

Europe Note

UK

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Suggested distribution

Vice-Chancellors;
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Action

Respond to the consultation, copying in the Europe Unit

Executive Summary

The European Commission invites responses to a Public Consultation on Community Innovation Policy.

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European Commission Public Consultation on Community Innovation Policy

Introduction

1. This E-note informs UK higher education institutions (HEIs) about the European Commission's public consultation on Community innovation policy. The Consultation explores new ways to address challenges for a better European innovation policy, and aims to collect information for the impact assessment report on the innovation plan. Full details of the current consultation can be viewed at:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/future-policy/consultation_en.htm
2. UK HEIs are encouraged to respond to the Consultation to ensure that the UK HE sector's views on innovation in Europe are fully voiced. The Europe Unit is also coordinating a UK HE sector position. Please could you copy your submission to the Unit to help inform the sector-wide response. The deadline for responses to the Consultation is **16 November 2009**. However, for the collective response, it would be helpful, where possible, to receive a copy of your submission by **10 November 2009**. Please email your submission to christian.yeomans@europeunit.ac.uk

Context and supporting documents

3. The Consultation seeks to follow-up the findings of the Commission Communication 'Reviewing Community innovation policy in a changing world'¹, published in September 2009, and two previous consultations on innovation policy in Europe.
4. The Communication presents an assessment of the achievements and shortcomings in implementing Community policies in support of innovation in recent years. It covers:
 - improving framework conditions;
 - market uptake of innovative products and services;
 - building synergies through initiatives such as the European Research Area and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology; and

¹A copy of the Communication can be downloaded at [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/files/com\(2009\)442final_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/files/com(2009)442final_en.pdf)

- financial support for research and innovation.

Together with a series of more detailed Commission staff working papers, it serves as input to the preparation of a new European innovation plan, as called for by the European Council. The objective is to put in place new policies to foster innovation in Europe. The new policy will be presented as part of the forthcoming post-2010 Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs, taking into account the global economic crisis.

5. The two previous consultations to which the Consultation on community innovation policy seeks to respond are on the effectiveness of innovation support in Europe², and on design as a driver of user-centred innovation³.

The Consultation

6. All interested stakeholders have been invited to feed into the shaping of innovation policy in Europe by providing comments in response to a set of 12 questions. The questions cover a range of issues relating to European innovation policy, including funding programmes, research policy, major societal challenges, SMEs, public services and cooperation between regional, national and European innovation support programmes. Questions of particular significance for the UK higher education sector include:
 - Should innovation policy have any specific sector approach? If so, which sectors should be supported and which specific policy measures should be developed?
 - What are the implications for research policy of the changes needed to policies in support of innovation?
 - How could the Community funding programmes for innovation, including FP7, CIP and Structural Funds, be simplified and streamlined?

Responding to the Consultation

7. The Commission has posted a document containing the 12 questions on its website, and asks that all responses to the consultation are submitted using the document (available at http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/files/consultation_en.doc). Responses should be submitted by email to entr-innovation-policy-development@ec.europa.eu. The Commission deadline for response is Monday **16 November 2009**.
8. The UK HE Europe Unit urges UK HEIs and other stakeholders to respond to the Consultation. HEIs and stakeholder organisations are asked to copy any responses to the UK HE Europe Unit or to inform the Unit of any comments for incorporation into the UK HE sector response no

² For details on this previous consultation, visit

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/document.cfm?action=display&doc_id=2276&userservice_id=1

³ For details on this previous consultation, visit http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/design-creativity/index_en.htm



later than **10 November 2009**. Please email Christian Yeomans at christian.yeomans@europeunit.ac.uk.

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