon Europe, while preserving its own flexibility. Measuring the Institute's impact will be continuously improved over the next programming period, taking into account the lessons learnt so far. The Commission will co-design all relevant impact and monitoring indicators and tools to be applied by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology in order to ensure compatibility and consistency with the overall Horizon Europe monitoring system. It will analyse and review the indicators regularly in order to improve the system and identify the most appropriate ways to measure the Institute's impact.*
- *The Commission confirms that the implementation of the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology will continue to be accompanied by various administrative rules and decisions of the Institute's Governing Board.*
- *The Commission underlines that the European Institute of Innovation and Technology is well placed to create synergies and provide complementarities within the Horizon Europe Programme as well as with other EU programmes and instruments.*

- *The Commission reiterates that the general rules of Horizon Europe for participation and dissemination will apply to the European Institute of Innovation and Technology and its Knowledge and Innovation Communities. The Commission is exploring the possibilities of ensuring open access to results and project data from Knowledge and Innovation Communities as part of the overall data management system of Horizon Europe. The Commission also stresses that, taking into account the specificity of the Knowledge and Innovation Communities, the rules on ownership, access rights, exploitation and dissemination may apply.*