

High-Level Expert Group on Key Enabling Technologies

For more information on the HLG KET,
please consult the European Commission,
DG Enterprise and Industry website:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/hlg_kets.htm

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Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry
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High-Level Expert Group on Key Enabling Technologies

 **European Commission**
Enterprise and Industry



High-Level Expert Group Members

“A significant part of the new goods and services that will be available in the market in 2020 are as yet unknown, but the main driving force behind their development will be the deployment of key enabling technologies (KETs). Those nations and regions mastering these technologies will be at the forefront of managing the shift to a low carbon, knowledge-based economy, which is a precondition for ensuring the welfare, prosperity and security of its citizens. Hence the deployment of KETs in the EU is not only of strategic importance but is indispensable for Europe” [Communication of the European Commission - “Preparing for our future: Developing a common strategy for key enabling technologies in the EU” (September 2009)].

In its Communication on KETs, the European Commission has highlighted the strategic importance of these technologies for the EU’s industrial base. As such, policies on KETs play a vital part in the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy and are highlighted under two EU flagship initiatives, namely the “Innovation Union” and “An industrial policy for the globalisation area”.

The Commission Communication sets out the need to develop a common long-term European strategy on the industrial deployment of KETs. In order to gain experts’ view on this, the European Commission has set up a High Level Expert Group on Key Enabling Technologies (HLG KETs).

This High Level Expert Group was launched on 13 July 2010 by the Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry, Antonio Tajani, the Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Digital Agenda, Neelie Kroes, the Commissioner for Research and Innovation, Maire Geoghegan-Quinn. Its President is Jean Therme, the Director of the French Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) in Grenoble.

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

As outlined in the Commission Communication on KETs the aim of the HLG is:

- To assess the competitive situation of the relevant technologies in the EU with a particular focus on industrial deployment and their contribution to address major societal challenges;
- To analyse in depth the available public and private R&D capacities for KETs in the EU (on all levels);
- To propose specific policy recommendations for a more effective industrial deployment of KETs in the EU.

5 KEY ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES

The KETs Communication of the Commission identifies five KETs, which are most strategically relevant for European industries in light of their economic potential, contribution to solving societal challenges and knowledge intensity. These KETs are nanotechnology, micro and nanoelectronics, advanced materials, photonics, biotechnology, along with advanced manufacturing technologies as a cross-cutting application.



COMPOSITION OF THE HLG KET

The High-Level Group is made up of 27 members including representatives from EU Member States, relevant European industry, downstream industries, SMEs, the research community and the European Investment Bank.

TIMELINE

The group is expected to deliver a mid-term report by the beginning of 2011 and to present its final report to the European Commission in July 2011. The work is divided into two phases: during the first six months, detailed ‘bottom-up’ information will be secured via broad based consultations of European stakeholders. For this purpose, Open Days on each KET are organised and position papers can be submitted via the Commission’s website. During the second six months of the HLG’s mandate, specific workshops on key policy issues with selected stakeholders and external experts will be organized.

