



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 16 September 2011

14080/11

RECH 292

NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject: Preparation of the Council ("Competitiveness") of 29-30 September 2011
Innovation Union flagship

- Information from the Commission on European Innovation Partnerships, including the assessment of the Pilot on Active and Healthy Ageing
- (poss.) Information from the Commission on the Communication on Partnering in Research and Innovation
- Exchange of views

1. **On 26 November 2010, the Council adopted conclusions welcoming** the objectives of the proposed **European Innovation Partnerships** (EIPs) and encouraged the Commission to develop a proposal with a view to launching a pilot Partnership on active and healthy ageing. The need for the assessment of the concept and on top of that the evaluation of the pilot in due course were clearly stated.

The Commission was also asked to work further on developing the practical aspects of the EIPs, including the issues of funding, the identification and selection criteria, the legal aspects and the governance of the Partnerships, as well as the modalities for better coordinating instruments.

The Council has also:

- Announced that on the basis of the pilot it could return to this issue as soon as possible,
- Indicated that it would take the necessary political decisions on EIPs before they are launched and
- Noted the Commission's intention to seek the Council's endorsement in making a success of the implementation of the pilot.

The European Council of 4 February 2011, noted in its conclusions that innovation contributes to tackling the most critical **societal challenges** we are facing, and that Europe's expertise and resources must be mobilized in a coherent manner and synergies between the EU and the Member States must be fostered in order to ensure that innovations with a societal benefit get to the market quicker. The European Council moreover noted that joint programming should be developed and that the launch of the pilot Innovation Partnership on active and healthy ageing is an important step in that context. It also underlined that regular monitoring by the Council will be necessary in order to reach long term objectives and reiterated that the Council will take the necessary political decisions on future Innovation Partnerships before they are launched.

2. The discussion on European Innovation Partnership started over a year ago. In the meantime the first pilot partnership on active and healthy ageing was launched. Some months into its realization, the Commission has now presented the first experiences on its governance and processes. Due to the time frame the analysis concentrates mainly on some of the elements like governance model, involvement of different stakeholders or balanced participation. Having in mind that the Council will take the necessary political decisions on EIPs before they are launched it raises the question of whether the first experience of EIP AHA is a sufficient basis for endorsing the launch of new EIPs.

It also opens the floor for further debate regarding the practical implementation of lessons learned in the context of possible new partnerships. Solutions implemented in the pilot project do not set a precedent for future ones. However, findings of the conducted analysis should serve as a basis for setting flexible, simple and transparent governance structures for future EIPs.

The Presidency is thus proposing an exchange of views at the Council that will give the Ministers the opportunity to share their opinions on the first experiences as well as to present/suggest some possible solutions regarding the governance of possible future EIPs.

3. Simultaneously to the discussion on the first experience of the EIP AHA, the Ministers will be invited to express their views on a wider topic which are the existing public-public and public-private partnerships. The Commission Communication on Partnering in Research and Innovation presents the state of play of different forms of partnerships. The communication comes just in time to deepen the ongoing discussion on the future research and innovation programme Horizon 2020. The intention is to make greater use of the partnering concept and the instruments. The set of suggested steps to address this challenge will allow Ministers to consider the involvement of private sector in the longer perspective as well as to analyse the links between EIPs, existing mechanisms and instruments, for example JTI and EIPs.

In the light of the overall context described above, and concerning the concrete ways of making progress in this discussion, the Presidency invites the Council ("Competitiveness") on 29-30 September 2011 to address the following questions :

- Is the first experience of EIP AHA a sufficient basis for endorsing the launch of new EIPs and what are the conditions for continuing with new partnerships; how should the governance of possible future EIPs be handled and developed?
- How can we ensure the long-term commitment of all partners, including the private sector and Member States, to partnering instruments?

- How can national level instruments and EU level partnering approaches, like JPIs and EIPs, interact more effectively together to achieve concrete results?
-