

## Press Release

**Brussels, 11 December 2014**

EARTO, the voice of 350 Research and Technology Organisations, published today an [open letter](#) to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker expressing its views on his proposed €315 billion Investment Package.

The EARTO [open letter](#) raises the following points:

- **Innovation is the key to changing today's economic trends** and the European Commission has launched **Horizon 2020 as a major vehicle for such change**.
- Accordingly, **Horizon2020 should be strongly protected and suffer no cuts, being the only real pan-European R&I programme today**, in particular the key pillars looking at solving societal challenges and supporting industry with the developments of Key Enabling Technologies as well as the new instrument Fast Track to Innovation.
- If European industry is to maintain its leading role on global markets in important areas such as energy, telecom, digitalisation, life science, built environment and transport, **investments should be heavily directed to supporting the renewal of European industry by making use of research, technology and innovation activities**.
- In the face of decreasing research & innovation investments from Member States and industry, **the new Investment Package should be a complement to Horizon 2020 and ESIF funds. Projects to be financed under the new Investment Package should include strong research & innovation components** aiming to support existing strengths in European value chains and innovation ecosystems. Such requirement should be mirrored in the selection criteria of projects under the Plan's regulations to be developed in the coming weeks.

EARTO, as the European RTOs network, is open for dialogue on these issues and is ready to work with the European Commission, European Parliament and Council in the set-up and implementation of the Investment Package regulations.

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### Notes to Editors

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**Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs)** have a distinct mission and a key role in the knowledge and innovation economy: they produce, integrate and transfer science and technology to help resolve the grand challenges of society and support Europe's industrial competitiveness. RTOs occupy nodal positions within innovation ecosystems, bringing together key players across the whole innovation chain, from fundamental to technological research, from product and process development to prototyping and demonstration, and on to full-scale implementation in the public and private sectors.

**EARTO** is the European trade association of the Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs), a non-profit organisation founded in 1999. EARTO groups over 350 RTOs with a combined staff of 150,000, an annual turnover of €23 billion, special equipment and facilities to a value of many € billions and more than 100,000 customers from the public and private sectors annually. [EARTO Corporate Video](#).