



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 31.10.2013
C(2013) 7269 final

Dear Lord Boswell,

The Commission would like to thank the House of Lords for its Opinion concerning the Commission Communication on Energy Technologies and Innovation {COM(2013) 253 final}.

The Communication presents the evolution of public and private investments for research and development in support of Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan) technologies since its adoption in 2007. While more resources would be desirable to boost research and innovation in the EU energy sector, significant progress has been made in recent years.

Public and private spending almost doubled in the period 2007 to 2010, from 3.2 billion €/year to 5.4 billion €/year. More particularly public spending in the EU on energy technologies has increased since 2007 and EU as a whole has already reached the level of investment in energy technologies made by the United States of America and Japan. Furthermore, the European Commission focused its 7th Framework Programme Energy on SET Plan technologies and additional funding (1.6 billion €) was made available through the European Economic Plan for Recovery for offshore wind and carbon capture and storage technologies. The New Entrance Reserve Programme provides additional support to the SET Plan technologies.

Given these developments and the world wide evolutions over the last 5 years in the energy and economic landscape, the Communication on Energy Technologies and Innovation stresses the obvious need to pool the existing financial resources in Europe through enhanced coordination, possibly joint actions and through their more effective use. As such the Communication foresees the development of an Action Plan, to be finalised by mid-2014 and which will set out a financing plan of public investments by individual Member States, between Member States and with the EU for the activities identified by the upcoming Integrated Roadmap

Simplification is a general priority of the Horizon 2020 Programme and consequently also of the EU energy research and innovation actions. Simplified rules for participation (e.g. a single set of rules, one funding rate per project) will be used. Simplified access with a single programme bringing together the former Framework Programme 7, the Competitiveness and

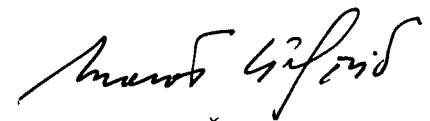
Lord BOSWELL
Chairman of the European
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Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) would reduce the complexity of the EU research and innovation framework. Specifically for SMEs a political agreement was reached for setting-up an instrument supporting the participation of the private sector and SMEs in research and innovation activities. The new SME instrument should facilitate easy access for SMEs through uniform promotion, implementation and monitoring across Horizon 2020. It will rely on existing SME support networks such as the Europe Enterprise Network and other innovation service providers. The instrument will operate under a single centralised management system, a light administrative regime and a single entry point.

As regards the key developments for research and innovation for the energy sector, the Commission priorities are indeed energy efficiency as well as the development of an electricity network that is able to integrate renewable, innovative supply technologies. The Integrated Roadmap aims at identifying research priorities and actions taking an energy system-based approach.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the concerns raised by the House of Lords and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,



*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*