

Commissioner Vassiliou

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen

Dear Colleagues

Let me begin by saying how grateful I am to everyone for having taken the time from their busy schedules to contribute to today's meeting.

The subject of this meeting is the future of the EIT. Our discussion on the future of the EIT is particularly timely given that the outcome of the EIT independent evaluation has been published and based on this evaluation, the EIT board and the Commission will come up with the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda by the end of the year.

Against this background, I hope that today's discussion will serve as input for the Commission and the EIT board in their design of the SIA.

Before discussing the future of the EIT, it is important to address the question of whether EIT is on track to achieve the objectives that it initially set itself. These include: the development of the EIT brand, the attraction of top class talents and funding from third parties **and** the production of research and innovation breakthroughs.

Beyond this, there are a number of questions that stand out. These are:

- Firstly, the future areas into which the EIT is expected to expand (potential KIC themes)

- Secondly, the inevitable, thorny question of the budget. In the EU Parliament report on the future budget the Parliament has called for an increased budget for the EIT.
- Thirdly, the synergy between the EIT the FP and the CIP over the next Research and innovation programme.

It is of course important that Commission, MEPs and KICs exchange their respective points of view and that the Commission in particular takes our contribution into consideration when formulating policy.

Well, that is undoubtedly enough from me. Let me hand you over to the CEOs of the KICs.