

Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn,

Dear speakers,

Dear colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning

It is a great pleasure to welcome you here today. This reception has been organised by Novozymes and it is an honour for me to have been invited to co-host this event together with my colleague Ms Teresa Riera Madurell.

This lunch debate aims at bringing together people from across the European Parliament, Commission, and Council, Government representatives and various businesses to debate the research and innovation potential of biobased industries in order to accelerate the development of the bioeconomy in Europe.

European industry and, in particular, the biobased industries have the scientific, technological, and financial know-how to spearhead the shift to a sustainable resource-efficient utilisation of Europe's renewable raw materials and, by so doing, lead the world into a new economic era.

Horizon 2020 covers the whole innovation cycle and aims at an enhanced Industry participation in the R&D framework, a participation that has been dropped significantly over the last years.

Pillar II of the Horizon 2020 is entirely dedicated to industrial leadership based on R&D and innovation agendas defined by industry, including SMEs. Industry plays also a crucial role in the various Societal Challenges of Pillar 3.

By giving determined support to innovation, Horizon 2020 will ensure a business-driven approach where research results are effectively converted into innovative products and services that reach the market.

Similarly, by supporting the industrial potential of policies of innovation, research and technological

development, Horizon 2020 will reinforce the leveraging effect of public and private investment. This will create new job opportunities and ensure Europe's long-term sustainability, economic development and industrial competitiveness.

To this end, the PPP instrument pursues ambitious common research objectives at European level, involving industry, the research community and public authorities.

Indeed, PPPs are a very useful instrument that will allow us to boost innovation and research at European level through the crucial involvement of key stakeholders. In this respect, PPPs have already demonstrated their potential as a mobilising force for converting aspirations into action. Their ability to contribute to a more dynamic and competitive European industry and economy is something, I hope, that will extend to the case of the biobased industries.

At the crucial stage in which we currently find ourselves – in which the rapporteurs from the Parliament are negotiating the final details of Horizon 2020 with the Council and Commission – it is important to learn the lessons of the past as

these will help us to develop new PPPs on the basis of simplification and transparency.

It is equally important that we furnish ourselves with the opportunity to listen to your views on the advantages and disadvantages from the different forms of PPPs - contractual PPPs and JTIs. Indeed, this is something of the *raison d'être* for today's meeting. It is with this goal in mind, as a result, that I hand you over to Commissioner Geoghegan Quinn.