

## Pact for Innovation 2nd bi-annual meeting 2016



**Robert Madelin**, author of “Opportunity now: Europe’s mission to innovate”, co-moderator of the session, made two initial remarks in his conclusions:

1. Science communication and science for policy making is in a way the bedrock for any innovation friendly society. Unless we understand how the world works, there is no chance for us, the citizens, to engage with how the world might work in the future.
2. Europe doesn’t have a scaling machine: there’s a piece about how you scale things in Europe which is not just a scale-up of startups, but also scaling geographically by faster, systematic extension of what is working between towns and regions and companies.

Furthermore, Robert Madelin suggested to consider the following actions for the Pact for Innovation in the year ahead:

1. The Pact for Innovation as the place to broaden the **collaborative networks**: as an example he argued that if there are 7000 mayors (Convent of Mayors mentioned by the President of the Committee of the Regions, Markku Markkulla) who were doing innovation in a particular policy field, they are networking with each other, should they not network also in a broader community which is the Pact for Innovation?  
Robert Madelin called this an ‘eventualisation’ goal.
2. The second goal is the ‘convening’ goal in particular around the ‘Innovation Principle’ inviting us to convene a conversation with people who don’t think they are interested in innovation, who think they might be suspicious of it and to try to get more progress on the innovation principle (in earlier discussions it has been suggested to invite civil society groups and trade unions to the debate on the Innovation Principle).
3. The third goal is about encouraging the leading regions and cities to share the breakthrough insights and to work very closely on the revision of regional policy with Ms. Cretu, in particular, see how we can continue to advance the collaborative place specific approach of regional smart specialization and link it to the innovation agenda.

In his final comment Robert Madelin 'observed' that it's very rare in the Parliament where MEPs are extremely busy that not only do they convene and chair meetings but they come and talk about them and therefore demonstrate the clear willingness of elected legislators to engage in the Pact for Innovation.

**Erika Widegren** who co-moderated the session highlighted the urgency of the matter asking what political structures we can have for radical technologies, what are the incentives and structures we can put in place that are similar to how a science media hub might be able to respond to some of the science communication challenges.

**MEP Cora van Nieuwenhuizen**, in her role as host of the Pact for Innovation working group 'Regulatory framework/Innovation Principle', was asking the question why we do not have an innovation friendly regulation and gave the example that when something bad is happening in the world, whether it is a crisis or disaster, usually society asks from politicians to make sure that this will never happen again which is then ending in a flood of new regulations. As a possible way out she gave the example of the concept of a 'regulatory sandbox' as used by the financial sector in London.

**MEP Angelika Mlinar**, in her role as host of the Pact for Innovation working group 'Adapting political structures to breakthrough technologies and new business models' underlined that we need to make sure that in Europe we continuously adapt the policy framework to new technologies if we want to stay at the forefront of disruptive technological changes and that the objective of regulation should be to facilitate innovation.

**MEP Eva Kaili**, in her role as host of the Pact for Innovation working group 'Science communication', emphasised the need to build a bridge between science and society, as scientific information is not always easy to understand. She explained the idea of establishing a European science media hub supported by the European Parliament and in particular STOA.