

EUROPE AND THE GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

A pact for knowledge and innovation to master Europe's 2020 challenges



8 April 2008, 8 pm European Parliament, Salon des Membres

Europe's future depends increasingly on its ability to both generate and manage knowledge and innovation. To ensure that it is ready to take advantage of – and lead – the global knowledge economy, Europe must consider its strategic agenda, the positioning of the EU institutions, allocation of budgets and formulate relevant policies and projects. The European Institute of Innovation and Technology is a good example of the determination of the EU institutions to act.

A debate to be held in the European Parliament on 8 April 2008 will be the starting point for launching a 'Pact for knowledge and innovation', where stakeholders from the public and private sectors will consider how 'The 2020 Challenges' can bring benefit to Europe's economy and citizens. The dinner debate will explore opportunities and challenges arising from the emergence of a competitive environment based on knowledge and innovation – an environment in which Europe must become a global leader.

A Declaration underpinning and substantiating 'A Pact for Knowledge and Innovation' will be presented during the Cocktail Reception.

Keynote speakers at the event include: *Ms Angelika Niebler*, Chairwoman of the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy; *Ms Mojka Kucler Dolinar*, Slovenian Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology; *Janez Potocnik*, Commissioner for Science and Research; as well as other top level Commission representatives and other special guests.

The dinner discussion is organised around themes, exploring both the underlying building blocks of the knowledge economy and the drivers within the most innovative sectors. Each table will be hosted by a Member of the European Parliament and attended by an expert on the theme from the European Commission. The various themes are introduced by a representative from the business community, followed by discussion and will include:

- Innovation
- Human Capital
- Financing / EU budget
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Global challenge
- SME – important motor of Europe's economy
- Regions/Cities of knowledge
- Inclusive knowledge-based society
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Energy & Environment
- Healthcare & Pharmacy
- Automotive, Aerospace & Defence
- Food & Agriculture

The debate's outcomes will lead to the drafting of an initial programme serving as a basis for regular Forum dialogue meetings. This will help in building a coalition of public and private stakeholders in support of Europe's positioning as a major player in the knowledge era.

For more information please contact us on:

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