



RESOLUTION

OF THE 16th INTERPARLIAMENTARY EUREKA CONFERENCE

ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF PORTUGAL

LISBON, 14 and 15 May 2009

1. Introduction

On the initiative of the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal, the 16th Interparliamentary EUREKA Conference was held on 14 and 15 May 2009. The Conference was entitled "Energy and Sustainability", and counted on the participation of Members of Parliament and Representatives of the Governments of the EUREKA Initiative member states.

The Conference was opened by Jaime Gama, President of the Assembly of the Republic, José Mariano Gago, Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education of Portugal, and Bravo Nico, Member of Parliament and Chair of the Conference.

The Interparliamentary Conference lasted two days and counted on the presence of speakers from Portugal and other member countries of the Eureka network.

2. The EUREKA Initiative

Since 1985, the EUREKA Initiative has been seeking to stimulate productivity and competitiveness in European industry, through transnational partnerships in high-potential clusters. With strong involvement by the public and private sectors, a fundamental role on the part of small and medium enterprises and the support of national and European political institutions, the EUREKA Initiative has contributed in a significant way to the consolidation of a strategy of human, social and economic development in which knowledge, innovation and technology are the structural frameworks.

In the last 24 years, the EUREKA Initiative has contributed to the strengthening of the symbiosis between scientific, innovation and production activities and the transfer of technology to the global market in the European Union and in Europe itself.

3. EUREKA: the reality and the future

At the time the 16th Interparliamentary EUREKA Conference is being held, Europe and the world are going through one of the hardest financial, economic and social situations.

Never before have we seen such an extreme need for a profound change in the paradigm of the structural matrix of development models currently in use in Europe and the world.

In reality, the need to ensure compatibility between sustainability in economic development shows us that the European development model – strengthened and legitimised by the definition of the Lisbon Strategy, signed in 2000 during the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union – is one of the most suitable answers to both new and global challenges which humankind faces and it is our obligation to use our resources efficiently and effectively.

Therefore, the Interparliamentary Conference recognises the need to consolidate and strengthen investment in Research, Innovation and Development, with the strong belief that these will be the basic pillars of the future paradigm of economic, social and human development. In this context, the EUREKA Initiative – with the involvement from both public and private sectors and with the interesting experiences that has shown in different areas – may provide a serious contribution to the creation of this new development model, through transnational collaboration in technology partnerships.

In this context, we propose:

- The intensification of the financial support, by the member states, for the EUREKA projects in their countries.

- To suggest to the EUREKA Initiative member states to develop post-graduate studies in innovation management to strengthen the European-based ability to build and coordinate transnational networks.
- To encourage the EUREKA Initiative member states to develop new instruments to stimulate the market for venture capital societies.

The investment in Science, Innovation and Technology, renewed with the adoption of a new cycle for the Lisbon Strategy (2008/2010), which increases the investment in innovation, as well as in research and development, must be included on the EU external agenda for competitiveness and must be continued after 2010.

The Conference invites EUREKA parliaments and governments to take all appropriate measures in order to facilitate an improved and preferential access to public support for EUREKA projects, as well as to make available the necessary human resources within National Project Offices.

4. The strengthening of the transnational technology and the public-private partnership

With the belief that the experience of the EUREKA Initiative could be a good contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy and for the creation of an extended European and world space where economic development will create wealth and coexist with quantitative and qualitative standards, essential when exercising the most basic rights of citizens, it is fundamental that the essential elements of the EUREKA Initiative be consolidated.

In current circumstances, there is an opportunity for greater coordination and symbiosis between the policies promoting transnational scientific research, innovation and technological development and the policies and instruments to stimulate economic and social development.

Within this framework, the recent creation of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) represents an opportunity to reinforce this axis

of intervention, considering the respective institutional 'architecture' and the objectives based on which it was created.

Indeed, today it is fundamental to design policies and monitoring instruments which are coherent and complementary in all levels of intervention, so as to promote synergies through an appropriate management of the resources which are currently available for development. This implies, without prejudice to the obvious reservation of national decision by each of the countries, the need to promote deep international dialogue, in suitable formal institutions, so as to bring about true cooperation between the countries, in which knowledge, innovation and technology form the basis of the dialogue and multicultural understandings. This is also one of the matters and areas of learning which the EUREKA Initiative makes available.

The Conference encourages interested members to consolidate the idea of a EUREKA Observatory that provides continuous evaluation of projects and contributes for their adequate portfolio analysis and impact assessment.

5. EUREKA and the relationship between Europe and the World

The 16th Interparliamentary Conference believes it is essential to promote and extend partnerships between countries in the EUREKA Initiative and other countries, so as to optimise international cooperation for mutual benefit. Therefore, we highlight the cooperation between innovation networks in countries from different regions of the world.

6. The role of the European institutions in the development of the EUREKA Initiative

The Members of Parliament participating in the 16th Interparliamentary EUREKA Conference invite the European Commission, the Council and the European Parliament, as well as national parliaments and governments to work in close cooperation with the EUREKA Initiative, strengthening the European and international dimensions of projects which promote symbiosis between research, innovation and business and industrial activities.

In this context, the 16th Interparliamentary Conference invites the European Commission and the member countries of the EUREKA network to continue the work of the successful Eurostars Programme and, in parallel, to strengthen the European dimension of national programmes that support all Eureka projects.

7. Next Interparliamentary EUREKA Conference

The Conference took notice of the invitation of the Head of the Science and Technology Committee of the Knesset addressed to the Parliaments of all EUREKA Initiative member states to participate in the next Interparliamentary EUREKA Conference that will be held in Jerusalem during the Israeli Chairmanship.

8. Dissemination of the Resolution adopted by the 16th Interparliamentary EUREKA Conference

Participants in the 16th Interparliamentary EUREKA Conference have requested that the Chair of the Conference make national and European institutions aware of these recommendations, as well as the Ministerial Conference which will be held in Lisbon, on 19 June 2009.

Lisbon, 15 May 2009