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Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me begin by saying what a great honour it is to have been invited to speak before you today as a member of the European Parliament. Sitting on the ITRE committee, I have been directly involved in dealing with research and innovation issues. In particular, I am rapporteur of the Specific Programme implementing Horizon 2020 and was rapporteur for the Simplification Report, a matter close to my heart as a former researcher and scientist myself. I am also, I should add, the EPP permanent rapporteur on the Budget Committee for Research and Innovation.

### Horizon 2020

In speaking to you today, I should like to offer an assessment of how I see Horizon 2020 and highlight a

number of key points that I believe deserve particular attention.

My talk will be in two parts. In the first, I shall offer a brief, general assessment of Horizon 2020. In the second, I should like to stress the importance of Horizon 2020 to the *cities and regional development*.

With regard to Horizon 2020, considered overall, the proposal represents a real step forward. It represents an excellent base on which we can now build. I should also like to thank the Commission for having absorbed the multiple recommendations emanating from the European Parliament but also from a whole range of other stakeholders and interested parties.

The structure of the new programme is certainly much improved by comparison with FP7. It is simpler and strikes a highly satisfactory balance between the three pillars of

- \* excellence in science
- \* industrial leadership and
- \* societal challenges

However, there remain a number of details that still need to be filled in and some aspects that could, undoubtedly, be improved.

*Priority Areas with relevance for Cities:*

**Societal Challenge 3: Secure, clean and efficient energy**

- Increasing energy efficiency and reducing energy consumption and carbon footprint through smart and sustainable and secure use
- Bring to mass market technologies and services for a smart and efficient energy use
- Unlock the potential of efficient and renewable heating-cooling systems
- **Foster European Smart cities and Communities**
- Alternative fuels and mobile energy sources

## **- Robust decision making and public engagement**

### **Societal Challenge 4: Smart, green, secure and integrated transport and mobility**

- Developing smart equipment, infrastructures and services

- Improving transport and mobility in urban areas

- Better mobility and accessibility, less congestion, more safety and security

- Developing and applying new concepts of freight transport and logistics

- Reducing accident rates and fatal casualties and improving security

- Socio-economic *and behavioural* research and forward looking activities for policy making

### **Societal Challenge 6. Understanding Europe in a changing world – inclusive, innovative and reflective societies**

- **Inclusive societies**

- Building resilient and inclusive societies in Europe
- *Addressing European models for social cohesion and well-being*

### *Conclusion*

By way of conclusion, let me say that this week we start the trilogues between the Parliament, Council and Commission. I look forward to discussing these points in the forthcoming months and contribute for building a strong Programme for Research and Innovation in Europe.