



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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Innovation investment package: private and public partnerships for research and innovation

The Committee of Permanent Representatives¹ today endorsed an agreement between the Hellenic Presidency of the Council and European Parliament representatives on a new generation of public and private partnerships that will allow large-scale, long-term innovation projects to be carried out under the umbrella of Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation framework programme.

The partnerships will be launched as soon as they have been formally adopted by the European Parliament and the Council.

The innovation investment package, which implements the Innovation Union strategy to stimulate the creation of growth and jobs, will contribute to pool research and innovation investments up to 22 billion € in sectors facing major societal challenges in the next seven years.

Dr. Christos Vasilakos, Secretary General for Research and Technology of Greece, highlighted that *"This package is one of our highest research priorities during our Presidency given the significance of the issues and the multiplying effects that the realization of these initiatives will entail, not only for the Research and Innovation landscape in Europe, but also for enhancing the industrial participation in Horizon 2020 while simultaneously addressing key societal challenges for our citizens. Within a very limited time schedule for our deliberations, we believe that we have reached a good compromise proposal to be transmitted to the European Parliament which will permit the Innovation and Investment Package to be rapidly adopted"*.

¹ The Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER) of the governments of the 28 EU member states is responsible for preparing the work of the Council.

P R E S S

Public-private partnerships

Five public-private partnerships will be set up or further developed as Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) in the fields of:

- bio-based industries ("BBI"), to develop new and competitive bio-based value chains that replace the need for fossil fuels and have a strong impact on rural development;
- aeronautics ("Clean Sky 2"), to reduce the environmental impact of the next generation of aircrafts;
- electronics ("ECSEL"), to keep Europe at the forefront of electronic components and systems and bridge the gap from research to market more quickly;
- fuel cells and hydrogen ("FCH 2"), to develop commercially viable, clean solutions that use hydrogen as an energy carrier and fuel cells as energy converters; and
- innovative medicines ("IMI 2"), to improve European citizens' health and wellbeing by providing new and more effective diagnostics and treatments such as new antimicrobial treatments.

The legal framework for the JTIs is the setting up of joint undertakings under article 187 of the EU treaty, as a way of joining forces between the private sector and public administrations of the member states in order to achieve results that one country or company is less likely to achieve alone.

The Commission presented the communication on "Public-private partnerships in Horizon 2020: a powerful tool to deliver on innovation and growth in Europe" in July 2013 ([12344/13](#)).

Public-public partnerships

Four public-public partnerships will be further developed on research programmes jointly undertaken by member states with the participation of the Union in the areas of:

- active and assisted living, to improve the quality of life for the elderly and the availability of technology-based products and services ("AAL programme");
- clinical trials in African countries, to contribute to the reduction of the social and economic burden of poverty-related diseases ("EDCTP2 programme");
- metrology, to provide fit-for-purpose metrology solutions as well as measurement technologies addressing societal challenges such as energy, environment and health ("EMPIR"); and
- research and development performing SMEs ("Eurostars-2" programme), to stimulate the competitiveness of innovative SMEs.

The legal framework for establishing these partnerships is article 185 of the EU treaty, which states that the Union may make provision for participation in research and development programmes undertaken by several member states.

In practice, it implies that the participating member states associate their research efforts in which the EU promotes the voluntary integration of scientific, managerial and financial aspects. The EU provides financial support to the joint implementation of the national research programmes involved.
