

2 November 2011

## A NEW EU FRAMEWORK FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION HORIZON 2020

### KEY MESSAGES

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- 1** Research and Innovation (R&I) must gain more weight and increase its share in the EU budget 2014-2020. The EU support programme “Horizon 2020” should take a broader approach and include innovation that goes beyond the research and development phase.
- 2** R&I financing should be allocated on the basis of the criteria of excellence in research and potential to deliver concrete results. Only with competitive and innovative companies can the great societal challenges be tackled.
- 3** In order to counter the decreasing participation rate of business, a radical simplification of governance and administration in EU support programmes is key.

### WHAT DOES BUSINESSEUROPE AIM FOR?

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- Horizon 2020 rightly proposes the streamlining of EU R&I funding instruments, bringing together the Framework Programme (FP), the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT).
- The substantial increase in funding proposed, from 55 € bn for the current period to 80 € bn for the next EU budget period 2014-2020, is a first necessary commitment to translate political priorities into reality.
- Implementation and management rules of support programmes must become simpler and generate less red tape. Companies are increasingly struggling with complicated and time-consuming rules and procedures which hamper the effectiveness of FP at a time when technology and innovation have to be urgently supported.

### KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

Private sector participation in EU R&I Framework Programmes (FPs) has been decreasing: 39% in FP4, 31% in FP6 and 25% so far in FP7



- Concrete actions must be launched to:
  - simplify the documentation and amount of information required to participate to the projects;
  - shorten the time for payments after submitting the project reports: especially for SMEs, waiting for more than three months for final payments is excessive;
  - ensure a clear division of the annual budget for each thematic priority and, whenever possible, for each call;
  - make project consortia more manageable and make the FP more accessible for SMEs by re-introducing the separate category of associated partners from FP5.