



SusChem
European Technology Platform For
SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY



To the courtesy attention of

Madam
Máire Geoghegan-Quinn
European Commissioner for Research
Innovation and Science
European Commission

Mister
Antonio Tajani
Vice-President European Commission

European Commissioner for Enterprise and
Industry
European Commission

The enabling role of materials for industrial innovation and wealth creation under next FP8 and CIP

Dear Madam, dear Sir

....The global community is facing Grand Challenges. The European Knowledge Society must tackle these through the best analysis, powerful actions and increased resources. Challenges must turn into sustainable solutions in areas such as global warming, tightening supplies of energy, water and food, ageing societies, public health, pandemics and security. It must tackle the overarching challenge of turning Europe into an eco-efficient economy.... [From the Lund Declaration]

With the Lund Declaration, clear lines have been defined for identifying future European R&D needs for the next 20 years. Starting from these lines, the European Commission has shaped a strategy as stated in the Agenda 2020, the Innovation Union Communication and other initiatives related to Materials R&D (Raw Material Initiatives, KET ...). All these documents contribute towards setting the scene for achieving the technological progress necessary to meet the threat of the major Societal Grand Challenges (SGC).

The optimum solutions for the main issues posed by the SGCs require a global approach where political, economical, ethical and technological aspects are taken jointly into account to develop solutions able to ensure world-scale, long term sustainable growth. Among these elements, the technological dimension is a front line problem.

Relevant technological initiatives are underway and further will appear to face the identified challenges. In almost any of these, the proposed innovative solutions have demanding requirements in terms of Materials needs. Many of these solutions will fail or will not be fully implemented if suitable and proper Materials are not available on time.

With its FP7 NMP programme, and previous FP and CIP actions, the European Commission has obtained relevant results to assure a strong European dimension to Materials R&D and to promote a collaborative attitude among the European materials science community and the various European industries who produce and transform advanced materials into innovative solutions and products.

Therefore, we strongly support and encourage the Commission to maintain Materials R&D among the core enabling elements of the future R&D and Innovation programmes in order to strengthen Europe's leadership position in Materials Research, and to avoid becoming dependent on others. We propose that the materials research programme should be continued with enhanced momentum, faster delivery and with increased efficiency through improved planning and implementing instruments.

The results achieved so far in materials science-industry collaborations have to be further accelerated and improved in view of the key role of materials in providing cost effective options for the future technological requirements posed by the SGCs.

In order for the new programme to prove effective, it should be devised and implemented taking into consideration the following fundamental elements and requirements that we would like to bring to your attention:

- Reinforcing Science-Industry synergy

Materials R&D provides an outstanding opportunity to reinforce the science-industry dialogue, offering an attractive scenario where new models of collaboration and synergies between the two worlds can be tested. The new programme should include this aspect by continuing the leading role of industry in cooperative R&D projects.

- Linking Research and Innovation

The generation of new advanced materials, the radical improvement in the characteristics of widely used conventional materials, the substitution of traditional materials with most eco-efficient ones, the replacement of rare and/or scarce materials with alternative solutions, and the development of material solutions for energy sources of future, are key elements in creating immediate innovation in many industrial sectors. The benefits of these initiatives include the improved performance and sustainable eco-characteristics of many industrial and consumers goods, or even totally new products. In this framework, robust and credible innovation cannot be achieved without attention to raw materials and their availability, as key elements of a long-term materials resourcing strategy able to encompass technological, economical and geopolitical aspects. In addition, recycling and developments of materials that enable improved recycling, should be fostered to close the materials loop and reduce dependency on sources outside Europe.

Connecting materials with design will ensure we achieve sustainable growth from R&D and accelerate innovation within the value chain. Europe has world class positions in both materials and product design and should capitalise on this.

The new programme should further boost integration with other important Commission initiatives, such as the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) or any other similar future programme, with the aim of bridging between scientific/technological developments and the market valorisation of the new knowledge.

- The key role of the European Technology Platforms (ETPs)

Materials R&D is by definition a crosscutting and enabling technology area which affects almost every industrial sector. The achievement of effective coordination between different sectors, while maintaining the relative autonomy, interests and strategies of each, is an essential condition to achieve the best and most effective use of community resources in Materials R&D targeted to make effective contributions to the SGCs. The ETPs should continue to play a specific and dedicated role in the new programme, as the natural providers, able to bridge the different industrial sectors' interests in materials. They take a view that embraces the whole value chain of materials production,

including raw material extraction, the process industries producing and transforming materials, and the downstream industries producing industrial and consumer goods from these materials.

Through an alliance of a number of ETPs, each with a fundamental and significant materials component in their strategies, we will provide in the near future a proposal for concrete initiatives on how to align the value chain consisting of the supply of materials, their processing and the manufacturing needed to address the key societal challenges defined within the EU 2020 policy objectives. These initiatives can also be applied in the ongoing work of the High Level Group of Key Enabling Technologies.

Yours sincerely

For the European Technology Platforms



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marco Falzetti'.

Marco Falzetti
Steering Committee Chairman
EuMaT - *Advanced Engineering Materials and Technologies*
m.falzetti@c-s-m.it



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul-Joël Derian'.

Paul-Joël Derian
Chairman of Board
SUSCHEM – *Sustainable Chemistry*
paul-joel.derian@eu.rhodia.com



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Henryk Karas'.

Henryk Karas
Chairman of High Level Group
SMR – *Sustainable Mineral Resources*
h.karas@kgmh.pl



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Heinrich Flegel'.

Heinrich Flegel
Chairman of High Level Group
MANUFUTURE – *Future Manufacturing Technologies*
heinrich.flegel@daimler.com



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dick Hendriks'.

Dick Hendriks
Chairman of the Governing Council
TEXTILE - *Future of Textiles and Clothing*
info@euratex.eu



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bertrand de Lamberterie'.

Bertrand de Lamberterie
Secretary General
ESTEP – *European Steel Technology Platform*
bertrand.de_lamberterie@steelresearch-estep.eu

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