4 Commissioners from ‘Team Juncker’ joined the 6th European Innovation Summit

40 Members of the European Parliament, led by the K4I Forum Chair Lambert van Nistelrooij and Vice-Chair Jerzy Buzek, 30 conference sessions, 900 participants, 150 speakers gathered under the patronage of the President of the European Parliament

Brussels, 20 November 2014. Commissioners Carlos Moedas (Research, Innovation & Science), Corina Cretu (Regional Policy), Phil Hogan (Agricultural and Rural Development) and Günther Oettinger (Digital Economy & Society) made their first public appearance in the European Parliament at the 6th European Innovation Summit, organised by Knowledge4innovation.

‘A Mandate for Innovation in Europe’ – the topic of this year’s summit - summarised a common ambition of making innovation the top strategic priority in the new institutional cycle.

The continuing inability of Europe to successfully bring great ideas to the market remained the key issue raised by the summit participants. Better regulation, change in the educational system, risk acceptance and management were discussed as the key steps, necessary to move forward. A particular focus has been put on the importance of a strong engagement of the member states on the innovation front. There was a broad agreement on the need to clearly assess the potential impact EU legislation has on innovation across all sectors.

A prototype of an ‘ambulance’ drone - mobile ‘medical toolbox’, developed by a young student, was flying over the heads of Commissioners and Members of European Parliament during the Opening Ceremony of the summit.
Knowledge4Innovation is an open, independent, nonprofit platform with a wide variety of stakeholders including small and large companies, universities and research centers, regions and cities, trade organisations and think tanks. As such, it is the leading Brussels based innovation platform operating within the environment of the EU Institutions. K4I members are from the private, academic and public sectors and include large networks such as EUREKA, COST, Cefic, ECPA and EFPIA as well as universities, regional development organisations, cities, think tanks and small enterprises.

Knowledge4Innovation forms a large network which brings together actors, with different backgrounds and expertise, with the common objective of making topics relevant to Europe’s innovation performance a top priority in EU policy making. At a time of major societal challenges and increasing global competition, Europe’s competitiveness increasingly depends on its ability to become the world’s leading innovation hub.

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