

*José Manuel Barroso*  
*President of the European Commission*

Brussels, 22 February 2006

Dear Chancellor, *Wolfgang Schäuble*,

At the 2005 Spring European Council, the Commission announced its intention to make a proposal for the European Institute for Technology. Following a substantial public consultation process, I have pleasure in sending you a communication with the Commission's concrete ideas as adopted on 22 February 2006.

Our analysis is that Europe has many sources of excellence in its universities and research centres; but that our systems are fragmented, and we should improve in translating the outcomes of our excellence into commercial opportunities. We need to concentrate our available human, financial and physical resources in research and higher education, to promote an innovation and entrepreneurial culture in research and education, and to develop new organisational models suited to today's needs.

This is where the EIT can provide clear value-added. It will teach graduates and doctoral candidates, carry out research and be active in innovation. It will be structured so as to integrate these three areas, which between them hold the keys to the knowledge society. It will set out to attract and maintain the best worldwide talents in students, researchers and staff in Europe, to work side by side with leading edge business in the development and exploitation of knowledge and research, and to enhance research and innovation management skills generally.

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Mr Wolfgang SCHÜSSEL  
Federal Chancellor and  
President of the European Council  
Bundeskanzleramt  
VIENNA

The EIT will be an institute with a small core and integrated teams working throughout Europe; its clear European identity will be a flagship in pursuing the benefits of the knowledge society for growth and better jobs. Setting up the institute is a small step in that direction, but one that should be symbolic of our determination to bring about modernisation and change.

I believe that it will bring clear value-added. First, it will offer the private sector a new relationship to education and research, providing a chance to guide activities into areas that will benefit the economy and society. Secondly, it will work on education, research and innovation together – they will be integrated from the very start. We all know that this is not always the case in universities today. And finally, it will represent a concentration of resources, and thus will be able to face competition from anywhere in the world.

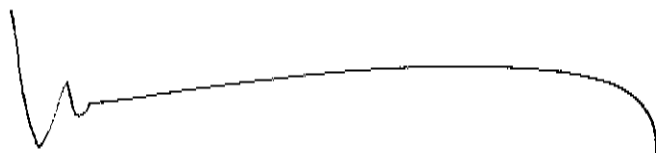
There are numerous incentives for partner organisations to have their best teams participate in the EIT while at the same time remaining on-site: visibility and excellence which will attract top-class students, researchers and staff; privileged links to the EIT with knowledge spill-overs; financial incentives; a dynamic for change and local spin-offs.

This paper sets out the broad features of the EIT. Further work remains to be done on the details. With the political support from the European Council, the Commission will later this year put forward a legislative proposal to establish the EIT.

I am copying this letter to the Heads of State and Government and writing in similar terms to President of the European Parliament and the Social Partners.

I am therefore looking forward to a fruitful exchange on the Commission's ideas in the run-up to the Spring meeting of the European Council.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of connected loops and a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.

José Manuel Barroso