

Towards a new European Economic Driving Force

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Research is a priority for the European Commission. However, the current set-up of the calls for proposals is obviously imperfect and sometimes discourages the scientific actors.

The prerogatives of the European Research Council must be strengthened. This organization is recognized for its expertise and objectivity, as well as for the implementation of the European programmes. It is also necessary to simplify the patent registration by creating a European patent.

Even without mentioning the US or China, European countries do not have as much investment capacities for research as Asian countries such as Singapore or Korea. Mutual sharing of effort and resources, as well as economy of scales, are strategic in all the sectors where it may be applied.

It is highly necessary to develop the cooperation between Germany and France in sectors such as research and industrial cooperation, for these two countries to remain at the cutting edge of technological progress.

At a time when countries must reduce their public expenses, there is a major risk of neglecting the investments necessary to guarantee Europe's competitiveness. However, in an environment of international competition, investment is the key to maintaining Europe's competitiveness and standards of living. As no Member State is ready to increase the budget of the EC, the only solution for the EC to develop its role of investor is a loan.

Supported by perennial resources, the EC could develop a borrowing capacity in order to face the huge investment needs in fields of common interest for Europe. The primary purpose of the EC should be to invest in crucial technologies to ensure the competitiveness of our economies.

A major loan would help the EC fulfill this role and invest in sectors essential to Europe's economy: research, infrastructures, environment, Information and Communication Technologies or public transport.