

Good afternoon

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you here today. Let me begin by saying what a great honour it is to have been invited by *Knowledge4Innovation* to open this exhibition celebrating the 5th anniversary of the European Innovation Summit.

I cannot stress enough the importance of innovation and research in today's world.

I believe this exhibition will give a wonderful illustration of the numerous improvements in

life that innovation should be able to provide in the future.

The phasing of the financial crisis and the need to face global challenges makes science, education and innovation more important than ever in European policies.

Thus, for the period 2014-2020 it will be necessary to strengthen the knowledge base in Europe, reduce fragmentation by promoting excellence in science and education, create the conditions to transform good ideas into marketable products, improve companies' access to innovative financing, creating an environment conducive to innovation and

K4I - 5th Anniversary of the European Innovation Summit
Hosted by Maria da Graça Carvalho

Opening ceremony
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eliminating social inequalities and geographical spread through the benefits of innovation across the European space.

I hope that you will enjoy today's exhibition and the 5th anniversary of the European Innovation Summit.