



Contribution of the eMobility European Technology Platform on the

Commission Working Document

Consultation on the Future "EU 2020" Strategy

1. Introduction

The newly appointed Commission of the European Communities is working on a successor strategy "EU 2020" for the current Lisbon Strategy as a work program for the new period. In order to receive views of other Institutions and stakeholders the EU Commission launched a consultation (http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/index_en.htm) on the Commission Working Document "Consultation on the Future "EU 2020" Strategy". The EU Commission intends to adopt a formal Communication, which will be addressed to the Spring European Council early in 2010. Comments and suggestions are invited by the EU Commission by 15 January 2010.

The eMobility European Technology Platform stands for bringing together European organisations to address, as a community, the challenges of future networks, building on Europe's success in mobile communications. eMobility represents a wide community of more than 650 members and provides networking opportunities between different countries and stakeholders in particular on research topics. eMobility has a focus on mobile and wireless communications with an extension to optical communications. A major objective is to identify research topics and challenges and facilitates the launch of research consortia in EU Framework Research Programs in order to enable stakeholders to be ahead in research and innovation with respect to global competition. Different European Technology Platforms have been launched in the last years in different technology fields.

This contribution summarises comments and suggestions from the eMobility perspective.

2. Comments and suggestions

2.1 Industrial base

The Commission Working Document (page 4) is requesting a strengthened and competitive industrial base. This is an essential precondition for a renewed European economy. From the eMobility perspective the economic and market entry conditions should be fair and have to ensure a level playing field in particular with other regions in the world. Such conditions are essential with respect to increasing global competition.

In particular in the area of critical infrastructures such as telecommunications, energy generation and networks etc. require a strong industrial base in Europe from strategic regions and has to be kept and strengthened in Europe.

- ☞ Fair economic and market entry conditions are essential to ensure a level playing field in order to enable industry in Europe to maintain and improve the industrial base with respect to increasing global competition.
- ☞ Industry sectors, which are providing critical infrastructures, should be strengthened and kept in Europe by appropriate conditions.

2.2 Cooperation of different industry sectors

The transformation of European economy to a new sustainable, smarter and greener economy will open new opportunities for many industry sectors. In this context eMobility supports the cooperation of different industry sectors of information and communications technology (ICT) for sectors such as energy, transport, health, government etc. This will result in new complex solutions. Europe is strong in the development and integration of such solutions, which should be the basis for future economic growth and a strengthened industry base.

- ☞ Such cooperations should be supported across industry sectors by new means of cooperations like Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) and Joint-Technology-Initiatives (JTI).

2.3 Digital economy

The Commission Working Document (page 5) is expecting great opportunities for SMEs from the digital economy. The digital economy offers new opportunities for all sectors in the economy, the public sector, the research and development community, SMEs and larger industry. A strong and competitive economy requires an ecosystems and cooperation of all these stakeholders. SMEs require the public sector and larger companies as customers; larger companies require SMEs as providers for specialised solutions and products. All these stakeholders should be addressed in "EU 2020". A strong focus only on SMEs would be too limiting in a globalised world, with huge global companies, which are based in regions outside of Europe.

- ☞ All stakeholders – the public sector, the research and development community, SMEs and larger industry – should be addressed by the digital economy.
- ☞ "EU 2020" should appreciate all these stakeholders as essential for a renewed European economy.

2.4 Broadband infrastructure

eMobility supports the goal (Commission Working Document, page 7) that a sustainable high-speed network should be available across EU Member States with 100 % coverage. This is an essential precondition to stay competitive and to develop new businesses in particular in rural areas. In addition, eMobility welcomes a massive investment program in fibre networks and wireless broadband. Investment programs will help to provide such infrastructure in particular in areas, where a market-driven investment would economically not be attractive.

- ☞ Attractive regulatory conditions should be provided that enable investment in broadband communication infrastructure under economically attractive conditions.

2.5 Education, research and innovation and means for support

eMobility welcomes that

- education,
- research and

- innovation

are regarded as important means for the future development of Europe and essential to exit the current economic and financial crisis. However, the conditions have to be economically attractive in order to mobilise investments in research and innovation by the private sector as a precondition for an improved industrial strength in Europe.

For that purpose and to ensure competitive advantages for European stakeholders the following topics should be addressed:

- Improved conditions are needed for research, development and innovation to support the transition of European economy under economically viable conditions by taking into account conditions in other regions and global competition.
 - Tax credits for research and development should be available in all EU Member States.
 - A simplified administration, reduced overhead and faster implementation of collaborative funded research projects should be introduced in order respond faster to new technology developments and to better exploit available budget for research and development. Such simplifications are in particular important for the implementation of PPPs and JTIs.
 - Industry sectors – e.g. telecommunications – are under threat due to different conditions (government support or state aid) and market entry conditions in other regions.
- ☞ The implementation of collaborative research and innovation projects should be simplified (reduced administrative overhead) in order to make investment in research in Europe economically attractive.
 - ☞ State aid rules should be reviewed by considering conditions in other regions, which may impact fair global competition rules.

2.6 Intellectual property right (IPR)

The Commission Working Document is only addressing on page 5 "to help universities and research institutions to raise capital through the commercialisation of their ideas and inventions ...". A well-functioning system of intellectual property rights for the protection of IPRs is essential for all stakeholders (SMEs, larger industry, R&D centers and universities) in research and innovation.

- ☞ Therefore, from the eMobility perspective this applies also to SMEs and larger industry in order to be competitive globally. The different stakeholders should be mentioned explicitly in "EU 2020".

2.7 State aid rules

On page 8 the Commission Working Document gives the impression that "European companies have increased productivity and reaped economies of scale by taking up the opportunities offered by the Single Market". eMobility welcomes a strong single market as a necessary and strong mean to ensure economy of scale, interoperability of systems and competition. This will be in the interest of all stakeholders and will support European economy compared to other regions with more restricted and regulated market access conditions. However, European economy is part of the global economy and conditions in other markets are not given by the European single market. Several industry sectors face fierce competition in Europe from other regions, where market access for European players is more difficult. This should be considered by the "EU 2020" strategy.

- The "EU 2020" should not only look on the European single market with respect to state aid rules but should also take into account conditions in other regions and competition from such regions.