

# European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

2006/0197(COD) - 22/01/2008 - Council position

The Common Position is the result of intense inter-institutional negotiations, following the Commission's proposal on the revision of the financial framework of 19 September 2007 (see [ACI/2007/2213](#)), as well as, the adoption of a resolution on the EIT by the EP on 26 September 2007.

Within this context, informal and technical meetings have pinpointed avenues for compromise on a number of outstanding legislative issues. In parallel, discussions on the financing of the EIT (and Galileo) have been conducted within the Council's Budget Committee and between the two branches of the budget authority in the context of the 2008 budget procedure.

On 20 November 2007 the chairwoman of the ITRE Committee, Ms Angelika **NIEBLER** (EPP-ED, DE), confirmed Parliament's agreement to the text agreed by Coreper on 14 November 2007 and to the Commission's Declaration (subject to an agreement on the financing of the EIT – see below).

The Competitiveness Council reached a political agreement on Friday 23 November 2007 on the establishment of the EIT. The same day, the Council and the European Parliament reached an agreement on the financing of Galileo and the EIT, with **EUR 309 million** earmarked for the EIT for the period 2008-2013.

The main subjects of negotiation on which accord has been reached are:

- **the educational dimension:** A consensus has emerged on the definition of higher education institutions and on degrees and diplomas;
- **participation of KICs in Community programmes (recital 17 and Article 14):** the text of Article 14 has been re-drafted to avoid creating the expectation that all the administrative costs of the KICs, which could be significant, would necessarily be funded through the Community budget.
- **the definition of Participating States (Article 2 definitions):** The word "**European**" has been deleted by common agreement in response to the EP proposal, while the European dimension has been reinforced in Article 7(3).
- **the EIT label** (recital 12 and Article 8): A compromise has been reached between the EP's and the Council's position (compulsory versus voluntary use).
- **the concept of a "pilot phase"** (recital 24 and Article 19): replaced by "**initial phase**".
- **the fields of first KICs** (recital 24): The Council agreed, in response to Parliament's request, to add "*renewable energy*" and the "*next generation of ICTs*" in recital 24.
- the period for the selection of the first KICs (recital 24 and Article 18) has been shortened to **18 months** (from 24) in response to the EP's request.
- **evaluation and Commission's review of the proposal (Article 16(3)):** It was agreed that the reference to the Commission's capacity to review the regulation "*where appropriate*" would be linked to the evaluation of the EIT.
- **establishment of the support structure (Article 6 of the Annex):** During the negotiations, the need emerged for a provision in the Regulation to prepare the support structure. The Commission has, with the co-legislators' agreement, looked at various options and considers that the best way to proceed would be to include a new article in the Statutes which would allow it temporarily to take legal and financial decisions on behalf of the EIT until a Director is appointed by the Board.

- **the Identification Committee (Article 1 of the Statutes):** To emphasize the "ad-hoc" basis of an Identification Committee it has been agreed that it be used only for the appointment of the first Board members.
- In response to Parliament's request for a more open and informative identification process (vis-à-vis the Parliament and Council), a Declaration of the Commission was added to the minutes of the Council.

It should however be noted that the only amendment that the Council did not accept in its entirety was one regarding the sectors of activity of the first KICs (Recital 24). The European Parliament would have preferred a reference to *energy* in general but the Council insisted on a reference to *renewable energies*.