

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. Before going any further, for those of you who do not know me, I am Maria da Graça Carvalho and besides my work as an MEP - currently responsible for the Specific Programme Implementing H2020 - I am co-chair of Friends of EIT. We have taken the opportunity furnished by the Knowledge for Innovation Summit to programme this event.

The subject of this meeting is to discuss the future of the EIT. This is particularly timely given that we are currently finalising six reports for H2020 of which two reports have direct relevance to EIT. I hope that today's discussion will allow the different stakeholders to gain a better impression of the progress that has so far been made and to contribute their own input.

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.

Before going any further, let me give you an idea of the current state of play with regard to H2020. H2020 has recently undergone the second consideration of various amendments in the ITRE committee. The different reports will be voted on at the end of November (on the 28<sup>th</sup> in fact) and this will then be voted on in Plenary shortly afterwards.

As for the purpose of today's meeting, as I see it, there are three questions that stand out. These are:

- Firstly, the future areas into which the EIT is expected to expand (potential KIC themes);
- Secondly, the synergy between the EIT and H2020;
- And finally, the inevitably thorny question of the budget. As you may know, the MFF negotiations are still under way. In this context, the Cypriot Presidency has recently announced that “*all elements inside and outside the MFF, will have to be adjusted downwards*”. A decision on the final

figures is expected for the third week of November (between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup>). These “adjustments” will inevitably have a considerable impact on the whole structure – and for that matter on the viability – of H2020. It is to be hoped that the different governments – and not least those with a reputation for academic excellence – will make an effort to attribute an at least adequate budget for H2020.

On that note, let me hand you over to Mr Tsoukalas, my colleague from the ITRE committee and shadow rapporteur for the EIT.

Thank you very much