

Industrial Leadership and SMEs

COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY
HEARING

Horizon 2020

The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

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Italian Chemical Industry



- The Italian Chemical Industry sector is represented by Federchimica (the Italian Federation of the chemical industry).
- 1350 companies, with a total of 90.000 employees, grouped into 17 Associations.
- Federchimica is a member of Confindustria (General Confederation of the Italian Industry) and CEFIC (European Chemical Industry Council).



- The Italian Chemical Industry welcomes the increase of EU R&D funding.
- We strongly agree with the intent of the EC of simplify the funding instruments

- We welcome the integration of different financial instruments in an only one (make this one as simple as possible)
- Horizon 2020 should focus on the close-to-market phase (i.e. scale-up, demonstration projects) of the innovation cycle.

SMEs involvement



- To simplify the procedures of management and reporting of projects: rules more clear and applicable to the normal industrial management
- We welcome the 35% target for the participation of SMEs: to clarify which tools will be used



SMEs involvement



- It will be necessary not to focus only on innovative SMEs, forgetting the “traditional” ones
- To strengthen the cooperation between SMEs and bigger companies: rules for participation should be adjusted accordingly.



Projects evaluation



- In the calls dedicated to industrial leadership, the projects should be evaluated and selected not only by scientific quality criteria, but also by their market impact
- Some specific evaluation criteria should be developed
- To involve evaluators coming from industrial sectors



Indirect costs



- We strongly welcome the possibility to reimburse till the 100% of direct costs
- The “full cost” reporting is heavy for SMEs, normally not used to these analytic accounting
- To increase the rate of reimbursement of indirect costs to 30-40% (companies have a rate of indirect costs larger then 20%)



PPP, JTI



- **PPP and JTI could be important tools for the development of R&D projects in priority areas**
- **They should be:**
 - strengthened
 - clarified and linked to the previous experiences of Technology Platforms or EU projects or EIP
 - simply managed and include more financed activities



Member States involvement



- It will be important that the EC will coordinate Member States activities, in order to ensure a better definition of the Joint Programming Initiatives



Chemistry and sustainability



- New sustainable products (biopolimers for innovative applications, biotechnological products...)
- New sustainable processes (i.e. research and innovation based on REACH requirements)
- Research for saving energy, saving water, improving the environment

