**Seán Kelly (PPE).** – Mr President, I too supported this proposal sharing the rapporteur's belief that RIS 3 strategies play an instrumental role in tackling the innovation gap that Europe and its Member States often face. And partly in reply to Mr Hannan’s question, there is no doubt that continued improvements and advances in the field of both regional and national legislation provide the key to the European Union’s future in this domain.

This report outlines the ways and means by which such deliberate evaluation, regulation and moderation would occur. From an Irish perspective I can appreciative the regional focus that RIS 3 may take incorporating regional and local authorities, thus encouraging multi-level involvement. Such efforts are essential in promoting knowledge-based growth not only in well-developed areas, but also in less well-developed regions. We find ourselves at a pivotal stage where the evaluation of existing policies, as well as the coordination of future ones, may be facilitated.