

Ladies and Gentlemen

Fellow Members,

Mr Mark Langley

Let me begin by welcoming you to Brussels and thanking you for taking the time to attend this dinner debate.

The subject of our discussion is how we can best improve public spending efficiency. The goal of this evening is to informally discuss the advantages of improved project management and of project management training.

Of course, efficiency is necessarily a central concern for any organisation. However, in these times of tight budgets and general austerity, efficiency is of even greater importance than usual. It is essential, in the respect, that the programmes that we design are as simple and user friendly as possible. As things stand, it is often difficult for EU programmes to meet our target of 2% tolerable risk of error. This is too often due to inbuilt bureaucratic complexity, something that we need to iron out.

This is why I introduced the simplification report. Indeed, there are two imperatives if we are to ensure that programmes are managed as

efficiently as possible. In addition to simplification, it is essential that we improve the quality of our programme and project managers. Given that the EU institutions plan to allow for the multi-funding of programmes, this means that expert project management is all the more essential.

That we are speaking about project efficiency today is particularly timely as the EU institutions are finalising a whole set of new programmes and their attendant budgets.

Any advice that we receive about how best to design these new programmes and their rules of participation - in order to increase

efficiency and reduce error - is of course,
extremely welcome.

It is for this reason that I should like to
welcome Mr Mark Langley, the President and
CEO of the Programme Management Institute.
PMI is a global organisation consisting of
more than 1.5 million members, certification
holders and other stakeholders in more than
185 countries

Over to you Mr Langley.