



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 27 September 2010**

**13919/10**

**RECH 297  
COMPET 258  
IND 111  
REGIO 58  
ECOFIN 555  
MI 329**

**NOTE**

---

From: Presidency  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council  
Subject: Preparation of Council ("Competitiveness") on 11-12 October 2010  
- European research and innovation potential in the light of the challenges posed by globalisation – Innovation Union (Research perspectives)  
- Exchange of views

---

1. The European Council of 17 June 2010 finalised the European Union's new strategy for jobs and smart, sustainable and inclusive growth ("Europe 2020 Strategy"). One of the EU Headline targets agreed upon is "*improving the conditions for research and development, in particular with the aim of raising combined public and private investment levels in this sector to 3% of GDP; the Commission will work out an indicator reflecting R&D and innovation intensity*".<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Doc. 13/1/10.

2. In follow-up to the European Council, all flagship initiatives put forward by the Commission are expected to be presented by the end of the year. In its communication of 3 March 2010 entitled "EUROPE 2020 - A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth ", the Commission suggested a flagship initiative "Innovation Union" to improve framework conditions and access to finance for research and innovation so as to ensure that innovative ideas can be turned into products and services that create growth and jobs.<sup>2</sup> The Commission communication on "Innovation Union" will be presented at the Competitiveness Council on 11/12 October 2010 and at the ECOFIN Council on 19 October 2010. It will feed into the preparation of the debate on research and innovation expected to take place at the December 2010 European Council.
3. It may also be recalled in this context that the Council ("Competitiveness"), at its session of 1-2 March 2010 had an exchange of views on research and innovation with a view to the Europe 2020 Strategy<sup>3</sup> and, at its session of 26 May 2010, adopted conclusions on Creating an innovative Europe.<sup>4</sup>

In order to facilitate the examination of the Commission communication on the Innovation Union in a timely manner, the Presidency suggests that the Council ("Competitiveness") proceed to a first exchange of views focussing on the following questions:

- **How could EU research programmes better support innovation?**
- **What should be done to turn Member States into more active drivers of innovation?**
- **Which should be the role and added value of the Competitiveness Council in the implementation and monitoring of the flagship 'Innovation Union'? Would the Commission's proposal to organise a regular 'Innovation Council' be beneficial to the governance of the flagship?**

---

<sup>2</sup> Doc. 7110/10.

<sup>3</sup> Doc. 6389/10.

<sup>4</sup> Doc. 10266/10.