

EIN Working Group on Innovation
'EU Innovation in a Changing World'
Wednesday, 30 January 2013
European Parliament

Good afternoon, ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by saying that it is a great honour for me to chair the *EIN Working Group on Innovation*.

Before starting, I should like to thank the EIN - and Jaime Mayor Oreja, in particular - for the part they have played in setting up the Working Group. I also should like to thank the EIN Team that has made such an effort to make the launch of this Working Group possible.

EIN Working Group on Innovation
'EU Innovation in a Changing World'
Wednesday, 30 January 2013
European Parliament

Finally, let me also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the speakers, the rapporteur and all of you who are participating in this meeting today. It is particularly satisfying to see that so many people have shown such interest in the question of how best to unleash the potential for EU competitiveness through innovation.

The aim of the group is to bring together Members of the European Parliament, policy makers, European Foundations and other Study Groups in order to debate how best to

EIN Working Group on Innovation
'EU Innovation in a Changing World'
Wednesday, 30 January 2013
European Parliament

ensure that innovation will help Europe to confront and find a way of the current crisis.

The Working Group will tackle this question in a European context and will seek to present a number of recommendations for action on how best to respond to the adverse effects of the current economic downturn through innovation.

This first meeting, entitled *EU Innovation in a changing world*, will cover three topics in particular:

EIN Working Group on Innovation
'EU Innovation in a Changing World'
Wednesday, 30 January 2013
European Parliament

1. The future of EU science and research in a rapidly globalizing world. The share of research and innovation in the global world has diminished. We need to take measures to oppose this tendency.
2. How best to ensure that science and research feeds as directly as possible into innovation-based growth and, consequently, employment; If we analyse closely the relation between innovation and GDP per capita, we can but conclude that investment in knowledge is a necessary but not sufficient condition for growth and employment.

EIN Working Group on Innovation
'EU Innovation in a Changing World'
Wednesday, 30 January 2013
European Parliament

3. The manner in which Research & Innovation can be deployed to overcome the low levels of growth that we are currently experiencing. This involves taking into account national or regional factors in determining what forms of innovation based growth are appropriate for what are often quite different national or regional environments.

To this end, I am pleased to be able to announce the presence of three external speakers. These are

EIN Working Group on Innovation
'EU Innovation in a Changing World'
Wednesday, 30 January 2013
European Parliament

- Peter Droll (Head of Innovation Policy in DG Research and Innovation),
- Staffan JERNECK (Director of the Centre for European Policy Studies)
- and Ramon A WYSS (Vice President of International Affairs, at KTH – the Royal Institute of Technology),

Each of speakers will address, respectively:

- (1) The Concept of Innovation;
- (2) Innovation in a global world, and
- (3) A case study that sheds light on the nature of the Swedish Innovation system,

EIN Working Group on Innovation
'EU Innovation in a Changing World'
Wednesday, 30 January 2013
European Parliament

After listening to our speakers, three Members of the European Parliament have kindly offered to make a number of preliminary remarks to introduce the debate.

* Pilar del Castillo will outline something of the relation between Innovation and ICT

* Christian EHLER will sketch in something of the place that is to be given innovation within Horizon2020 with particular attention to the way in which H2020 might contribute to growth

* Finally, Malcolm HARBOUR will say a few words about innovation and the internal

EIN Working Group on Innovation
'EU Innovation in a Changing World'
Wednesday, 30 January 2013
European Parliament

market, including the role played by public procurement in stimulating further innovation

By way of bringing our meeting to a conclusion, the rapporteur, Mr. Richard Hudson, CEO & Editor of Science/Business, will summarise the conclusions of the meeting.

All that remains for me to say is that I hope that you will share my optimism that this working group will prove to be of real value and interest

and to hand you over to Peter Droll.

EIN Working Group on Innovation
'EU Innovation in a Changing World'
Wednesday, 30 January 2013
European Parliament

Thank you very much.