

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

20.12.2005

PE 367.642v01-00

AMENDMENTS 53-252

Draft report

(PE 364.805v01-00)

Jorgo Chatzimarkakis

Establishing a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007-2013)

Proposal for a decision (COM(2005)0121 – C6-0098/2005 – 2005/0050(COD))

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment by Patrizia Toia

Amendment 53

Title

Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007-2013)

Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme ***specifically for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)*** (2007-2013)

Or. fr

Justification

Page 4 of the explanatory statement indicates that 'the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme will bring together activities ... It will specifically target small and medium-sized enterprises ...' However, the legal text does not contain this important detail, which is however included in the title of the multiannual programme.

AM\593717EN.doc

PE 367.642v01-00

Amendment by Lambert van Nistelrooij

Amendment 54
Recital 2

(2) In order to contribute to the enhancement of competitiveness and innovation capacity in the Community, the advancement of the knowledge society and sustainable development based on balanced economic growth, a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (hereinafter “the Framework Programme”) should be established.

(2) In order to contribute to the enhancement of competitiveness and innovation capacity in the Community, the advancement of the knowledge society, ***the response to the demographic changes in EU society***, and sustainable development based on balanced economic growth, a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (hereinafter “the Framework Programme”) should be established.

Or. en

Justification

One of the major challenges of today's society and bearer of economic chances if well addressed, is too often forgotten.

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis

Amendment 55
Recital 2 a (new)

(2a) Given that the programme is constructed out of a combination of existing programmes, it seems advisable, in the interest of best practice, also to enable the other pillars to draw on the good experiences with the existing Intelligent Energy Executive Agency set up for the Intelligent Energy - Europe Programme.

Or. de

Justification

It must be possible for SMEs to obtain reliable information quickly and easily.

Amendment by Dominique Vlasto, Anne Laperrouze

Amendment 56
Recital 3 a (new)

3a). The European Charter for Small Enterprises adopted by the Council in Feira on 19 June 2000 describes small enterprises as the 'backbone of the European economy'. The specific nature, requirements and expectations of these enterprises including craft enterprises must be taken into account more effectively in national and European policies. It is for this reason that the framework programme must also seek the implementation of the European Charter for Small Enterprises.

Or. fr

Justification

The European Charter for Small Enterprises sets out 10 priority actions, seeking in particular to promote the spirit of enterprise and innovation. The European Parliament reaffirmed its intention of ensuring that the Charter was implemented more effectively in the preparation drawing up and implementation of national and Community legislation concerning small enterprises. The CIP should therefore underpin the implementation of the Charter.

Amendment by Lena Ek

Amendment 57
Recital 6 a (new)

(6a) The Framework Programme should take into account the results of the evaluations pursuant to the European Charter for small enterprises and the Action plan on entrepreneurship.

Or. sv

Justification

The European Charter for small enterprises comprises ten lines for action, to be evaluated annually by the Member States and the Commission. Each country is also to state what progress has been made. This result, together with the priorities set in the Action Plan on Entrepreneurship, should form the basis for the Framework Programme.

Amendment by Dominique Vlasto, Anne Laperrouze

Amendment 58
Recital 14

(14) The growth and competitiveness of enterprises in industrial and service sectors depends on their ability to adjust quickly to change and to exploit their innovative potential. This challenge concerns enterprises of all size, but is particularly acute for smaller enterprises. It is therefore appropriate to establish a specific programme, entitled “the Entrepreneurship and Innovation programme”.

(14) The growth and competitiveness of enterprises in industrial and service sectors depends on their ability to adjust quickly to change and to exploit their innovative potential. This challenge concerns enterprises of all size, but is particularly acute for smaller enterprises, ***in which it is necessary to encourage and promote an entrepreneurial outlook and a spirit of enterprise, taking account of their specific characteristics***. It is therefore appropriate to establish a specific programme, entitled “the Entrepreneurship and Innovation programme”.

Or. fr

Justification

An enterprising outlook is essential if the Lisbon strategy is to succeed. However, the action to be taken to develop and promote an innovatory and entrepreneurial spirit cannot be exactly the same for all enterprises, whose size, nature and activities differ widely.

Amendment by Dominique Vlasto, Anne Laperrouze

Amendment 59
Recital 14 a (new)

(14a) Innovation must be understood in the broad sense of the term to include technological innovation, developing the capacities of high, medium and low technology enterprises and the updating of activities and services, in particular those provided by small and micro-enterprises and their modernisation for the achievement of social objectives and job creation. Account must also be taken of the essential role played by these enterprises in adapting and disseminating existing

technologies.

Or. fr

Justification

Small enterprises, in particular those involved in the production and processing of goods and services providing further added value, seek to ensure their growth and sharpen their competitive edge by adapting existing technology in an innovatory manner and/or modernising their working methods. The concept of innovation should therefore be widened to take better account of the specific nature of these enterprises, in particular the conditions for increasing their productivity and their potential for job creation.

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Nikolaos Vakalis, Britta Thomsen, Claude Turmes, Vittorio Prodi, Lena Ek

Amendment 60
Recital 16

(16) The Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on ‘Stimulating Technologies for Sustainable Development: An Environmental Technologies Action Plan for the European Union’ calls for Community programmes to support the development and uptake of environmental technologies and calls for the mobilisation of financial instruments to share the risks of investing in environmental technologies.

(16) The Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on ‘Stimulating Technologies for Sustainable Development: An Environmental Technologies Action Plan for the European Union’ calls for Community programmes to support the development and uptake of environmental technologies and calls for the mobilisation of financial instruments to share the risks of investing in environmental technologies. ***The Framework Programme will therefore encourage the uptake of environmental technologies through pilot and market replication projects, promoting voluntary approaches in fields such as environmental management and networking with relevant actors. It will support eco-innovation by enterprises through co-investment in risk capital funds. It will also improve the knowledge of all important stakeholders, notably those in the financial community, on the economic opportunities for eco-innovation. The Commission and the Member States will ensure that enough experts in eco-innovation are appointed to those management committees where such***

issues are discussed and decided.

Or. en

Justification

We need to give clarity about how the Framework Programme will deal with eco-innovation and about what exactly latter will include. One of the most important issue for insuring that eco-innovation is well visible is that eco-innovation experts should be well represented in the relevant working committees.

Amendment by Lena Ek

Amendment 61

Recital 17

(17) Market-based Community financial instruments for SMEs complement and add leverage to financial schemes at the national level. They can foster private investment for the creation of new innovative companies, and they can support companies with a high growth potential in their expansion phase to reduce a recognised equity gap. They can improve access of existing SMEs to loan finances for activities that support their competitiveness and growth potential.

(17) Market-based Community financial instruments for SMEs complement and add leverage to financial schemes at the national level. They can foster private investment for the creation of new innovative companies, and they can support companies with a high growth potential in their expansion phase to reduce a recognised equity gap. They can improve access of existing SMEs to loan finances for activities that support their competitiveness and growth potential.
Special consideration should be given to supporting women entrepreneurs, young entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs with a non-European background, since these groups often find it harder to gain access to risk capital.

Or. sv

Justification

Women entrepreneurs, young entrepreneurs and those with non-European backgrounds often have great difficulties in gaining access to risk capital. If Europe is to achieve the goals of the Lisbon Strategy, everyone should have the opportunity to develop their entrepreneurship and creativity.

Amendment by Lambert van Nistelrooij

Amendment 62
Recital 20 a (new)

(20a) Knowledge and know-how which can be directly transformed into innovative commercial products may be offered to the SMEs free of any charge through a national or regional system of "knowledge vouchers" for SMEs, thus enhancing the capacity of SMEs to innovate. In order to support the dissemination of knowledge the application of a system of "knowledge vouchers" for SMEs, financed at Member States level, might prove a useful instrument. "Knowledge vouchers" may profit from EU funding, namely under the Framework Programme on Research and Technological Development and the Structural Funds (under the "regional competitiveness and employment" objective).

Or. en

Justification

The system of knowledge vouchers for SME's introduces a new mechanism of support for SMEs by using already existing knowledge and bringing this into innovative applications, reducing as such the "knowledge gap" for EU's industries and businesses. It may prove a very useful mechanism, to be funded by financial means as for example the 7th FP or the Structural Funds, complementing thus the objectives of CIP.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 63
Recital 21

(21) The Community must equip itself with a sound analytical basis to support policy making in the fields of SMEs, entrepreneurship, innovation and competitiveness in industrial sectors. Such a basis should add value to the information available at the national level in these fields. The Community should provide for the

(21) The Community must equip itself with a sound analytical basis to support policy making in the fields of SMEs, entrepreneurship, innovation and competitiveness in industrial sectors. Such a basis should add value to the information available at the national level in these fields. The Community should provide for the

common development of competitiveness strategies for industrial and service sectors, and for the promotion of best practices in relation to an entrepreneurial environment and culture, including corporate social responsibility and equal gender opportunity, and to promote the emergence of young entrepreneurs.

common development of competitiveness strategies for industrial and service sectors, and for the promotion of best practices in relation to an entrepreneurial environment and culture, including corporate social responsibility and equal gender opportunity, and to promote the emergence of young entrepreneurs. ***The Community should also provide for the adoption of a Europe-wide definition of Young Innovative Companies and Young Listed Companies as a common reference model for Member States wishing to establish a favourable fiscal regime for SMEs.***

Or. en

Justification

A favourable fiscal regime such as that described under the “Young Innovative Company” and the “Young Listed Company” definitions, which comprise tax reductions and exonerations of social costs, is a factor that will boost investments in SMEs. Tax issues are basically regulated at national level, but the common development of competitiveness strategies necessitates a common reference model for implementation by Member States that wish to create tax incentives for the establishment of new businesses.

Amendment by Lena Ek

Amendment 64

Recital 21

(21) The Community must equip itself with a sound analytical basis to support policy making in the fields of SMEs, entrepreneurship, innovation and competitiveness in industrial sectors. Such a basis should add value to the information available at the national level in these fields. The Community should provide for the common development of competitiveness strategies for industrial and service sectors, and for the promotion of best practices in relation to an entrepreneurial environment and culture, including corporate social responsibility and equal gender opportunity, and to promote the emergence of young

(21) The Community must equip itself with a sound analytical basis to support policy making in the fields of ***micro-enterprises***, SMEs, entrepreneurship, innovation and competitiveness in industrial sectors. Such a basis should add value to the information available at the national level in these fields. ***These statistics on the situation of micro-enterprises and SMEs should be taken into account and discussed at the Council’s Spring Summits in the context of reporting on the Lisbon Process.*** The Community should provide for the common development of competitiveness strategies for industrial and service sectors, and for the promotion of

entrepreneurs.

best practices in relation to an entrepreneurial environment and culture, including corporate social responsibility and equal gender opportunity, and to promote the emergence of young entrepreneurs.

Or. sv

Justification

The EU should possess relevant statistics and comparable data on micro-enterprises and SMEs. This data should then be discussed at the highest political level at the Council's Spring Summits in the context of reporting on the Lisbon Process.

Amendment by Dominique Vlasto, Anne Laperrouze

Amendment 65
Recital 21 a (new)

(21a) Community business surveys have underrated the importance of small and micro-enterprises and their various components. Little is known of their situation and the role they play, despite the fact that they make up almost 98% of the European Union's industrial fabric. Economic and statistical surveys and analyses of these enterprises, particularly in the crafts sector, are therefore necessary.

Or. fr

Justification

While there is an official definition of small and micro-enterprises making up 98% of enterprises established within the Union, existing Community surveys are insufficiently comprehensive. Action should therefore be taken to improve the statistical and economic information concerning the small and craft enterprises, so as to implement as appropriately as possible the Community programmes of action intended for them.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 66
Recital 22 a (new)

(22a) In line with the third edition of the Oslo Manual (OECD/Eurostat, November 2005), "innovation" is the implementation of a new or significantly improved product (good or service), or process, a new marketing method, or a new organisational method in business practices, workplace organisation or external relations. "Innovation activities" are all scientific, technological, organisational, financial and commercial steps which actually do, or are intended to, lead to the implementation of innovations. Some innovation activities are themselves innovative, others are not novel activities but are necessary for the implementation of innovations. Innovation activities also include R&D that is not directly related to the development of a specific innovation. Consequently, the Framework Programme should include innovation in all sectors and focus on innovation in all aspects of the value chain: production, distribution, marketing, management, human resources etc. The Framework Programme should also include institutional innovation, which covers innovation in the tools, methods, models and strategies used for innovation management.

Or. en

Justification

The Oslo Manual contains the OECD/EU guidelines for collecting and interpreting innovation data. The Manual was recently revised and the third edition was presented in November 2005. The Manual clarifies the concept of innovation and as the definition of innovation in the CIP must be in accordance with the most recent specifications of the concept of innovation, the Oslo Manual is the obvious source of such definitions.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 67

Recital 23

(23) The market for knowledge transfer and absorption is frequently opaque, and lack of information or failure to make connections creates market barriers. Businesses also find it difficult to incorporate technologies which are not part of their traditional field of activity and to access new types of skills. Financial risks can be high for innovation, profitability may be delayed by development hitches and tax may not be neutral between success and failure. Skills needed to exploit opportunities may be in short supply. Institutional or regulatory obstacles can delay or undermine the emergence of new markets and access to them. In addition, economic circumstances can determine whether innovation takes place or not.

(23) The market for knowledge transfer and absorption is frequently opaque, and lack of information or failure to make connections creates market barriers. Businesses also find it difficult to incorporate technologies which are not part of their traditional field of activity and to access new types of skills. Financial risks can be high for innovation, profitability may be delayed by development hitches and tax may not be neutral between success and failure. Skills needed to exploit opportunities may be in short supply. Institutional or regulatory obstacles can delay or undermine the emergence of new markets and access to them. ***Bankruptcy laws may create strong disincentives to assume entrepreneurial risk because of fear of failure.*** In addition, economic circumstances can determine whether innovation takes place or not.

Or. en

Justification

Bankruptcy law may represent a heavy regulatory burden in the assumption of entrepreneurial risk and thus in the creation of small innovative firms.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 68

Recital 25 a (new)

(25a) The establishment of a single specialized Community Agency on Innovation could prove an additional, efficient mechanism for boosting innovation in the EU.

Or. en

Justification

Innovation is the main driver for competitiveness. However, beside the proposed measures in the current decision, an additional mechanism at European level is necessary in order to coordinate respective policies in the EU and boost innovation. It seems necessary to have a dedicated European agency on innovation with expert staff that will be able to evaluate the situation in the EU in that respect and propose the necessary measures, independently and possibly in addition to the policies that the Commission furthers, while maintaining an operational link with the Commission.

Amendment by Claude Turmes

Amendment 69
Recital 28 a (new)

(28a) Interoperability is of prime importance for the development of the information society.

Or. en

Justification

Interoperability is the key to the success of an innovative information society ; the importance of interoperability is illustrated for instance by the adoption of the 'European Interoperability Framework for pan-European eGovernment Services' (<http://europa.eu.int/idabc/en/document/3761>) and its embodied definition of open standards

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 70
Recital 34

(34) Natural resources, the prudent and rational utilisation of which is provided for in Article 174 of the Treaty, include, apart from renewable energy sources, oil, natural gas and solid fuels, which are essential energy sources but are also the main sources of carbon dioxide emissions.

(34) Natural resources, the prudent and rational utilisation of which is provided for in Article 174 of the Treaty, include, apart from ***some*** renewable energy sources, oil, natural gas and solid fuels, which are essential ***primary*** energy sources but are also the main sources of ***anthropogenic*** carbon dioxide emissions.

Or. en

Justification

Not all natural resources, referred to in art. 174 of the Treaty, are renewable energy sources and vice-versa. For instance, solar energy - certainly a renewable energy source - is not a natural resource as meant in art 174. Water - certainly a natural resource - is a renewable energy source for hydroelectric power.

CO₂ emissions from biotic sources are much higher than the anthropogenic emissions. The latter are mainly due to the combustion of hydrocarbons, coal and other solid fuels.

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis

Amendment 71
Recital 34 a (new)

(34a) The diversification of energy supplies reduces dependence on a single source of energy. In selecting the individual components of the energy mix, account should, however, be taken of those energy sources which already contribute to the attainment of the Kyoto objectives and ensure energy supplies in the event of breakdowns in the supply of renewable sources of energy.

Or. en

Justification

Existing energies should be taken in account.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 72
Recital 35

(35) The Green Paper entitled "Towards a European strategy for the security of energy supply"¹ noted that the European Union is becoming increasingly dependent on external energy sources and that its dependence could rise to 70 % in 20-30

(35) The Green Paper entitled "Towards a European strategy for the security of energy supply"² noted that the European Union is becoming increasingly dependent on external energy sources and that its dependence could rise to 70 % in 20-30

¹ COM(2000) 769, 29.11.2000.

² COM(2000) 769, 29.11.2000.

years' time. It therefore stressed the need to balance *supply* policy against clear action for a *demand* policy and called for better managed and more environmentally friendly consumption, particularly in the transport and building sectors. It also called for priority to be given the development of new and renewable sources on the energy supply side in order to respond to the challenge of global warming and to achieve the target already established by earlier action plans and resolutions of 12 % energy from renewable energy sources in gross internal consumption by 2010.

years' time. It therefore stressed the need to balance *supply-side* policy against clear action for a *demand-side* policy and called for better managed and more environmentally friendly consumption, particularly in the transport and building sectors. It also called for priority to be given the development of new and renewable sources on the energy supply side in order to respond to the challenge of global warming and to achieve the target already established by earlier action plans and resolutions of 12 % energy from renewable energy sources in gross internal consumption by 2010.

Or. en

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Nikolaos Vakalis, Claude Turmes, Britta Thomsen

Amendment 73
Recital 40 a (new)

(40a) That specific programme should contribute to achieving the general objectives of improving energy diversification and security of supply, and enhancing the competitiveness of EU companies, in particular of SMEs, while protecting the environment and meeting international commitments in this area. Energy efficiency improvement measures in the specific programme will also focus on technological improvements in production processes and propose efficiency gains through improved transport logistics.

Or. en

Justification

This recital highlights that efficiency gains to be expected through this specific programme is also looking at technology changes and into the optimisation of transport logistics.

Amendment by Jan Březina

Amendment 74

Recital 42

(42) Alongside environmental advantages, renewable energy sources and energy efficiency are within the fastest growing industries in the Community, creating new and innovative jobs. The European renewable energy industry leads the world in the development of technologies for renewable energy electricity generation. They benefit economic and social cohesion and avoid the dissipation of resources.

(42) Alongside environmental advantages, renewable energy sources and energy efficiency are within the fastest growing industries in the Community, creating new and innovative jobs. The European renewable energy industry leads the world in the development of technologies for renewable energy electricity generation. They benefit economic and social cohesion and avoid the dissipation of resources. ***For sustainable development, continuing investment and further technological development in the renewable energy sector are essential.***

Or. en

Justification

In the light of rising energy consumption it is of utmost importance to call for further investments in this area in order to reach agreed targets in renewable energy sector and also to keep the leading position of the European renewable energy industry.

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Nikolaos Vakalis, Claude Turmes, Britta Thomsen

Amendment 75

Recital 45

(45) The international dimension ('COOPENER') of the programme established by Decision No 1230/2003/EC should be continued in the framework of the new Community instruments for external assistance.

(45) The international dimension ('COOPENER') of the programme established by Decision No 1230/2003/EC should be continued in the framework of the new Community instruments for external assistance ***as part of a thematic programme on environment and sustainable management of natural resources including energy. However, there should be a close relationship between the relevant part of the thematic programme and the specific programme "Intelligent Energy - Europe" in order to take advantage of the specific expertise existing in the Intelligent-***

Energy Europe Executive Agency and to help SMEs take advantage of the potential markets for intelligent energy which exist outside Europe.

Or. en

Amendment by Ján Hudacký

Amendment 76
Recital 47 a (new)

(47a) The Framework Programme should operate on the subsidiarity principle through relevant regional organisations in order to strengthen the competitiveness and innovativeness of SMEs, preferably at local and regional level.

Or. en

Justification

Increase of socio-economic cohesion of the regions depends mainly on the level of competitiveness and innovation of their local SMEs.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 77
Recital 49 a (new)

(49a) In order to ensure consistent implementation of the Framework Programme as a whole, a High Level Advisory Board on Competitiveness and Innovation should advise the Commission.

Or. en

Justification

Synergy must be ensured in within the CIP and between the CIP and other Community Programmes.

In order to do this and in order to integrate the Oslo Manual (OECD/Eurostat, Nov. 2005) the expertise of an expert group in the elaboration of the work programmes is beneficial for the overall quality management of the programme.

The Oslo Manual clarifies the concept of innovation and was recently revised. As the definition of innovation in the CIP must be in accordance with the most recent specifications of the concept of innovation, the Oslo Manual is the obvious source of such definitions.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 78
Recital 49 a (new)

(49a) In order to ensure consistent implementation of the Framework Programme as a whole, a High Level Advisory Board on Competitiveness and Innovation should advise the Commission.

Or. en

Justification

Instead of a fragmentation of the Programme into three completely different sub-programmes, we need to ensure its coherence through efficient synergies and coordination between the three sub-programmes. A panel of high-level experts can achieve that through the advice that it can offer, also with respect to the annual programmes. More importantly, CIP will profit from the experience and expertise of the participants in such a panel. In addition, the Commission's proposal lacks the element of stakeholder consultation and participation in the implementation process.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 79
Article 1, paragraph 3

3. The Framework Programme shall not cover research and technological development activities carried out in accordance with Article 166 of the Treaty.

3. The Framework Programme shall not cover research and technological development activities carried out in accordance with Article 166 of the Treaty; ***however, it shall promote the innovative commercialisation of research and technology development results. It shall be ensured that there is no financing gap between research, development and***

innovation.

Or. en

Justification

It is very important to clarify the scope of implementation between the CIP and the 7thFP in order to avoid any gaps in the research-innovation process.

Amendment by Pilar del Castillo Vera

Amendment 80
Article 1, paragraph 3

3. The Framework Programme shall not cover research and technological development activities carried out in accordance with Article 166 of the Treaty.

3. The Framework Programme shall not cover research and technological development activities carried out in accordance with Article 166 of the Treaty, ***but shall expressly support innovative applications by undertakings of the results of research and development work.***

Or. es

Justification

There is a vital need to promote the transfer of technology and to close the current gap between research and commercial application in Europe.

Amendment by Pilar del Castillo Vera

Amendment 81
Article 2, paragraph 1, point (a)

a) to foster the competitiveness of enterprises and in particular Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs);

a) to foster the competitiveness of enterprises and in particular Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) ***and microenterprises;***

Or. es

Justification

While the term microenterprise is covered by the definition of SMEs, the CIP should emphasise the importance of the former to the European economy.

Amendment by Dominique Vlasto, Anne Laperrouze

Amendment 82
Article 2, paragraph 1, point (a)

(a) to foster the competitiveness of enterprises and in particular Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs);

(a) to foster the competitiveness of enterprises and in particular Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs), ***with particular emphasis on small and craft enterprises***;

Or. fr

Justification

Small enterprises make up almost 98% of the European Union's industrial fabric, providing almost 50% of jobs. Small and in particular craft enterprises, have their own particular characteristics, needs and expectations.

Consequently the CIP should give particular attention to these enterprises so as to establish the measures which must be taken to meet their specific requirements.

Amendment by Jan Christian Ehler

Amendment 83
Article 2, paragraph 1, point (b)

(b) to promote innovation including eco-innovation;

(b) to promote innovation including eco-innovation ***and innovations to improve the EU's security capacity***;

Or. de

Justification

In the light of the changed security environment, the CIP Programme should complement the European Security Research Programme by stepping up the promotion of innovations which improve the security of the EU and its citizens.

Amendment by Norbert Glante

Amendment 84

Article 2, paragraph 1, point (b a) (new)

ba) to promote the innovative commercial implementation of the results of R+D, including the stage between research and application/marketing following the completion of pre-competitive development;

Or. de

Justification

The conversion of R+D results into commercial production processes and marketable products is crucial for the utilisation of innovative potential. It is particularly important to close the gap between research and innovation. It is therefore important that there should be no technical gap as regards eligibility for subsidy. The stage between research and application is not a grey area and is not confined to the pre-seed phase.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 85

Article 2, paragraph 1, point (c)

(c) to accelerate the development of a competitive, innovative and inclusive Information Society;

(c) to accelerate the development of a ***sustainable***, competitive, innovative and inclusive Information Society;

Or. en

Justification

In accordance with the Treaty all EU programmes must consider the aspect of sustainability. Sustainability is also an objective of the Lisbon Agenda.

Amendment by Patrizia Toia

Amendment 86

Article 2, paragraph 1, point (d a) (new)

(da) launch a programme specifically intended for small enterprises so as to facilitate the implementation at Community, national and regional level of the ten lines of action set out in the European Charter for Small Enterprises.

Or. fr

Justification

There is an official definition of micro- and small enterprises - constituting 98% of enterprises in Europe. This makes it possible to define suitable policies. The ten recommendations contained in the European Charter for Small Enterprises must finally be implemented effectively. Page 5 of the explanatory statement indicates that 'it (the programme) will be an important ... instrument for providing Community level support for Member States' action in pursuit of the European Charter for Small Enterprises'. The amendment simply incorporates this good intention within the legal text. Furthermore, the Commission all too often forgets that it is also responsible for implementing the Charter.

Amendment by Lambert van Nistelrooij

Amendment 87

Article 2, paragraph 1, point (d a) (new)

da) to contribute to the optimisation of the relationships between existing information help desks (EU, national or regional i.e. EIC's), which can provide SMEs, industry and knowledge institutions with all the necessary information on this Framework Programme, the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development and the Structural Funds.

Or. en

Justification

Existing informational help desks have to receive guidance and information so that they can be of service to SMEs, industry and knowledge institutions and do this with the idea of complementarity between the funds.

Amendment by Lambert van Nistelrooij

Amendment 88
Article 2, paragraph 2 a (new)

2a. The implementation of the objectives of the Framework Programme shall be co-ordinated between a horizontal management committee consisting of representatives of the EIPC, ICTC and IEEC committees established under Article 46.

Or. en

Justification

Besides three management committees for each of CIP's specific programmes, a co-ordinating organ that monitors the compliance with the CIP's horizontal objectives is a useful tool.

Amendment by Werner Langen

Amendment 89
Article 4, point (d)

(d) other third countries, when agreements so allow. ***deleted***

Or. de

Justification

Extending the programme to cover the whole world would place an excessive strain on the financial dimension of this programme and would mean that urgent tasks could not be tackled.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 90

Article 5, paragraph 1, subparagraph 1

1. The Commission shall adopt annual work programmes for the specific programmes in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 46(2).

1. The Commission shall adopt annual work programmes for the specific programmes in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 46(2) ***taking into account the necessity for adaptation to future developments.***

Or. en

Justification

Necessary flexibility must be granted to the Framework Programme.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 91

Article 6, Title

Type of implementing measures

Common implementing measures ***for the Framework Programme***

Or. en

Justification

We need clarity by specifying that there is a common toolbox of implementation instruments available for all sub-programmes.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 92

Article 6, paragraph 1, introductory part

1. The measures for the implementation of the work programmes shall be, in particular:

1. The annual work programmes specify the appropriate implementing measures for each of the three specific programmes. The implementation measures which are described in more detail in Section 2 of Chapters I, II and III of Title II are indicative for each specific programme but

can be used for all three specific programmes. The common implementation measures, common to all three specific programmes, include, amongst others:

Or. en

Justification

We need clarity by specifying that there is a common toolbox of implementation instruments available for all sub-programmes.

Amendment by Werner Langen

Amendment 93

Article 6, paragraph 1, point (b)

(b) networks bringing together a variety of stakeholders;

(b) networks bringing together a variety of stakeholders, ***in particular the network of Euro Info Centres in the European Union;***

Or. de

Justification

The Euro-Info Centre network already has experience in this area and is therefore in a position to offer assistance to SMEs.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 94

Article 6, paragraph 1, point (c)

(c) pilot projects, market replication, projects and other measures to support the take-up of innovation;

(c) pilot projects, market replication, projects and other measures to support the take-up of innovation ***and the realisation of SME innovation potential;***

Or. en

Justification

Both SME take-up from the knowledge potentials (such as universities, other Community

Programmes and national or international RTD-programmes) and the realisation of SME innovation potential must be emphasized in order to make the process of innovation and the relations between SMEs and the RTD-communities more visible.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 95

Article 6, paragraph 1, point (e)

(e) information sharing, dissemination and awareness raising;

(e) information sharing, dissemination and awareness raising ***as regards both supply of and demand for innovation;***

Or. en

Justification

We must raise awareness about the fact that the currently inadequate level of innovation in Europe is due to the gap in both the supply of financing to SMEs and in the demand of innovative products and services by SMEs.

Amendment by Edit Herczog

Amendment 96

Article 6, paragraph 1, point (g)

(g) procurement based on technical specifications elaborated in cooperation with the Member States;

(g) procurement based on technical specifications elaborated in cooperation with the Member States, ***consistent with the technology neutrality principle laid down in Article 23(2) of Directive 2004/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts¹***;

¹*OJ L 134, 30.4.2004, p. 114.*

Or. en

Justification

This is to ensure consistency of the CIP with the existing relevant EU legislation on technical specifications used in public procurement procedures.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 97

Article 6, paragraph 1, point (h)

(h) twinning between authorities at national and regional level.

(h) twinning between authorities at national and regional level **and between business associations.**

Or. en

Justification

Cooperation between business associations must be also included.

Amendment by Werner Langen

Amendment 98

Article 6, paragraph 1, point (h)

(h) **twinning between authorities** at national and regional level.

(h) **cooperation between non-state SME institutions and/or associations** at national and regional level.

Or. de

Justification

Priority should be given to promoting innovation in businesses, and consequently it makes more sense to support business-related institutions than simply to promote twinning between authorities.

Amendment by Pilar del Castillo Vera

Amendment 99

Article 6, paragraph 1, point (h)

(h) twinning between authorities at national

(h) twinning between authorities at national,

and regional level.

regional **and local** level.

Or. es

Justification

The local level or NUT (Nomenclature of Territorial Units) level 3 should not be forgotten in connection with twinning between authorities.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 100

Article 6, paragraph 1 a (new)

1a. The Commission, in coordination with the Member States, may publicly procure innovative products and services where this is necessary in order to achieve the objectives of the Framework Programme, and where there is a clear common interest of Member States as concerns a Europe-wide deployment of the innovative capacities of European businesses, especially SMEs. In such case, the Commission shall establish projects of common interest comprising necessary technical and organisational tasks.

The Commission shall, in coordination with the Member States, agree on common technical specifications and implementation schedules for such projects. On the basis of the agreed common technical specifications and implementation schedules, the Commission shall issue calls for tender for the implementation of the projects concerned. The procurement shall be carried out solely by the Commission on the basis of the rules applicable to procurement by the Community.

Or. en

Justification

Public procurement for SME products is critical to the success of the Programme's objectives because of the demand gap, as is shown by the USA Small Business Innovation Development Act that stimulates the Federal Government's demand for SME products.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 101
Article 6, paragraph 2

2. These and additional implementing measures, as set out in section 2 of Chapters I, II and III of Title II, may be applied to any of the specific programmes, if the relevant work programme so provides. *deleted*

Or. en

Justification

We need clarity by specifying that there is a common toolbox of implementation instruments available for all sub-programmes.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 102
Article 6, paragraph 2

2. These and additional implementing measures, as set out in section 2 of Chapters I, II and III of Title II, may be applied to any of the specific programmes, ***if the relevant work programme so provides.***

2. These and additional implementing measures, as set out in section 2 of Chapters I, II and III of Title II, may be applied to any of the specific programmes.

In this regard, a High Level Advisory Board on Competitiveness and Innovation shall assist the Commission in the elaboration of the work programmes.

Justification

One of the most important arguments for designing the CIP is the opportunity to create synergy between the three specific programmes.

In order to create and ensure synergy it is necessary to ensure a large degree of flexibility in the work programmes. A mean to achieve this would be the application of all the implementing measures to any specific programme. For the overall quality management of the programme the expertise of an expert group will be beneficial when addressing this matter in the elaboration of the work programmes.

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Nikolaos Vakalis, Britta Thomsen, Claude Turmes, Vittorio Prodi, Lena Ek

Amendment 103

Article 8, paragraph 1, subparagraph 2

The Commission shall establish an annual implementation report for each specific programme regarding the supported activities by means of financial implementation, results and impacts.

The Commission shall establish an annual implementation report for each specific programme regarding the supported activities by means of financial implementation, results and impacts. ***The annual report of the "Entrepreneurship and Innovation" specific programme shall clearly identify means of financial implementation, results and impacts with respect to supported eco-innovation activities .***

Justification

We need to give clarity about what exactly eco-innovation concerns, also at evaluation level.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 104

Article 8, paragraph 2, subparagraph 1

2. The Framework Programme and its specific programmes shall be subject to interim and final evaluations which shall examine issues such as relevance, coherence

2. The Framework Programme and its specific programmes shall be subject to interim and final evaluations which shall examine issues such as relevance, coherence

and synergies, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and utility.

and synergies (***both within the Framework Programme and with other Community Programmes***), effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and utility.

The evaluations must examine "sector specific innovation" and the services laid down in annex III.

Evaluation measures must be included in the work programmes.

Or. en

Justification

Synergy within the CIP and between the CIP and other Community Programmes is a crucial argument for designing the CIP. Therefore it is essential, that the impact of the CIP is evaluated with regard to this. Such evaluation would also be a valuable basis for the revision of the programmes in the future.

The evaluation of the program with regard to sectors is a mean to ensure equal opportunities for funding in the different sectors.

The evaluation measures must be included in the work programme in order to ensure coherence between objectives, measures and the outcome of the evaluation.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 105

Article 8, paragraph 2 a (new)

2a. The interim and final evaluations shall also examine the synergies with programmes funded by the Structural Funds and the Fund for Rural Development, as well as with other relevant community programmes (e.g., the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development, the Lifelong Learning programme) which share objectives similar and complementary to those of the Framework Programme. The findings shall be arranged in such a way that their results can be taken into account in the Lisbon Strategy and the National Operational Programmes.

Or. en

Justification

Given the limited resources of the Framework Programme its great novelty will be to succeed the highest degree of synergies with other Community policies, as for example the cohesion policy. Member States should pursue innovation and competitiveness in a global way and not through fragmented actions.

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Nikolaos Vakalis, Britta Thomsen, Claude Turmes, Vittorio Prodi, Lena Ek

Amendment 106
Article 10, paragraph 1

1. A programme in support of enterprise and SMEs, entrepreneurship, innovation and industrial competitiveness, (hereinafter ‘the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme’), is hereby established.

1. A programme in support of enterprise and SMEs, entrepreneurship, innovation, ***including eco-innovation***, and industrial competitiveness, (hereinafter ‘the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme’), is hereby established.

Or. en

Justification

Eco-innovation must be included in the first paragraph because it is dealt with in the first sub-programme at horizontal level.

Amendment by Dominique Vlasto, Anne Laperrouze

Amendment 107
Article 10, paragraph 1

1. A programme in support of enterprise and SMEs, entrepreneurship, innovation and industrial competitiveness, (hereinafter ‘the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme’), is hereby established.

1. A programme in support of enterprise, ***in particular SMEs, micro-enterprises and craft enterprises***, entrepreneurship, innovation and industrial competitiveness, (hereinafter ‘the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme’), is hereby established.

Or. fr

Justification

Small enterprises make up 98% of the European Union's industrial fabric providing almost

50% of jobs. Furthermore, these enterprises, in particular craft enterprises, have their own particular characteristics, needs and expectations. The CIP should accordingly give particular attention to these enterprises so as to establish the measures necessary to meet their specific needs.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 108
Article 10, paragraph 1

1. A programme in support of enterprise **and** SMEs, entrepreneurship, innovation and industrial competitiveness, (hereinafter ‘the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme’), is hereby established.

1. A programme in support of enterprise, **in particular** SMEs, entrepreneurship, innovation and industrial competitiveness, (hereinafter ‘the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme’), is hereby established.

Or. en

Justification

Emphasis must be granted for the benefit of SMEs.

Amendment by Lambert van Nistelrooij

Amendment 109
Article 10, paragraph 2, point (a)

(a) access to finance for the start-up and growth of SMEs and investment in innovation activities, including eco-innovation;

(a) access to finance for the start-up and growth of SMEs and investment in innovation activities, including eco-innovation **and support to "Open Innovation" groupings of industry with SMEs that facilitate access to the research capacity of SME's and focus on innovative applications. Actions will include linking the Framework Programme to initiatives for the redeployment of State Aid to innovation;**

Or. en

Justification

A new way of opening up the capacity of SME's for innovative actions is the clustering with

industry. State Aid rules should support these innovation-driven SME-industry clusters.

Amendment by Jan Christian Ehler

Amendment 110

Article 10, paragraph 2, point (a)

(a) access to finance for the start-up and growth of SMEs and investment in innovation activities, including eco-innovation;

(a) access to finance for the start-up and growth of SMEs and investment in innovation activities, including eco-innovation **and innovations to improve the EU's security capacity;**

Or. de

Justification

In the light of the changed security environment, the CIP Programme should complement the European Security Research Programme by stepping up the promotion of innovations which improve the security of the EU and its citizens.

Amendment by Pilar del Castillo Vera

Amendment 111

Article 10, paragraph 2, point (a)

(a) access to finance for the start-up and growth of SMEs and investment in innovation activities, including eco-innovation;

(a) access to finance for the start-up, growth **and internationalisation** of SMEs and investment in innovation activities, including eco-innovation;

Or. es

Justification

There is a need to refer to the financial needs of European SMEs to cope with the process of internationalisation. In this connection, technical assistance and access to credit for these purposes are of fundamental importance.

Amendment by Lambert van Nistelrooij

Amendment 112

Article 10, paragraph 2, point (b)

(b) creation of an environment favourable to SME co-operation;

(b) creation of an environment favourable to SME co-operation **at regional, national, inter-regional and cross-border level;**

Or. en

Justification

EU-wide SME co-operation cannot be hindered by state or regional borders.

Amendment by Jan Christian Ehler

Amendment 113

Article 10, paragraph 2, point (c)

(c) innovation in enterprises, including eco-innovation;

(c) innovation in enterprises, including eco-innovation **and innovations to improve the EU's security capacity;**

Or. de

Justification

In the light of the changed security environment, the CIP Programme should complement the European Security Research Programme by stepping up the promotion of innovations which improve the security of the EU and its citizens.

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Nikolaos Vakalis, Britta Thomsen, Claude Turmes, Vittorio Prodi, Lena Ek

Amendment 114

Article 10, paragraph 2, point (c a) (new)

(ca) eco-innovation, in particular the uptake of environmental technologies;

Or. en

Justification

Eco-innovation must be included in the first paragraph because it is dealt with in the first sub-programme at horizontal level. For clarity reasons an additional insertion (ca) has been included.

Amendment by Werner Langen

Amendment 115
Article 10, paragraph 2, point (d)

(d) entrepreneurship and ***innovation culture***; (d) entrepreneurship and ***commercial abilities***;

Or. de

Justification

Entrepreneurship and commercial abilities are the prerequisites for the creation of innovations in businesses, so the focus needs to be placed on the commercial part of the programme.

Amendment by Werner Langen

Amendment 116
Article 10, paragraph 2, point (e)

(e) ***enterprise and innovation related economic and administrative reform***. (e) ***dismantling of bureaucratic obstacles and creation of an appropriate framework***.

Or. de

Justification

Entrepreneurship and commercial abilities are the prerequisites for the creation of innovations in businesses, so the focus needs to be placed on the commercial part of the programme.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 117
Article 10, paragraph 2, point (e a) (new)

(ea) SME take-up of knowledge and the realisation of SME innovation potential.

Or. en

Justification

In the objectives of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme both SME take-up from the knowledge potentials (such as universities, other Community Programmes and national or international RTD-programmes) and the realisation of SME innovation potential must be emphasized in order to make the process of innovation and the relations between SMEs and the RTD-communities more visible.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 118

Article 10, paragraph 2, point (e a) (new)

(ea) better regulatory and administrative conditions for SME creation, growth and innovation.

Or. en

Justification

With this addition the listed objectives of article 10 correspond better to the fields of action provided by articles 14 and 15.

Amendment by Jan Březina

Amendment 119

Article 10, paragraph 2, point (e a) (new)

(ea) access to finance and advisory services for obtaining intellectual property protection of innovations, including improved access to the patent system.

Or. en

Justification

During the debate on the proposed Directive on the Patentability of Computer Implemented Inventions, there was general support for the principle of patents, but the European Parliament expressed concern that the patent system is inaccessible to, and may even work to the detriment of, SMEs. Much of this concern arises, understandably, from the limited resources of SMEs to utilize the patent system effectively. CIP should include in its programme the consideration of the establishment of a patent fund to provide financial, technical and administrative support to SMEs.

Amendment by Patrizia Toia

Amendment 120
Article 10, paragraph 2, point (e a) (new)

(ea) the participation of SMEs and in particular small enterprises in the drafting and implementation of standardisation, quality control and safety policy in respect of goods and services.

Or. fr

Justification

Standardisation is necessary for innovation and competitiveness in small enterprises. It must therefore be supported at Community level.

Amendment by Dominique Vlasto and Anne Laperrouze

Amendment 121
Article 10, paragraph 2, point (e a) (new)

(ea) participation by small and craft enterprises in the drafting and implementation of standardisation, quality control and safety policy in respect of goods and services.

Or. fr

Justification

Quality control is essential for competitiveness in European enterprises, in particular SMEs and micro-enterprises. European certifications, for example ISO, represent economic and strategic added value, to which all enterprises should have access. The CIP should therefore encourage access for, and participation by, SMEs in EU standardisation, certification and other programme.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 122
Article 10, paragraph 2, point (e b) (new)

(eb) SME competitiveness while respecting measures for sustainable growth and development.

Or. en

Justification

In accordance with the Treaty all EU programmes must consider the aspect of sustainability. Sustainability is also an objective of the Lisbon Agenda.

Amendment by Jan Christian Ehler

Amendment 123
Article 11, introductory part

Action in relation to access to finance for the start-up and growth of SMEs and for investment in innovation activities, including eco-innovation, may include:

Action in relation to access to finance for the start-up and growth of SMEs and for investment in innovation activities ***and innovations to improve the EU's security capacity***, including eco-innovation, may include:

Or .de

Justification

In the light of the changed security environment, the CIP Programme should complement the European Security Research Programme by stepping up the promotion of innovations which improve the security of the EU and its citizens.

Amendment by Lena Ek

Amendment 124
Article 11, point (a a) (new)

(aa) giving special consideration to the difficulties encountered by women entrepreneurs, young entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs with a non-European background in gaining access to risk capital;

Or. sv

Justification

Women entrepreneurs, young entrepreneurs and those with non-European backgrounds often have great difficulties in gaining access to risk capital. If Europe is to achieve the goals of the Lisbon Strategy, everyone should have the opportunity to develop their entrepreneurship and creativity.

Amendment by Edit Herczog

Amendment 125

Article 11, point (a a) (new)

***(aa) promoting the asset value of
intellectual property rights owned by
SMEs;***

Or. en

Justification

Creating financial viability and attracting new investment in R&D could be supported by securing investment throughout the exploitation of IPRs.

Amendment by Ján Hudacký

Amendment 126
Article 11, point (c)

(c) improving the financial environment for SMEs.

c) improving the financial environment for SMEs ***through the better combination of all available financial resources, including the cohesion policy financial instruments.***

Or. en

Justification

Public resources from national and EU level should be used to create the leverage effect and attract private financial resources.

Amendment by Lorenzo Cesa

Amendment 127
Article 11, point (c a) (new)

(ca) enhancing the capacity of financial institutions to assess research and innovation projects - for which SMEs submit a credit request - through the development of a system of "technology rating centres".

Or. en

Justification

It appears necessary to bridge the gaps in SMEs finance for R&I investment; to this end, it would be appropriate to promote the development of a system of technology rating centres that could cooperate with banks and seed/venture capital funds in the evaluation of research and innovation projects (for which the request of credit is submitted).

Amendment by Patrizia Toia

Amendment 128

Article 11, point (c a) (new)

(ca) enhancing the capacity of financial institutions to assess research and innovation projects - for which SMEs submit a credit request - through the development of a system of "technology rating centres".

Or. en

Justification

It appears necessary to bridge the gaps in SMEs finance for R&I investment; to this end, it would be appropriate to promote the development of a system of technology rating centres that could cooperate with banks and seed/venture capital funds in the evaluation of research and innovation projects (for which the request of credit is submitted).

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 129

Article 12, point (a)

(a) fostering services in support of SMEs;

(a) fostering services in support of innovative SMEs and SMEs with innovation potential;

Or. en

Amendment by Ján Hudacký

Amendment 130

Article 12, point (a)

(a) fostering services in support of SMEs;

(a) fostering services in support of SMEs, preferably through existing regional networks of business support organisations;

Or. en

Justification

In most of the Member States the regional business support organisation already exist so it would be efficient to use their years long experience.

Amendment by Jan Březina

Amendment 131
Article 12, point (b)

(b) contributing to measures helping SMEs to cooperate with other enterprises across borders, including SME involvement in the field of European standardisation;

(b) contributing to measures helping **and encouraging** SMEs to cooperate with other enterprises **whether in the region in which the SME operates, at national level or** across borders, including SME involvement in the field of European standardisation;

Or. en

Justification

For the sake of balanced development, the SME co-operation should not be narrowed merely to a cross-border model, it is hence important to emphasize the co-operation at regional and national level as well. Effort and activity of the SMEs themselves is also vital for further co-operation amongst them.

Amendment by Patrizia Toia

Amendment 132
Article 12, point (b)

(b) contributing to measures helping SMEs to cooperate with other enterprises across borders, including SME involvement in the field of European standardisation;

(b) contributing to measures helping SMEs to cooperate with other enterprises across borders, including SME involvement in the field of European **and international** standardisation;

Or. fr

Amendment by Werner Langen

Amendment 133
Article 12, point (c)

(c) promoting and facilitating **international** business cooperation.

(c) promoting and facilitating **cross-border** business cooperation **within the European internal market and with businesses in third countries, in order to enhance trade and investment links.**

Or. de

Justification

The internationalisation/Europeanisation of business activities encourages competitiveness.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 134
Article 12, point (c a) (new)

(ca) fostering services in support of SME co-operation with other innovation-actors.

Or. en

Justification

Knowledge potentials such as universities, science parks, tech-parks, regional development fora, NGO, capitals funds etc, can be considered as "innovation actors". It is essential for SMEs to have close relations with other actors in both local and regional and transnational communities in order to enhance their innovation potential.

Amendment by Lorenzo Cesa

Amendment 135
Article 12, point (c a) (new)

(ca) reinforcing cooperation among companies located in regions sharing common problems and challenges,

favouring, also through the creation of networks, the coordination and development of proper economic and industrial policies.

Or. en

Justification

In Europe there are areas with a very high industrial vocation which represent the wealth of Europe; nonetheless, even if these areas are not facing a phase of decline, their competitiveness is strongly threatened. This is the reason why these areas request the definition of industrial and economic policies able to address their specific needs. Cooperation among companies located in regions sharing common problems and challenges needs therefore to be reinforced through, for example, the creation of a network aimed at promoting the exchange and diffusion of best practices. The network would also represent a tool that EU institutions could use for assessing and measuring the feasibility of own policy or legislative initiatives.

Amendment by Patrizia Toia

Amendment 136

Article 12, point (c a) (new)

(ca) reinforcing cooperation among companies located in regions sharing common problems and challenges, favouring, also through the creation of networks, the coordination and development of proper economic and industrial policies.

Or. en

Justification

In Europe there are areas with a very high industrial vocation which represent the wealth of Europe; nonetheless, even if these areas are not facing a phase of decline, their competitiveness is strongly threatened. This is the reason why these areas request the definition of industrial and economic policies able to address their specific needs. Cooperation among companies located in regions sharing common problems and challenges needs therefore to be reinforced through, for example, the creation of a network aimed at promoting the exchange and diffusion of best practices. The network also represent a tool that EU institutions could use for assessing and measuring the feasibility of own policy or legislative initiatives.

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Nikolaos Vakalis, Britta Thomsen, Claude Turmes, Vittorio Prodi, Lena Ek

Amendment 137
Article 13, Title

Innovation, *including eco-innovation in enterprises*

Innovation *activities*

Or. en

Justification

Better correspondance to amended article 10.

Amendment by Jan Christian Ehler

Amendment 138
Article 13, Title

Innovation, including eco-innovation *in enterprises*

Innovation *in enterprises*, including eco-innovation *and innovation to improve the EU's security capacity*

Or. de

Justification

In the light of the changed security environment, the CIP Programme should complement the European Security Research Programme by stepping up the promotion of innovations which improve the security of the EU and its citizens.

Amendment by Jan Christian Ehler

Amendment 139
Article 13, introductory part

Action in relation to innovation, including eco-innovation, may include:

Action in relation to innovation, including eco-innovation *and innovation to improve the EU's security capacity*, may include:

Or. de

Justification

In the light of the changed security environment, the CIP Programme should complement the European Security Research Programme by stepping up the promotion of innovations which improve the security of the EU and its citizens.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 140
Article 13, point (a)

(a) fostering sector-specific innovation, clusters, innovation networks, public-private innovation partnerships and cooperation with relevant international organisations, and the use of innovation management;

(a) fostering **innovation of technical and non-technical products, non-technological innovation, for example, process innovation, organisational and institutional innovation**, sector-specific innovation, clusters, innovation networks, public-private innovation partnerships and cooperation with relevant international organisations, and the use of innovation management;

Or. en

Justification

The Oslo Manual (OECD/Eurostat, November 2005) contains the OECD/EU guidelines for collecting and interpreting innovation data. The Manual was recently revised and the third edition was presented in November 2005. The Manual clarifies the concept of innovation and as the definition of innovation in the CIP must be in accordance with the most recent specifications of the concept of innovation, the Oslo Manual is the obvious source of such definitions.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 141
Article 13, point (a)

(a) fostering sector-specific innovation, clusters, innovation networks, public-private innovation partnerships and cooperation with relevant international organisations, and the use of innovation management;

(a) fostering sector-specific, **process, marketing and organisational** innovation, **as well as** clusters, innovation networks, public-private innovation partnerships and cooperation with relevant international organisations, and the use of innovation management;

Justification

According to all the standard working definitions of innovation, this concept comprises product innovation as well as innovation of process. This wider description of eligible actions is both coherent with the CIP Proposal's Explanatory Memorandum, where "innovation" is defined as a "business process connected with exploiting market opportunities for new products, services and business processes", and in tune with the latest edition of the Oslo Manual on innovation, which explicitly itemises "product", "process", "marketing" and "organisational" innovation.

Amendment by Vincenzo Lavarra, Pia Elda Locatelli

Amendment 142
Article 13, point (a)

a) fostering sector-specific innovation, clusters, innovation networks, public-private innovation partnerships and cooperation with relevant international organisations, and the use of innovation management;

a) fostering sector-specific, **organisational and technological and non-technological product** innovation, clusters, innovation networks, public-private innovation partnerships and cooperation with relevant international organisations, and the use of innovation management;

Or. it

Justification

Organisational and non-technological product innovation are just as important as technological innovation and contribute to the growth and competitiveness of SMEs.

Amendment by Patrizia Toia

Amendment 143
Article 13, point (a)

a) fostering sector-specific innovation, clusters, innovation networks, public-private innovation partnerships and cooperation with relevant international organisations, and the use of innovation management;

a) fostering sector-specific, **organisational and technological and non-technological product** innovation, clusters, innovation networks, public-private innovation partnerships and cooperation with relevant international organisations, and the use of innovation management;

Justification

It is important to recognise the added value inherent in innovations not only when this is technological in nature, but also when it is organisational or process-related.

Amendment by Dominique Vlasto and Anne Laperrouze

Amendment 144

Article 13, point (a a) (new)

(aa) assisting adaptation to technological development in small enterprises, including micro-enterprises and craft enterprises and encouraging non-technical innovation seeking to achieve modernisation, greater competitiveness and job creation, particularly in the manufacturing, environmental and company management, marketing and communications sectors.

Justification

Small enterprises, and particularly those involved in the production and processing of goods and services, providing further added value, enhance their growth potential and their competitive edge by adapting existing technologies in an innovative manner and/or modernising their working methods (work organisation, marketing, management of human resources, training, communications, etc.).

It is therefore necessary to adopt a broader view of innovation so as to take account of their specific needs.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 145

Article 13, point (b)

(b) supporting national and regional programmes for ***business*** innovation;

(b) supporting national and regional programmes for ***technological and non-technological*** innovation ***as well as process innovation, organisational and institutional innovation in enterprises***;

Justification

In accordance with the Oslo Manual definition of innovation.

The Oslo Manual (OECD/Eurostat, November 2005) contains the OECD/EU guidelines for collecting and interpreting innovation data. The Manual was recently revised and the third edition was presented in November 2005. The Manual clarifies the concept of innovation and as the definition of innovation in the CIP must be in accordance with the most recent specifications of the concept of innovation, the Oslo Manual is the obvious source of such definitions.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 146
Article 13, point (b)

(b) supporting national and regional programmes for **business** innovation;

(b) supporting national and regional programmes for **technological and non-technological** innovation **in enterprises, and innovation of business processes**;

Justification

The concept of innovation comprises both technological and non-technological innovation, since the latter is also particularly important to the growth of SMEs. This wider description of eligible actions is coherent both with the CIP Proposal's Explanatory Memorandum, where "innovation" is defined as a "business process connected with exploiting market opportunities for new products, services and business processes", and with the Oslo Manual on innovation, which explicitly itemises "product", "process", "marketing" and "organisational" innovation.

Amendment by Vincenzo Lavarra, Pia Elda Locatelli

Amendment 147
Article 13, point (b)

b) supporting national and regional programmes for business innovation;

b) supporting national and regional programmes for **technological, non-technological and process-related** business innovation;

Or. it

Justification

Organisational and non-technological product innovation are just as important as technological innovation and contribute to the growth and competitiveness of SMEs.

Amendment by Patrizia Toia

Amendment 148
Article 13, point (b)

b) supporting national and regional programmes for business innovation;

b) supporting national and regional programmes for ***technological, non-technological and process-related*** business innovation;

Or. it

Justification

It is important to recognise the added value inherent in innovations not only when this is technological in nature, but also when it is organisational or process-related.

Amendment by Vincenzo Lavarra, Pia Elda Locatelli

Amendment 149
Article 13, point (c)

c) supporting the take-up of innovative technologies;

c) supporting the take-up of innovative technologies ***through assistance for the adaptation of technological innovations to the specific requirements of SMEs;***

Or. it

Justification

It is often impossible for technological innovations purely and simply to be transferred into differing company environments because this calls for a technical study and adaptation phase that is often very costly for the undertakings. It is therefore important that financial assistance be provided to undertakings in that phase.

Amendment by Edit Herczog

Amendment 150
Article 13, point (c)

(c) supporting the take-up of innovative technologies;

(c) supporting the take-up of innovative technologies **and their proprietary protection**;

Or. en

Justification

Access to IPRs is a tool for supporting innovations developed by fast growing enterprises. Support should be provided to promote the use and management of such rights.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 151
Article 13, point (c a) (new)

(ca) creating incentives to stimulate the demand for innovative products and services from SMEs;

Or. en

Justification

One of the most accurate indicators of the degree of innovativeness of SMEs is their enhanced capacity of selling innovative products and services to larger customers, since SMEs are acutely focused on their customers' needs. Thus, the growth of European SMEs is heavily dependent on the creation of opportunities to sustain the demand for their products and services.

Amendment by Edit Herczog

Amendment 152
Article 13, point (d)

(d) supporting services for trans-national knowledge and technology transfer and for intellectual and industrial property management;

(d) supporting services for trans-national knowledge and technology transfer and for intellectual and industrial property ***promotion and*** management;

Or. en

Justification

Access to IPRs is a tool for supporting innovations developed by fast growing enterprises. Support should be provided to promote the use and management of such rights.

Amendment by Etelka Barsi-Pataky

Amendment 153
Article 13, point (e)

(e) exploring new types of innovation services;

(e) exploring new types of innovation services (***such as the Galileo project, where SMEs could develop new services offered by the GNSS navigation satellite system in several sectors***);

Or. en

Justification

Galileo is a new European infrastructure thus Galileo is a strategically important programme for Europe. The Galileo programme fits perfectly into the Lisbon strategy, by creating a significant number of jobs in Europe, enhancing the competitiveness of Europe by the developed technology and know-how. CIP provides for the involvement of European SMEs in developing innovations with the support of Community funding, which will contribute to the development of applications and services offered by GNSS satellite navigation system.

Amendment by Jan Březina

Amendment 154
Article 13, point (e)

(e) exploring new types of innovation services;

(e) **developing and** exploring new types of innovation services;

Or. en

Justification

The engagement of enterprises in the R&D would contribute to boosting of the European competitiveness, broader participation in the process is therefore essential.

Amendment by Patrizia Toia

Amendment 155
Article 13, paragraph 1 a (new)

(1a.) Innovation must be understood in its widest sense, encompassing not only the manufacturing process but also company and environmental management, marketing and communications, all of which contribute to company modernisation. Innovation may also include adaptation of existing technologies to the needs of small enterprises;

Or. fr

Justification

This definition reflects the reality of most small enterprises, enabling their specific needs to be taken into account and included within the framework programme. Small and micro-enterprises often face difficulties in adapting to technologies or innovatory products. Innovation must be understood to mean the adaptation of these technologies to the specific requirements of a small entity (application of environmental standards being one, but not the only, example).

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis

Amendment 156
Article 13 a (new)

Article 13a

Eco-innovation

1. Eco-Innovation is an important factor in the Framework Programme and must play a prominent role in its implementation.

2. Eco-Innovation is any form of innovation leading to significant and demonstrable progress towards the goal of sustainable development, through reducing negative impacts on the environment or achieving a more efficient and responsible use of resources, including energy.

Or. en

Justification

Eco-innovation is a progressive concept: the CIP programme must remain responsive to changes.

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Nikolaos Vakalis, Britta Thomsen, Claude Turmes, Vittorio Prodi, Lena Ek

Amendment 157
Article 13 a (new)

Article 13a

Eco-innovation activities

Action in relation to eco-innovation may include in particular:

(a) access to financing for eco-innovation, as provided for under article 11;

(b) fostering eco-innovation networks and clusters, public-private partnerships in eco-innovation and business services facilitating or promoting eco-innovation;

(c) supporting the take-up of environmental technologies and eco-innovative activities;

(d) supporting services for transnational knowledge and technology transfer and for intellectual and industrial property management;

(e) promoting voluntary approaches on eco-innovation in fields such as environmental management and product design.

Or. en

Justification

We need to give clarity about what exactly eco-innovation concerns.

Amendment by Lena Ek

Amendment 158
Article 14, point (a)

(a) encouraging entrepreneurial mindsets, skills and culture, and the balancing of entrepreneurial risk and reward, in particular for young entrepreneurs.

(a) encouraging entrepreneurial mindsets, skills and culture, and the balancing of entrepreneurial risk and reward, in particular for **women entrepreneurs and** young entrepreneurs.

Or. sv

Justification

Women entrepreneurs, should also be encouraged. If Europe is to achieve the goals of the Lisbon Strategy, everyone should have the opportunity to develop their entrepreneurship and creativity.

Amendment by Dominique Vlasto and Anne Laperrouze

Amendment 159
Article 14, point (a)

(a) encouraging entrepreneurial mindsets, skills and culture, and the balancing of entrepreneurial risk and reward, in particular for young entrepreneurs;

(a) encouraging **and enhancing** entrepreneurial mindsets, skills and culture, and the balancing of entrepreneurial risk and reward, in particular for young entrepreneurs;

Justification

Encouraging entrepreneurial mindsets is not in itself sufficient to promote competitiveness, innovation or company creation and takeover/transfer. It is also necessary to enhance entrepreneurial mindsets, particularly among young people, and in the crafts and trades requiring technical training, which are frequently held in low regard by young people, their parents and the media.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 160
Article 14, point (a a) (new)

(aa) encouraging Masters and PhD students to become engaged as innovation actors in cooperation with SMEs;

Or. en

Justification

The knowledge potentials for innovation must include all human resources - especially young people as the informational age calls for early participation in lifelong learning processes for innovation. The human resources of Masters and PhD-students are a valuable knowledge asset for SMEs. Furthermore SMEs can be an asset to the practical innovation training in the research communities.

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Nikolaos Vakalis, Britta Thomsen, Claude Turmes, Vittorio Prodi, Lena Ek

Amendment 161
Article 14, point (b)

(b) encouraging a business environment favourable to innovation, enterprise development and growth;

(b) encouraging a business environment favourable to innovation, enterprise development and growth ***within the framework of sustainable development;***

Or. en

Justification

One of the most important factors to reduce cost for achieving sustainability is an as early as

possible integration of sustainability concerns in business decisions.

Amendment by Pilar del Castillo Vera

Amendment 162
Article 14, point (b a) (new)

(b a) promoting the exchange and mobility of European SME employees and between the various European institutes and networks for the purposes of knowledge transfer and the exchange of best practices;

Or. es

Justification

There is a need to promote fora for dialogue between inventors and innovators on the one hand and business directors and managers on the other. To this end, it is vitally important to invest in training and exchange programmes in order to combine entrepreneurial spirit and innovative capacity, which are two of the strategic pillars of the Lisbon Agenda.

Amendment by Jan Březina

Amendment 163
Article 14, point (c a) (new)

(ca) promoting and supporting the enhancement of entrepreneurial spirit in the Community.

Or. en

Justification

The Europe needs to cure the most fundamental symptoms of the unsatisfactory situation of the entrepreneurship. The support for the entrepreneurial spirit in Europe deserves to be included among the top priorities.

Amendment by Dominique Vlasto and Anne Laperrouze

Amendment 164
Article 14, point (c a) (new)

(ca) encouraging the creation, transfer and takeover of enterprises, in particular small and craft enterprises.

Or. fr

Justification

The Commission estimates that one-third of European enterprises will be transferred over the next ten years, an average of almost 610 000 enterprises per year over ten years, potentially affecting 2.4 million jobs. The European Union will be required to face an historic challenge affecting first and foremost small and craft enterprises.

Consequently, the creation, takeover and transfer of enterprises must become one of the priorities of action to develop a spirit of enterprise and an entrepreneurial mindset.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 165
Article 15, point (b)

(b) contributing to the definition and promotion of competitiveness strategies related to industry and service sectors;

(b) contributing to the definition and promotion of competitiveness strategies related to industry and service sectors, ***including mechanisms for reducing bureaucracy;***

Or. en

Justification

Red-tape is one of the main impediments for entrepreneurship and innovation, especially for SMEs, and needs to be dealt with in a consistent and efficient way EU-wide.

Amendment by Pilar del Castillo Vera

Amendment 166
Article 15, point (c)

c) supporting mutual learning for excellence in national and regional administrations.

c) supporting mutual learning for excellence in national, regional **and local** administrations.

Or. es

Justification

As already mentioned, we must not forget the local authorities.

Amendment by Dominique Vlasto and Anne Laperrouze

Amendment 167
Article 15 a (new)

Article 15a

Participation by small enterprises in the drafting and implementation of standards

Participation by small and craft enterprises in drawing up standardisation, quality control and safety policies in respect of goods and services includes:

(a) supporting and encouraging the participation of organisations representing small enterprises in European and international standardisation initiatives, including consumer protection;

(b) encouraging specialist training in the field of standardisation and quality control within organisations representing small and craft enterprises;

(c) provision of information, awareness and advisory services by competent professional agencies;

(d) encouraging the provision of documentation to explain, interpret and simplify standards, together with guidelines regarding their use and best practices;

(e) supporting the implementation of standards, including environmental standards, by small and craft enterprises.

Or. fr

Justification

Standardisation is necessary to ensure innovation and competitiveness in small and craft enterprises. To this end, standardisation policy must be adapted to their specific needs of these requiring sustained support at Community level for its implementation, particularly with regard to training information, awareness and interpretation.

Amendment by Patrizia Toia

Amendment 168
Article 15 a (new)

Article 15a

Participation by small enterprises in the drafting and implementation of standards

Participation by small enterprises in drawing up standardisation, quality control and safety policies in respect of goods and services includes:

(a) supporting and encouraging the participation of organisations representing small enterprises in European and international standardisation initiatives, including consumer protection;

(b) encouraging specialist training in the field of standardisation and quality control within organisations representing small enterprises;

(c) provision of information, awareness and advisory services by competent professional agencies;

(d) encouraging the provision of documentation to explain, interpret and simplify standards, together with guidelines regarding their use and best practices;

(e) supporting the implementation of standards, including environmental

standards, by small enterprises.

Or. fr

Amendment by Ján Hudacký

Amendment 169

Article 16, paragraph 1

1. Community financial instruments shall be operated with the aim to facilitate access to finance for SMEs in certain phases of their life cycle: seed, start-up, expansion and business transfer. Investments made by SMEs in activities such as technological development, innovation, and technology transfer shall be included in the scope of the instruments.

1. Community financial instruments shall be operated, ***preferably at regional and local level***, with the aim to facilitate access to finance for SMEs in certain phases of their life cycle: seed, start-up, expansion and business transfer. Investments made by SMEs in activities such as technological development, innovation, and technology transfer shall be included in the scope of the instruments.

Or. en

Justification

In order to secure socio-economic development of the less developed regions the implementation of the program should be carried out by local and regional players.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 170

Article 16, paragraph 1

1. Community financial instruments shall be operated with the aim to facilitate access to finance for SMEs in certain phases of their life cycle: seed, start-up, expansion and business transfer. Investments made by SMEs in activities such as technological development, innovation, ***and*** technology transfer shall be included in the scope of the instruments.

1. Community financial instruments shall be operated with the aim to facilitate access to finance for SMEs in certain phases of their life cycle: seed, start-up, expansion and business transfer. Investments made by SMEs in activities such as technological development ***and*** innovation, technology transfer ***and non-technological innovation, for example, process innovation, organisational and institutional innovation,*** shall be included in the scope of the instruments.

Justification

In accordance with the Oslo Manual definition of innovation.

The Oslo Manual (OECD/Eurostat, November 2005) contains the OECD/EU guidelines for collecting and interpreting innovation data. The Manual was recently revised and the third edition was presented in November 2005. The Manual clarifies the concept of innovation and as the definition of innovation in the CIP must be in accordance with the most recent specifications of the concept of innovation, the Oslo Manual is the obvious source of such definitions.

Amendment by Pilar del Castillo Vera

Amendment 171

Article 16, paragraph 1

1. Community financial instruments shall be operated with the aim to facilitate access to finance for SMEs in certain phases of their life cycle: seed, start-up, expansion and business transfer. Investments made by SMEs in activities such as technological development, innovation, and technology transfer shall be included in the scope of the instruments.

1. Community financial instruments shall be operated with the aim to facilitate access to finance for SMEs in certain phases of their life cycle: seed, start-up, expansion and business transfer. Investments made by SMEs in activities such as technological development, innovation, and technology transfer shall be included in the scope of the instruments, ***and the cross-border nature of their activities.***

Or. es

Justification

There is a need to finance the internationalisation of European enterprises at this key moment in time in which industrial relocations are of the order of the day in most European countries and sectors of industry.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 172

Article 17, paragraph 1, point (a)

(a) contributing to the establishment and financing of SMEs and the reduction of the equity and risk capital market gap, which

(a) contributing to the establishment and financing of SMEs and the reduction of the equity and risk capital market gap, which

prevents SMEs from exploiting their growth potential;

prevents SMEs from exploiting their growth potential, ***with a view to creating a European venture-capital market;***

Or. en

Justification

One of the main problems plaguing prospective investors of high growth potential SMEs in Europe today is the fragmentation of the venture capital market. It is important, in order to reduce the financing gap of innovative SMEs, to remove the regulatory and publicity obstacles faced by trans-national potential investors in venture capital funds. The GIF mechanism may contribute to the gradual creation of a truly European venture capital market.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 173

Article 17, paragraph 2, subparagraphs 1 and 2

2. The GIF shall consist of two windows:

The first window, called GIF1, shall cover early stage (seed and start up) investments. It shall target investments in specialised venture capital funds such as early stage funds, funds operating regionally, funds focused on specific sectors, technologies or RTD and funds linked to incubators, which shall in turn provide capital to SMEs. It may also co-invest in funds and investment vehicles promoted by business angels.

The second window, called GIF2, shall cover expansion stage investments and shall invest in specialised risk capital funds, which in turn shall provide quasi-equity or equity for innovative SMEs with high growth potential in their expansion phase. GIF2 investments shall ***avoid buy-out or replacement*** capital.

2. The GIF shall consist of two windows:

The first window, called GIF1, shall cover early stage (seed and start up) investments. It shall target investments in specialised venture capital funds such as early stage funds, funds operating regionally, funds focused on specific sectors, technologies or RTD and funds linked to incubators, which shall in turn provide capital to SMEs. ***It shall also target investments in funds specialised in second or third-run financing for SMEs meeting with great difficulty in raising venture capital funds.*** It may also co-invest in funds and investment vehicles promoted by business angels.

The second window, called GIF2, shall cover expansion stage investments and shall invest in specialised risk capital funds, which in turn shall provide quasi-equity or equity for innovative SMEs with high growth potential in their expansion phase. GIF2 investments shall ***support both buy-in and buy-out*** capital.

Or. en

Justification

Many high potential innovative SMEs face difficulties in their early stages due to lack of sufficient venture capital funds. Since it is important that the chain of financing be uninterrupted, we must aid specialised funds that co-finance already financed business projects (second or third-run financing).

The transfer of SMEs to a new owner is frequently combined with new investments and innovation, but is often blocked by the lack of sufficient capital for SMEs in their expansion stage. It is thus apposite that both management buy-in and buy-outs be supported under the GIF2 window.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 174

Article 17, paragraph 2, subparagraph 2

The second window, called GIF2, shall cover expansion stage investments and shall invest in specialised risk capital funds, which in turn shall provide quasi-equity or equity for innovative SMEs with high growth potential in their expansion phase. GIF2 investments shall avoid buy-out or replacement capital.

The second window, called GIF2, shall cover expansion stage investments and shall invest in specialised risk capital funds, which in turn shall provide quasi-equity or equity for innovative SMEs with high growth potential in their expansion phase. GIF2 investments shall avoid buy-out or replacement capital.

GIF investments shall be targeted at funds that can demonstrate experience and excellence in cooperating with innovative SMEs, innovation and research clusters, such as science- or technology parks, and other innovation actors.

Or. en

Justification

To ensure the overall quality management of the programme quality measures must be implemented on all aspects and instruments.

Because the GIF facility is operated by EIF and in order to ensure that the financial intermediaries are more than just advisors and intermediaries and thus not part of the innovation processes and environments it is essential that the venture capital funds, "business angels" etc. has great knowledge and close relations with innovative SMEs, Innovation- and RTD-clusters etc. Exactly by close cooperation with SMEs a leverage effect of the CIP funds is attained.

Amendment by Ján Hudacký

Amendment 175

Article 17, paragraph 2, subparagraph 3

GIF may invest in intermediaries by working, where appropriate, with national schemes aimed at developing small business investment companies.

GIF may invest in intermediaries, ***preferably acting at regional level***, by working, where appropriate, with national schemes aimed at developing small business investment companies.

Or. en

Justification

Regional intermediaries are able to better recognise innovation potential and capacity of local businesses and react more flexibly at their needs and changing regional business environment.

Amendment by Werner Langen

Amendment 176

Article 18, paragraph 2, window (a)

The first window, (a) debt financing via loans or leasing, shall reduce the particular difficulties SMEs face in accessing finance due to the perceived higher risk associated with investments in knowledge related activities such as technological development, innovation and technology transfer and due to the lack of sufficient collateral.

The first window, (a) debt financing via loans or leasing, shall reduce the particular difficulties SMEs face in accessing finance due to the perceived higher risk associated with investments in knowledge related activities such as technological development, innovation and technology transfer ***or in the cross-border expansion of their business activities*** and due to the lack of sufficient collateral;

Or. de

Justification

SMEs face particular difficulties in gaining access to finance when expanding their activities into neighbouring countries, since the financial institutions consider the risks to be higher or have insufficient information about the region in which the investment is to be made.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 177

Article 18, paragraph 2, subparagraph 4

The fourth window, (d) securitisation of SME debt finance portfolios, shall mobilise additional debt financing for SMEs under appropriate risk-sharing arrangements with the targeted institutions. Support for those transactions shall be conditional upon an undertaking by the originating institutions to grant a significant part of the resulting liquidity of the mobilised capital for new SME lending in a reasonable period of time.

The fourth window, (d) securitisation of SME debt finance portfolios, shall mobilise additional debt financing for SMEs under appropriate risk-sharing arrangements with the targeted institutions. Support for those transactions shall be conditional upon an undertaking by the originating institutions to grant a significant part of the resulting liquidity of the mobilised capital for new SME lending in a reasonable period of time.

SMEG windows shall be targeted at banks and financial intermediaries that can demonstrate experience and excellence in cooperating with innovative SMEs, innovation and research clusters, such as science- or technology parks, and other innovation actors.

Or. en

Justification

To ensure the overall quality management of the programme quality measures must be implemented on all aspects and instruments.

Because the SMEG facility is operated by EIF and in order to ensure that the financial intermediaries are more than just advisors and intermediaries and thus not part of the innovation processes and environments it is essential that the venture capital funds, "business angels" etc. has great knowledge and close relations with innovative SMEs, Innovation- and RTD-clusters etc. Exactly by close cooperation with SMEs a leverage effect of the CIP funds is attained.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 178

Article 19, paragraph 1, point (b a) (new)

(ba) improving the competences of venture funds, banks and financial intermediaries as regards cooperation with innovative SMEs, innovation and research clusters, such as science- or technology parks, and

other innovation actors.

Or. en

Justification

To ensure equal access for all SMEs to the GIF and SMEG facilities the CBS action must address the improvement of the competences of venture funds, banks and financial intermediaries in cooperating with innovative SMEs, Innovation- and RTD-clusters and other "innovation actors" while maintaining the focus on the importance of experience and excellence of the GIF and SMEG financial intermediaries. This implies a need for the additional support of a counselling and training facility for financial intermediaries in some Member States.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 179

Article 19, paragraph 2, subparagraph 5

The Partnership action shall accompany the credit lines or the risk-sharing provided by international financial institutions to partner banks or financial institutions from the eligible countries. A significant part of the action shall relate to improving banks' capacity to assess the commercial viability of projects with a significant eco-innovation component.

The Partnership action shall accompany the credit lines or the risk-sharing provided by international financial institutions to partner banks or financial institutions from the eligible countries. A significant part of the action shall relate to improving banks' capacity to assess the commercial viability of projects with a significant eco-innovation component.

To ensure equal access for SMEs to the GIF and SMEG facilities, CBS actions shall relate to improvement of the competences of venture funds, banks and financial intermediaries as regards cooperation with innovative SMEs, innovation and research clusters, such as science- or technology parks, and other innovation actors. In order to do so, an advisory and training facility shall be established.

Or. en

Justification

To ensure equal access for all SMEs to the GIF and SMEG facilities the CBS action must address the improvement of the competences of venture funds, banks and financial

intermediaries in cooperating with innovative SMEs, Innovation- and RTD-clusters and other "innovation actors" while maintaining the focus on the importance of experience and excellence of the GIF and SMEG financial intermediaries. This implies a need for the additional support of a counselling and training facility for financial intermediaries in some Member States.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 180

Article 20, paragraph 2, points (a), (b) and (c)

(a) Information, Feedback and Business Cooperation services;

(b) Innovation, Technology and Knowledge transfer services;

(c) Services encouraging the participation of SMEs in the Community framework Programme for RTD.

(a) Information, Feedback and Business Cooperation services *(such as the Euro-Info Centres (EIC))*;

(b) Innovation, Technology and Knowledge transfer services *(such as the Innovation Relay Centres (IRC))*;

(c) Services encouraging the participation of SMEs in the Community framework Programme for RTD *(such as the National Contact Points)*.

Or. en

Amendment by Werner Langen

Amendment 181

Article 20, paragraph 2, introductory part

2. *For the purpose of* paragraph 1, *financial* support may be granted to network partners to provide, in particular:

2. *Building on the specialist market knowledge acquired by the existing European business support networks, in particular the Euro Info Centres (EIC) and the Innovation Relay Centres (IRC), enterprise-related advisory bodies shall be instructed to cooperate closely in performing the services to businesses, particularly SMEs, referred to in paragraph 1. Financial* support may be granted to network partners to provide, in particular :

Or. de

Justification

Use should be made of the existing experience of the Euro-Info Centres (EIC) and the Innovation-Relay-Centres (IRC).

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis

Amendment 182

Article 20, paragraph 2, point (-a) (new)

(-a) Establishment of an Innovation and Competitiveness Hotline in at least three languages with the capacity to provide reliable assistance to SMEs requesting it, and to inform them about support programmes for which they may be eligible together with relevant contact details;

Or. de

Justification

It must be made possible for SMEs to obtain reliable information quickly and easily.

Amendment by Werner Langen

Amendment 183

Article 20, paragraph 2, point (a)

(a) Information, Feedback and Business Cooperation services;

(a) Information, ***Support***, Feedback and Business Cooperation services (***as offered by the Euro Info Centres (EIC)***);

Or. de

Justification

The existing experience of the Euro Info Centres (EIC) and the Innovation Relay Centres (IRC) should be exploited.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 184

Article 20, paragraph 2, point (c a) (new)

(ca) Services encouraging the participation of SMEs in the Framework Programme and national programmes for entrepreneurship and innovation.

Or. en

Justification

The programmes contains services encouraging SMEs to participate in the Community RTD Programme (Article 20, paragraph 2 (c)) and should also contain such service for the CIP. As it is the SME that are the foundation of growth and employment in both old and new sectors, it is important to promote Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programmes such as the CIP. Such promotion is essential to the impact of the programmes. SMEs has not had sufficient support in participate in the former Community programmes for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (MAP).

Amendment by Werner Langen

Amendment 185

Article 20, paragraph 3

3. The Commission shall select network partners through calls for proposals in relation to the different services referred to in paragraph 2(a), (b) and (c). Following those calls for proposals the Commission may establish a framework partnership agreement with selected network partners specifying the type of activities to be offered, the procedure for awarding grants to them and the general rights and obligations of each party. The framework partnership may cover the whole period of duration of the programme

3. The Commission shall select network partners through calls for proposals in relation to the different services referred to in paragraph 2(a), (b) and (c), ***looking in particular at the applicants' relevant experience in the planning and execution of support services for businesses, particularly SMEs, in the cross-border expansion of their commercial activities.*** Following those calls for proposals the Commission may establish a framework partnership agreement with selected network partners specifying the type of activities to be offered, the procedure for awarding grants to them and the general rights and obligations of each party. The framework partnership may cover the whole period of duration of the programme

Justification

The existing experience of the Euro Info Centres (EIC) and the Innovation Relay Centres (IRC) should be exploited.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 186
Article 20, paragraph 3

3. The Commission shall select network partners through calls for proposals in relation to the different services referred to in paragraph 2(a), (b) **and** (c). Following those calls for proposals the Commission may establish a framework partnership agreement with selected network partners specifying the type of activities to be offered, the procedure for awarding grants to them and the general rights and obligations of each party. The framework partnership may cover the whole period of duration of the programme.

3. The Commission shall select network partners through calls for proposals in relation to the different services referred to in paragraph 2(a), (b), (c) **and (ca)**. Following those calls for proposals the Commission may establish a framework partnership agreement with selected network partners specifying the type of activities to be offered, the procedure for awarding grants to them and the general rights and obligations of each party. The framework partnership may cover the whole period of duration of the programme.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 187
Article 20, paragraph 3 a (new)

3a. In order to ensure the quality of the services referred to in paragraph 2(a), (b), (c) and (ca) the selection of network partners will emphasize:

- experience and excellence in counselling, dissemination of knowledge and creation of networks;

- sufficient coverage of the activities laid down in Annex III;

- the outstanding quality of the services referred to in paragraph 2(a), (b), (c) and

(d) must be ensured for all the partners in the networks notwithstanding the Members State they are operating in.

Or. en

Justification

The quality of the services provided by the EuroInfoCenters and Innovation Relay Centers need to be ensured in order to answer the criticism from SMEs regarding the quality of the services provided for concerning other Community programmes.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 188

Article 20, paragraph 3 a (new)

3a. In addition to the services referred to in paragraph 2(a), (b) and (c), the Commission may provide financial support for the establishment of "one-stop-shop" information centres in the Member States where potential applicants will be informed about the aid possibilities of the Framework Programme as a whole and, where relevant, be referred to the appropriate contact partners as referred to in paragraph 2. The "one-stop-shop" information centres shall also provide information with respect to programmes supported by the Structural Funds and the Fund for Rural Development, as well as to other relevant community programmes (e.g. the Lifelong Learning programme) which share objectives similar and complementary to those of the Framework Programme and, where relevant, refer the interested parties to the corresponding responsible structures for further assistance.

Or. en

Justification

"EU one-stop-shops" will ensure that interested parties, especially SMEs that do not have the time and resources for spotting where they can find support, gain easy access to information and advice on all the existing services that may prove helpful to them.

A practical link with the relevant lifelong learning programmes and the programmes funded by the Structural Funds and the Rural Development Fund needs to be established in order to foster necessary synergies with the Framework Programme.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 189

Article 20, paragraph 4

4. In addition to the services referred to under paragraph 2(a), (b) **and** (c), the Commission may provide financial support for the implementation of other activities within the scope of the framework programme following calls for proposals restricted to the network partners.

4. In addition to the services referred to under paragraph 2(a), (b), (c) **and (ca)**, the Commission may provide financial support for the implementation of other activities within the scope of the framework programme following calls for proposals restricted to the network partners. ***The Commission shall evaluate the quality of the services provided by the network partners once a year. If the quality of the services provided is found to be dissatisfactory the framework partnership agreements must be renegotiated or new calls for proposals made.***

Or. en

Justification

As part of the over all quality management of the programme, the services provided by the network partners must be evaluated and proper changes made, if the quality of the services are not found satisfactory.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 190

Article 20, paragraph 4

4. In addition to the services referred to

4. In addition to the services referred to

under paragraph 2(a), (b) **and** (c), the Commission may provide financial support for the implementation of other activities within the scope of the framework programme following calls for proposals restricted to the network partners.

under paragraph 2(a), (b), (c) **and paragraph 3a**, the Commission may provide financial support for the implementation of other activities within the scope of the framework programme following calls for proposals restricted to the network partners.

Or. en

Justification

Follows from the introduction of new article 20(3a) new

Amendment by Pilar del Castillo Vera

Amendment 191
Article 20, paragraph 4 a (new)

4a. The Commission shall provide particular support for SMEs in those regions which, owing either to their outlying nature or lesser development, require innovative action to strengthen their business competitiveness.

Or. es

Justification

In order to facilitate economies of scale and with the aim of developing clusters at a regional and local level which may facilitate the development of a European cluster, it is of vital importance that these regions be given support in terms of actions to promote innovation and competitiveness tailored to their economic and enterprise structures.

Amendment by Patrizia Toia

Amendment 192
Article 20, paragraph 6 a (new)

(6a.) National or regional services assisting organisations representing small enterprises must be consulted and can be given financial aid to launch activities

under the framework programme.

Or. fr

Justification

Representative organisations are in contact with millions of small enterprises making it possible to carry out the necessary groundwork for small enterprises to become more competitive in vital areas of the framework programme: innovation, environment, ITCs, standardisation and company transfer.

Amendment by Werner Langen

Amendment 193

Article 21, paragraph 2, point (b)

(b) ***together involve*** at least ***three*** participating countries; and

(b) ***comprise participants from*** at least ***two*** participating countries;

Or. de

Justification

A minimum of two participant countries is sufficient. In order to achieve the desired effect, a cooperation project with two participants should be eligible to apply for funding to promote innovation.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 194

Article 21, paragraph 4

4. Support may be granted to selected groups of cooperating programmes with a view to adding value to a whole group or to one or more specific actions under a group, to creating synergy between cooperating programmes, or to ensuring critical mass.

4. Support may be granted to selected groups of cooperating programmes with a view to adding value to a whole group or to one or more specific actions under a group, to creating synergy between cooperating programmes, or to ensuring critical mass.
Support may be granted for cooperation between national or regional public promotional institutions such as promotional banks or funds to enable them to exchange best practices and launch pilot

projects for trans-national promotional schemes for SMEs.

Or. en

Justification

The Business innovation support scheme is a very useful tool to better coordinate at trans-national level SME support actions that are essentially national or even regional in the EU Member States. Public promotional institutions providing business support services stand to gain a lot by strengthening their institutional cooperation and by launching trans-national promotional schemes or funds for SMEs that wish to open to cross-border investments and partnering.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 195
Article 22, point (a)

(a) studies, data collection, surveys and publications, based where possible on official statistics;

(a) studies, ***including market feasibility studies***, data collection, surveys and publications, ***including those emanating from think tanks specialised in entrepreneurship and innovation***, based where possible on official statistics;

Or. en

Justification

In order to boost competitiveness, it is important not only to innovate, but also to know for which kind of innovation there is a demand in the market. The development of a European network of think tanks specialised in policy analyses on entrepreneurship and innovation is a catalyst for the creation of an entrepreneurship and innovation culture.

Amendment by Patrizia Toia

Amendment 196
Article 22, point (d a) (new)

(da) consultation and direct involvement of organisations representing the enterprises concerned.

Amendment by Patrizia Toia

Amendment 197
Article 22, point (d b) (new)

(db) the dissemination and utilisation of the teaching supports, toolbox resources guidelines and technical documentation developed for SMEs in one Member State so as to achieve optimum results with resulting benefits for other Member States.

Justification

SME organisations in various Member States have developed teaching supports, toolbox resources, guidelines and technical documentation which have proved useful but are not always known in other Member States (translation problems). This simply requires translation work and the adaptation of these instruments to the situation at local and national level so as to achieve cost-effectiveness.

Amendment by Werner Langen

Amendment 198
Article 23

Twinning between **authorities** at national and regional level

1. In order to allow for targeted administrative co-operation, twinning actions may be established on the basis of calls for proposals to national contact points. These may subsequently identify a lead expert or a team of experts in agreement with the relevant national or regional authorities.

2. The Commission shall review the work plan established by the lead expert or the teams of experts and may award a grant to **public administrations**.

Twinning between **business-related organisations** at national and regional level

1. In order to allow for targeted administrative co-operation, twinning actions **between business-related organisations** may be established on the basis of calls for proposals to national contact points. These may subsequently identify a lead expert or a team of experts in agreement with the relevant national or regional authorities.

2. The Commission shall review the work plan established by the lead expert or the teams of experts and may award a grant to **organisations**.

3. The twinning actions may be accompanied by central support services from the Commission

Or. de

Justification

The aim is to promote innovation in the commercial field, and funding should accordingly be restricted to this field. Cooperation between businesses and commercial organisations may support this.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 199
Article 23, Title

Twinning between authorities at national and regional level

Twinning between authorities at national and regional level **and business associations**

Or. en

Justification

Cooperation between enterprises and their organisations should be included.

Amendment by Pilar del Castillo Vera

Amendment 200
Article 23, Title

Twinning between authorities at national and regional level.

Twinning between authorities at national, regional **and local** level.

Or. es

Justification

There is a need to introduce the local dimension to cooperation between authorities.

Amendment by Pilar del Castillo Vera

Amendment 201
Article 23, paragraph 1

1. In order to allow for targeted administrative co-operation, twinning actions may be established on the basis of calls for proposals to national contact points. These may subsequently identify a lead expert or a team of experts in agreement with the relevant national or regional authorities.

1. In order to allow for targeted administrative co-operation, twinning actions may be established on the basis of calls for proposals to national contact points. These may subsequently identify a lead expert or a team of experts in agreement with the relevant national, regional **or local** authorities.

Or. es

Justification

There is a need to introduce the local dimension to cooperation between authorities.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 202
Article 23, paragraph 1

1. In order to allow for targeted administrative co-operation, twinning actions may be established on the basis of calls for proposals to national contact points. These may subsequently identify a lead expert or a team of experts in agreement with the relevant national or regional authorities.

1. In order to allow for targeted administrative co-operation, twinning actions may be established on the basis of calls for proposals to national contact points. These may subsequently identify a lead expert or a team of experts in agreement with the relevant national or regional authorities **and business associations**.

Or. en

Justification

Cooperation between enterprises and their organisations should be included.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 203
Article 23, paragraph 2

2. The Commission shall review the work plan established by the lead expert or the teams of experts and may award a grant to public administrations.

2. The Commission shall review the work plan established by the lead expert or the teams of experts and may award a grant to public administrations **and business associations**.

Or. en

Justification

Cooperation between enterprises and their organisations should be included.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 204
Article 24

Programme support measures

The Commission may undertake the following:

- (a) analysis and monitoring of competitiveness and sectoral issues, including for the Commission's annual report on the competitiveness of European industry;
- (b) preparation of impact assessments of Community measures of particular relevance for the competitiveness of enterprises;
- (c) evaluation of specific aspects or specific implementation measures in relation to this programme;
- (d) dissemination of appropriate information

Programme support **and other** measures

The Commission may undertake the following:

- (a) analysis and monitoring of competitiveness and sectoral issues, including for the Commission's annual report on the competitiveness of European industry;
- (b) preparation of impact assessments of Community measures of particular relevance for the competitiveness of enterprises **and subsequently simplification of existing legislation or preparation of new legislative measures which will make innovation more attractive in the EU (e.g. in the field of Intellectual Property Rights)**;
- (c) evaluation of specific aspects or specific implementation measures in relation to this programme;
- (d) dissemination of appropriate information

in relation to this programme.

in relation to this programme.

(da) preparation of a proposal for a Council Regulation for setting up a Community Agency for Innovation.

Or. en

Justification

The title needs to better reflect the content of the Article.

The EU must respond to the need for an attractive legal framework for innovation (e.g. in the field of IPRs) in order to cope with its competitors worldwide.

Regarding the need for a European Agency on Innovation, see the justification for Amendment 3.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis, Britta Thomsen, Claude Turmes, Vittorio Prodi, Lena Ek

Amendment 205

Article 25

The work programme shall set out in detail the objectives and priorities, operational timetables as well as the rules for participation and the criteria for the selection and evaluation of the measures ***referred to in Articles 16 to 23.***

The work programme shall set out in detail the objectives and priorities, ***the measures needed for their implementation,*** operational timetables as well as the rules for participation and the criteria for the selection and evaluation of the ***implementing measures, in line with the objectives set out in Article 10, with the exception of those referred to in Article 24. The work programme shall identify the measures promoting eco-innovation and present them in a separate chapter.***

Or. en

Justification

With the initial formulation we rule out the possibility of a common implementation tool-box as provided under Article 6. Also, the new formulation is consistent with the other relevant provisions (Article 36 and 45). In addition, we need to give clarity to what exactly eco-innovation concerns also at work programme level.

Amendment by Lena Ek

Amendment 206
Article 25, paragraph 1 a (new)

The Commission shall establish the work programme in consultation with the committee referred to in Article 46(1)(a).

Or. sv

Justification

The programme committees have an important role to play and their powers should not be weakened.

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis

Amendment 207
Article 26, paragraph 3

3. The actions referred to in paragraph 2 ***shall be carried out with a particular emphasis on*** promotion and awareness raising of the opportunities and benefits that ICTs bring to citizens and businesses.

3. The actions referred to in paragraph 2 ***are intended to improve the innovation potential and competitiveness of SMEs. Actions will also include*** promotion and awareness raising of the opportunities and benefits that ICTs bring to citizens and businesses.

Or. en

Justification

The innovation potential of SMEs has to be unlocked.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 208
Article 26, paragraph 3

3. The actions referred to in paragraph 2 shall be carried out ***with a particular emphasis on*** promotion and awareness raising of the opportunities and benefits that ICTs bring to citizens and businesses.

3. The actions referred to in paragraph 2 ***will contribute to improving the innovation potential and competitiveness of enterprises, in particular of SMEs, and shall be carried out taking into***

consideration, where possible, the promotion and awareness raising of the opportunities and benefits that ICTs bring to citizens and businesses.

Or. en

Justification

Awareness raising is very important but should not be a pre-condition for all actions.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 209
Article 27, point (a)

(a) ensuring seamless access to ICT-based services and establishing appropriate framework conditions for rapid **and** appropriate take up of converging digital communications and services, including interoperability, security and trust aspects;

(a) ensuring seamless access to ICT-based services and establishing appropriate framework conditions for rapid, appropriate **and effective** take up of converging digital communications and services, including interoperability, security and trust aspects;

Or. el

Justification

The take up of digital communications and services must be judged in terms of not only ease of access but also the measurable effectiveness of the services provided to individual users. The individual should not only have access to these technologies but be able to put them to effective use and derive benefit from them.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 210
Article 29, point (a)

(a) widening ICT accessibility **and** digital literacy;

(a) widening ICT accessibility, digital literacy **and familiarisation of the public with ICTs**;

Or. el

Justification

ICT accessibility is a necessary precondition but is in itself insufficient to bridge the digital divide. Methodical and innovatory action must be encouraged to inform the public and familiarise it with these new technologies and their use, thereby stimulating demand in this sector.

Amendment by Claude Turmes

Amendment 211
Article 29, point (c)

(c) improving the quality, efficiency and availability of electronic services in areas of public interest and for ICT enabled participation, including interoperable pan-European or cross border public services as well as the development of common interest building blocks and sharing good practices.

(c) improving the quality, efficiency and availability of electronic services in areas of public interest and for ICT enabled participation, including interoperable pan-European or cross border public services as well as the development of common interest building blocks and sharing good practices, ***including the use of open standards, and ensuring technological neutrality and data preservation.***

Or. en

Justification

Not only should the content that public administration develop today be accessible by all users whatever brand of software they use ; but also this material must remain accessible for future generations when software largely widespread today will not be in use anymore.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 212
Article 29, point (c a) (new)

(ca) using ICT technologies to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged sections of the public, for example, disabled people, elderly people.

Or. en

Justification

Special categories of the public facing particular difficulties should receive special attention and profit from the development of ICT technologies.

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis

Amendment 213
Article 30, paragraph 2 a (new)

This part of the programme should, above all, reinforce the competitiveness and innovation potential of SMEs.

Or. en

Justification

The innovation potential of SMEs has to be unlocked.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 214
Article 31, paragraph 1, point (c)

(c) thematic networks bringing together a variety of stakeholders around a given objective, so as to facilitate co-ordination activities and transfer of knowledge.

(c) thematic networks bringing together a variety of stakeholders around a given objective, so as to facilitate co-ordination activities and transfer of knowledge.
Thematic networks bringing people together and encouraging the exchange of technological know how and the joint development of projects by geographical areas or regions of the EU on the basis of their common (cultural, geographical or other) ground.

Or. el

Justification

Under the framework programme, the opportunity should be provided for the creation of thematic networks bringing together stakeholders who may be few in number but who face common (cultural, geographical or other) difficulties and obstacles hampering their efforts to bridge the digital divide. Such a measure will be of particular importance to less-favoured

areas, including remote island and mountain communities.

Amendment by Francisca Pleguezuelos Aguilar

Amendment 215

Article 31, paragraph 2, subparagraph 2

The Community may award a grant to the budget of the projects referred to in paragraph 1(a) corresponding to a maximum of 50% of their total cost. Public sector bodies may be reimbursed on the basis of 100% of additional costs.

The Community may award a grant to the budget of the projects referred to in paragraph 1(a) corresponding to a maximum of 50% of their total cost. Public sector bodies, **NGOs and not-for-profit organisations** may be reimbursed on the basis of 100% of additional costs.

Or. es

Justification

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and not-for-profit organisations operate for the general good and should therefore receive the same treatment as public bodies.

Amendment by Patrizia Toia

Amendment 216

Article 31, paragraph 2, second subparagraph

The Community may award a grant to the budget of the projects referred to in paragraph 1(a) corresponding to a maximum of **50 %** of their total cost. Public sector bodies may be reimbursed on the basis of 100 % of additional costs.

The Community may award a grant to the budget of the projects referred to in paragraph 1(a) corresponding to a maximum of **75%** of their total cost. Public sector bodies may be reimbursed on the basis of 100 % of additional costs.

Or. fr

Justification

The proposed maximum of 50% in accordance with the practice followed by the Directorate-General for Research for commercial projects (while other DGs – employment, enlargement, etc. – set a maximum of 75%) is too low for non-profit-making organisations which cannot afford 50% of project costs (several organisations in the new Member States and applicant countries are unable able to participate even when required to pay only 25%). Even projects where enterprises participate require a coordinator (frequently a non-profit-making organisation).

Amendment by Werner Langen

Amendment 217
Article 31, paragraph 4, subparagraph 2

Support for thematic activities shall be granted towards the additional eligible costs of co-ordinating and implementing the network. The Community participation may cover the additional eligible costs of those measures.

50% subsidies for thematic activities shall be granted towards the additional eligible costs of co-ordinating and implementing the network. The Community participation may cover the additional eligible costs of those measures.

Or. de

Justification

Treating all subsidies equally by setting them at 50% across the board encourages the proper implementation of the programme in the beneficiaries' own interest. Subsidies at 100% would encourage abuses of public funds. Preferential treatment for public bodies would contravene the EU's competition principles.

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis

Amendment 218
Article 33, introductory part

The following shall be undertaken in support of policy analyses, development and coordination with participating countries:

The following shall be undertaken in support of policy analyses, development and coordination with participating countries;
with a view, in particular, to reinforcing the competitiveness and innovation potential of European businesses, in particular SMEs:

Or. en

Justification

The innovation potential of SMEs has to be unlocked.

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis

Amendment 219
Article 34, paragraph 1, introductory part

1. The following shall be undertaken in support of the implementation of the programme or the preparation of future activities:

1. The following shall be undertaken in support of the implementation of the programme or the preparation of future activities ***with a view, in particular, to reinforcing the competitiveness and innovation potential of European businesses, in particular SMEs:***

Or. en

Justification

The innovation potential of SMEs has to be unlocked.

Amendment by Lena Ek

Amendment 220
Article 36, paragraph 1 a (new)

The Commission shall set up the work programme in consultation with the committee referred to in Article 46(1)(a).

Or. sv

Justification

The programme committees have an important role to play and their powers should not be weakened.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 221
Article 37, paragraph 1

1. A programme in support of energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and energy diversification, hereinafter ‘the Intelligent Energy – Europe Programme’, is hereby established.

1. A programme in support of energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and energy diversification, hereinafter ‘the Intelligent Energy – Europe Programme’, is hereby established. ***This programme should be considered as a mean for EU to become world leader in the field of sustainable energy technologies and high efficiency applications, and thus crucial for the***

European competitiveness.

Or. en

Justification

In accordance with the Treaty all EU programmes must consider the aspect of sustainability. This obviously is implicit in the actions of the IEE. However, making the IEE part of the CIP it is important to emphasize that EU could have a competitive edge in the field of sustainable energy technologies and high efficiency applications (General Electric has announced new large scale investments in this field). The change will indicate both the impact on EU economical competitiveness and on the competitiveness of EU enterprises in the field of sustainable utilization of natural resources.

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Nikolaos Vakalis, Claude Turmes, Britta Thomsen

Amendment 222
Article 38, point (c)

(c) removing the non-technological barriers to efficient and intelligent patterns of energy production and consumption by promoting institutional capacity building including the local and regional level, by raising awareness, notably through the educational system, by encouraging exchanges of experience and know-how among the main players concerned, business and citizens in general and by stimulating the spread of best practices and best available technologies, notably by means of promotion at Community level.

(c) removing the non-technological barriers to efficient and intelligent patterns of energy production and consumption by promoting institutional capacity building including the local and regional level, by raising awareness, notably through the educational system, by encouraging exchanges of experience and know-how among the main players concerned, business, ***in particular SMEs***, and citizens in general and by stimulating the spread of best practices and best available technologies, notably by means of promotion at Community level.

Or. en

Justification

SMEs are key for innovation in the field of energy.

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Nikolaos Vakalis, Claude Turmes, Britta Thomsen

Amendment 223
Article 39, point (a)

(a) improvement of energy efficiency and

(a) improvement of energy efficiency and

the rational use of energy, in particular in the building **and** industry **sectors**, with the exception of actions covered by Article 41;

the rational use of energy, in particular in the building **sector, in the industry sector, with particular attention being paid to SMEs, and in the field of energy-using products** , with the exception of actions covered by Article 41;

Or. en

Justification

SMEs have to specially mentioned here and energy using products are relevant because of the activities around market transformation of consumer products (ecodesign directive).

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Nikolaos Vakalis, Claude Turmes, Britta Thomsen

Amendment 224
Article 39, point (b)

(b) supporting the preparation of legislative measures and their application.

(b) supporting the preparation of legislative measures and their application, **while ensuring new business opportunities in the field of energy services.**

Or. en

Amendment by Jan Březina

Amendment 225
Article 39, point (b a) (new)

(ba) supporting the heating and cooling sector .

Or. en

Justification

The heating and cooling amounts with its approximately 40 percent of the energy consumption among the priorities in the energy sector therefore a special attention shall be paid to the domain of heating and cooling, including the development of new technologies.

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Nikolaos Vakalis, Claude Turmes, Britta Thomsen

Amendment 226
Article 40, point (a)

(a) promoting new and renewable energy sources for centralised and decentralised production of electricity **and** heat and supporting the diversification of energy sources, with the exception of actions covered by Article 41;

(a) promoting new and renewable energy sources for centralised and decentralised production of electricity, heat and **cooling and thus** supporting the diversification of energy sources, with the exception of actions covered by Article 41;

Or. en

Amendment by Lena Ek

Amendment 227
Article 43, point (b)

b) creation, enlargement or reorganisation of structures and instruments for sustainable energy development, including local and regional energy management, and the development of adequate financial products and market instruments.

b) creation, enlargement or reorganisation of structures and instruments for sustainable energy development, including local and regional energy management, and the development of adequate financial products and market instruments, **making use of experience from past and present networks such as the OPET Network and ManagEnergy.**

Or. sv

Justification

The OPET Network, comprising some 40 offices in and outside Europe, has been in existence since the mid-1990s, and it would be a waste not to make use of this fund of knowledge. The action of ManagEnergy has led to work on renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures being stepped up at local and regional level within the EU.

Amendment by Patrizia Toia

Amendment 228
Article 43, point (e a) (new)

(ea) financial aid for national or regional services assisting organisations representing small enterprises to provide information, training and advice to ensure

good practices by small companies regarding energy use and the adaptation and promotion of sustainable energy fittings.

Or. fr

Justification

Representative organisations are in contact with millions of small enterprises, making it possible to carry out the necessary groundwork for small enterprises to achieve better results in vital areas of the framework programme, including energy efficiency.

Amendment by Lena Ek

Amendment 229
Article 45, paragraph 1 a (new)

The Commission shall establish the work programme in consultation with the committee referred to in Article 46(1)(a).

Or. sv

Justification

The programme committees have an important role to play and their powers should not be weakened.

Amendment by Lambert van Nistelrooij

Amendment 230
Article 46, paragraph 1, point (c a) (new)

ca) for the overall co-ordination of the implementation of the objectives of the Framework Programme, by a committee called the CIP Objectives Management Committee (CIPOC).

Or. en

Justification

Besides three management committees for each of CIP's specific programmes, a co-

ordinating organ that monitors the compliance with the CIP's horizontal objectives is a useful tool.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 231
Article 46, paragraph 3 a (new)

3a. Following a favourable cost-benefit analysis, the Commission may establish an Executive Agency for the whole Framework Programme, to assist it throughout the implementation of the Framework Programme.

Or. en

Justification

If financially more beneficial (this should be evaluated by a cost-benefit analysis), an executive agency shall ensure more efficient and coherent implementation of the Programme.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 232
Article 46 a (new)

Article 46a

High Level Advisory Board on Competitiveness and Innovation

1. The Commission shall be advised by a High Level Advisory Board on Competitiveness and Innovation composed of representatives of industry and business associations, including those representing SMEs, and other experts. Their expertise should be related to the sectors and issues addressed by the Framework Programme, including financing, ICT, energy and eco-innovation.

Or. en

Justification

The proposal lacks the element of stakeholder consultation and participation in the implementation process. Therefore, the main novelty of introducing an Advisory Board is that the expertise of actors working in the fields that CIP deals with will be brought into the Programme in order for latter to better correspond (and eventually be adjusted) to the actual needs of the Union. Such a Board will also ensure coherence between all composing parts of the Framework Programme, and thus boost competitiveness and innovation by exchanging good practices from one sub-programme to the other.

Amendment by Dominique Vlasto, Anne Laperrouze

Amendment 233
Article 46 a (new)

Article 46 a

Consultation of organisations representing enterprises

1. The Commission shall seek to involve organisations representing enterprises, in particular SMEs, micro-enterprises and craft enterprises in policy making and in the formulation and preparation of programmes of action and operational measures within the framework programme.

2. The consultation of these organisations shall be carried out in coordination with the committees referred to in Article 46.

Or. fr

Justification

Organisations representing enterprises (chambers, professional organisations etc.) are directly attuned to their needs and expectations, providing them with advice, information, specialist knowledge and assistance. Such services are all the more important for small and micro-enterprises, particularly craft enterprises, since they do not themselves dispose of such resources.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 234
Article 46 b (new)

Article 46b

Application Procedure - Vademecum

1. The Commission, having regard to the opinion of the High Level Advisory Board on Competitiveness and Innovation on the matter, shall adopt a simple and unbureaucratic application procedure which will allow participants easy access to the Framework Programme.

2. After the entry into force of the Framework Programme, the Commission will publish a readable and user-friendly Vademecum establishing a clear, simple and transparent framework of general principles for the participation of beneficiaries in the Framework Programme. This should in particular facilitate the participation of SMEs.

3. The Vademecum will establish the rights and obligations of beneficiaries; financial provisions such as eligible costs and support rates; principles governing administrative rules and procedures, in particular user-friendly applications procedures applying a two-stage application process where appropriate; the rules for use and dissemination of project results; and principles for the evaluation, selection and award of proposals.

4. The Commission shall ensure that the time between submission of applications and notification of evaluation results is as short as possible.

Or. en

Justification

The application procedure must be as less complicated as possible in order to give easy access to any possible users, and in particular to SMEs. The Commission shall consult stakeholders in order to conclude which application procedure is the most beneficial to the users. In any case, the application procedure must be finalised in the quickest way possible. Users must have very clear and easy information about how the programme will be implemented.

Amendment by Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Nikolaos Vakalis, Britta Thomsen, Claude Turmes, Vittorio Prodi, Lena Ek

Amendment 235
Annex I, point (a)

(a) EUR 2 631 million for the pursuance of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme'), of which **up to 520 million** will be implemented to promote eco-innovation;

(a) EUR 2 631 million for the pursuance of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme, of which **approximately 520 million** will be implemented to promote eco-innovation;

Or. en

Amendment by Dorette Corbey

Amendment 236
Annex I, point (a)

a) EUR 2 631 million for the pursuance of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme'), of which up to **520 million** will be implemented to promote eco-innovation

a) EUR 2 631 million for the pursuance of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme'), of which up to **900 million** will be implemented to promote eco-innovation **and EUR 300 million for health-related innovation.**

Or. nl

Justification

A considerable sum must be available both for investments in eco-innovation and for health-related investments. This amendment leaves the total amount unchanged, and merely seeks to make clear that enough money will be made available both for eco-innovation and for innovation related to health.

Amendment by Pilar del Castillo Vera

Amendment 237
Annex II, Section 1, point C, paragraph 1

An appropriate fee policy shall apply to the operation of the instruments. The fees shall be established by the Commission in line with market practices and shall take into

An appropriate fee policy shall apply to the operation of the instruments. The fees shall be established by the Commission in line with market practices, **in such a way as to**

account:

shield them from any adverse influence on the part of financial intermediaries, and shall take into account:

Or. es

Justification

The Commission must guarantee that the advantageous conditions offered by the European Investment Fund are applicable to SMEs at all times and in all cases.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 238
Annex II, Section 1, point D

Visibility

Each intermediary shall provide an appropriate level of visibility to the support given by the Community.

Visibility - ***Awareness raising***

Each intermediary shall provide an appropriate level of visibility to the support given by the Community.

It shall be ensured that the final beneficiaries, in particular SMEs, are adequately informed about the available financing opportunities and the possibility for multiple use.

Or. en

Justification

One of the main problems European businesses are facing is the relative opacity in the supply of community measures tailored to their needs. Regarding SMEs financing more specifically, it is important that the financial instruments designed for them be widely known, available and multiple, even if antagonistic, in order to ensure an adequate level of access to financing.

Amendment by Norbert Glante

Amendment 239
Annex II, Section 2, point C, paragraph 3: GIF 1

GIF 1 shall invest in intermediary venture capital funds investing in SMEs up to 10 years old, typically starting from pre-A (seed) and A (early stage) rounds and

GIF 1 shall invest in intermediary venture capital funds investing in SMEs up to 10 years old, typically starting from pre-A (seed) and A (early stage) rounds and

providing follow-on investment where appropriate. The maximum aggregate investment in an intermediary venture capital fund shall be 25 % of the total capital held by the relevant fund, or up to 50 % for new funds likely to have a particularly strong catalytic role in the development of venture capital markets for a specific technology or in a specific region as well as business angels' investment vehicles. The maximum aggregate investment in an intermediary venture capital fund shall be 50 % in those cases where the fund's investment focus is on SMEs active in eco-innovation. At least 50 % of the capital invested in any fund shall be provided by investors operating in circumstances corresponding to normal market conditions (under the "market economy investor principle"), irrespective of the legal nature and ownership structure of the investors providing this part of the capital. No commitment in a single fund shall exceed EUR 30 million. GIF1 may co-invest with EIF own resources or resources under the EIB mandate or other resources managed by the EIF.

providing follow-on investment where appropriate. The maximum aggregate investment in an intermediary venture capital fund shall be 25 % of the total capital held by the relevant fund, or up to 50 % for new funds likely to have a particularly strong catalytic role in the development of venture capital markets for a specific technology or in a specific region as well as business angels' investment vehicles. The maximum aggregate investment in an intermediary venture capital fund shall be 50 % in those cases where the fund's investment focus is on SMEs active in eco-innovation. ***The maximum aggregate investment in an intermediary venture capital fund shall be 70% for funds investing in SMEs no more than 3 years old.*** At least 50 % of the capital invested in any fund shall be provided by investors operating in circumstances corresponding to normal market conditions (under the "market economy investor principle"), irrespective of the legal nature and ownership structure of the investors providing this part of the capital. No commitment in a single fund shall exceed EUR 30 million. GIF1 may co-invest with EIF own resources or resources under the EIB mandate or other resources managed by the EIF.

Or. de

Justification

In the start-up phase, the risk has often proved too high for private individuals, who have consequently been deterred from making a financial commitment. That being so, it seems necessary to grant a higher subsidy (70%) for intermediary venture capital funds specifically in the high-risk R+D stage. However, this higher investment can only be justified : the SME in question may be no more than 3 years old.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 240

Annex II, Section 3, point C, paragraph 3

Criteria relating to the fourth SMEG window, (d) securitisation of SME debt financing portfolios, include individual and multi-seller transactions as well as multi-country transactions. Eligibility shall be based on best market practices, in particular regarding the credit quality and risk diversification of the securitised portfolio.

Criteria relating to the fourth SMEG window, (d) securitisation of SME debt financing portfolios, include individual and multi-seller transactions as well as multi-country transactions. Eligibility shall be based on best market practices, in particular regarding the credit quality and risk diversification of the securitised portfolio.
Special emphasis will be given to the support of public schemes for SME securitisation.

Or. en

Justification

Public securitisation schemes have been acting as catalysts to the market by helping achieve higher securitisation volumes for SMEs, since such schemes generally are a precondition for attracting new investors to SME risk capital, and also partially compensate for development costs of SME securitisation. Consequently, EU support under the fourth SMEG window of both new and already operating public securitisation schemes might prove decisive for the securitisation of SME loans.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 241

Annex III, point (a), indent 7 a (new)

– supporting SMEs to find and network with larger contractors, both from the private sector and government.

Or. en

Justification

A critical factor in supporting innovative SMEs is to link them with sophisticated large contractors in order to stimulate the demand for their products and services. The Euro Info Centres can be instrumental in creating and maintaining this link with the use of appropriate tools.

Amendment by Lorenzo Cesa

Amendment 242

Annex III, point (a), indent 7 a (new)

– promoting the creation of a network among companies located in regions sharing common problems and challenges, aimed at promoting the exchange and diffusion of best practices and at encouraging the coordination and development of proper economic and industrial policies.

Or. en

Justification

In Europe there are areas with a very high industrial vocation which represent the wealth of Europe; nonetheless, even if these areas are not facing a phase of decline, their competitiveness is strongly threatened. This is the reason why these areas request the definition of industrial and economic policies able to address their specific needs. Cooperation among companies located in regions sharing common problems and challenges needs therefore to be reinforced through, for example, the creation of a network aimed at promoting the exchange and diffusion of best practices. The network would also represent a tool that EU institutions could use for assessing and measuring the feasibility of own policy or legislative initiatives.

Amendment by Pilar del Castillo Vera

Amendment 243

Annex III, point (a), indent 7 a (new)

- contributing to training support to increase the level of professionalism within enterprises.

Or. es

Justification

In addition to cooperation and information, there is a need to promote training within enterprises. A knowledge-based economy must establish permanent channels for communication and cooperation between the actors involved and must similarly not neglect training and the quest for excellence if it is to remain competitive.

Amendment by Patrizia Toia

Amendment 244

Annex III, point (a), indent 7 a (new)

- promoting the creation of a network among companies located in regions sharing common problems and challenges, aimed at promoting the exchange and diffusion of best practices and at encourage the coordination and development of proper economic and industrial policies.

Or. en

Justification

In EU there are areas with a high industrial vocation which represent the wealth of EU but whose competitiveness is threatened. So, these areas request the definition of industrial-economic policies able to address their needs. Cooperation among companies located in regions sharing common problems and challenges needs to be reinforced through, for example, the creation of a network (which is also a tool that EU institutions could use for assessing and measuring the feasibility of own policy or legislative initiatives) aimed at promoting the exchange and diffusion of best practices.

Amendment by Lorenzo Cesa

Amendment 245

Annex III, point (a), indent 7 b (new)

– helping SMEs to acquire better knowledge of EIF and EIB managed financial instruments – thereby improving their access to these instruments – encouraging national industry and business associations to undertake specific information/training activities addressed to their members.

Or. en

Justification

SMEs' awareness and knowledge about the existence of EU financial instruments should be improved in order to increase their access and use. In this framework, one should recognize the key role that industry and business associations could play in undertaking specific information and/or training actions especially addressed to the network of the associated companies.

Amendment by Patrizia Toia

Amendment 246

Annex III, point (a), indent 7 b (new)

- helping SMEs to acquire better knowledge of EIF and EIB managed financial instruments - therefore improving their access to these instruments - encouraging national industry and business associations to undertake specific information/training activities addressed to their members.

Or. en

Justification

SMEs' awareness and knowledge about the existence of EU financial instruments should be improved in order to increase their access and use. In this framework, one should recognize the key role that industry and business associations could play in undertaking specific information and/or training actions especially addressed to the network of the associated companies.

Amendment by Jan Březina

Amendment 247

Annex III, point (b), indent 2

– engaging in the dissemination and exploitation of research results;

– engaging in the dissemination, ***proprietary protection*** and exploitation of research results;

Or. en

Justification

The fundamental role of Intellectual Property Rights is to ensure protection for the results of R&D investment in promoting growth, as future commercial success depends on obtaining protection for the hard work during long periods of research.

Amendment by Jan Březina

Amendment 248

Annex III, point (b), indent 3

– providing brokerage services for technology and knowledge transfer, and for partnership building between innovation actors;

– providing brokerage services for technology and knowledge transfer, **for proprietary protection of innovations** and for partnership building between innovation actors;

Or. en

Justification

The fundamental role of Intellectual Property Rights is to ensure protection for the results of R&D investment in promoting growth, as future commercial success depends on obtaining protection for the hard work during long periods of research.

Amendment by Nikolaos Vakalis

Amendment 249
Annex III, point (b) indent 3

– providing brokerage services for technology and knowledge transfer, and for partnership building between innovation actors;

– providing brokerage services for technology and knowledge transfer, and for partnership building between innovation actors, **including partnerships between business and academic organisations, as well as between the private and the public sector**;

Or. en

Justification

The implementing measures should correspond to the need for intensifying public-private synergies and partnerships between the academia and the business sector.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 250
Annex III, point (b), indent -1 (new)

- stimulating activities that create synergy between the knowledge potentials (universities, Community Programmes etc.), the SMEs and the financial

instruments in both Community and national programmes for RTD, entrepreneurship and innovation;

Or. en

Justification

There is a need for synergy, for knowledge creation and sharing between the knowledge potentials, the SMEs and the diversity of programmes supporting entrepreneurship and innovation in SMEs.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 251

Annex III, point (b), indent -1 a (new)

- helping SMEs to identify innovation take-up potential and to find network partners with regard to the realisation of this potential.

Or. en

Justification

It is essential that the SMEs are provided with proper guidance when identify innovation take-up potential and potential network partners.

Amendment by Britta Thomsen

Amendment 252

Annex III, point (c a) (new)

(ca) Services encouraging the participation of SMEs in the Framework Programme:

– raising awareness among SMEs regarding the Framework Programme;

– helping SMEs to identify their innovation potential and to find network partners with regard to the realisation of this potential;

– assisting SMEs in the preparation and coordination of project proposals for the Framework Programme and for national entrepreneurship and innovation programmes.

Or. en

Justification

CIP contains services encouraging SMEs to participate in the Community RTD Programme. As SME are the foundation of growth and employment in both old and new sectors, it is important to promote Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programmes such as the CIP. Such promotion is essential to the impact of the programmes.

There is a need for synergy, for knowledge creation and sharing between the knowledge potentials and the SMEs. Is essential that the SMEs are provided with proper guidance when identify innovation potential and network partners and when preparing project proposals.