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Günther Oettinger
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European Commission
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20 June 2013

Dear Commissioner,

COM(2013)253: Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Energy Technologies and Innovation

Your Communication on Energy Technologies and Innovation was considered by our Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment and Energy Sub-Committee at its meeting of 19 June 2013.

You will be aware that we recently published a report on EU Energy Policy¹ in which we concluded that increased resources are required to support efforts to boost research and innovation in the EU's energy sector. Our view is that the Communication gives insufficient attention to the issue of financing and that, ultimately, the SET Plan is doomed to failure without a clear financing plan. We would hope that the Commission's Integrated Roadmap, to be published by the end of 2013, will set out more clearly a financing plan.

A recent report by the House of Lords European Union Committee examined "The Effectiveness of EU Research and Innovation Proposals".² It was concluded that the bureaucracy and complexity of EU Research and Innovation programmes act as a barrier to private sector participation, especially for SMEs, who are often the driving force behind innovative approaches. While the Communication devotes some attention to the framework conditions for research and innovation, we consider that greater focus on reduction of complexity would be helpful as attention turns to implementing the energy technology and innovation strategy.


¹ European Union Committee, *No Country is an Energy Island: Securing Investment for the EU's Future* (14th Report, Session 2012-13, HL Paper 161)

² European Union Committee, *The Effectiveness of EU Research and Innovation Proposals* (15th Report, Session 2012-13, HL Paper 162)

In terms of the focus of research and innovation spending, we would agree with the Commission's emphasis on energy efficiency but would add that interconnectivity is a crucial part of the EU's energy system. Research and innovation to support greater interconnectivity, helping to drive costs down is therefore an additional priority on which EU efforts might helpfully add value to Member State action in this area.

We hope that you are able to take our comments into account and look forward to your response with great interest.

I am copying this letter to Mr William Cash MP, Chair of the European Scrutiny Committee, Sarah Davies, Clerk to the European Scrutiny Committee, Paul Hardy, Legal Adviser to the European Scrutiny Committee and the Rt Hon Gregory Barker MP, UK Minister of State for Climate Change. .

Yours sincerely

Tim Boswell

Lord Boswell
Chairman of the European Union Committee