

**EARTO Open Letter to European Commission President Juncker:
Welcoming the Appointment of a
New EC Hors Classe Senior Adviser for Innovation**

25 June 2015

Dear President Juncker,

On behalf of EARTO members, 350 European Research & Technology Organisations (RTOs), I hereby would like to congratulate you on taking a stand for innovation by appointing Mr Robert Madelin as your new *Hors Classe Senior Adviser for Innovation* under the European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC). We believe innovation is key to tackling today's societal and economic challenges to ensure growth and jobs in Europe.

The core mission of RTOs is to harness science and technology in the service of innovation. To ensure that RTOs can fulfill this mission, Europe needs to put in place the right policy to support innovation. Accordingly, EARTO has published 2 recommendations for EU innovation policy last October as follows:

1. Europe should invest in stronger value-chains and innovation ecosystems. To be an innovation leader in the world, Europe will have to strengthen its innovation ecosystems and clusters. RTOs have a long experience in maintaining existing ecosystems and building new ones due to their unique role as "connectors" between universities' excellent science and industry needs. RTOs are well placed and ready to serve you and your services as advisors on how to best support Europe's ecosystems.

2. Europe needs to focus on delivering more impact from national and European R&I investments. With limited resources, Europe needs to focus on delivering more impact from its invested funds. RTOs are well positioned and ready to support you and your services identifying the best policies to deliver impact. European RTOs are active at regional, national and EU levels and achieving synergies between funds is high on their agenda. They contribute to delivering impact by working hand in hand with SMEs, providing them with a variety of world class services and facilities fostering innovation.

We hope your services will take up the challenge to look at these two recommendations. EARTO is ready to work in close collaboration with your services to find better and new ways to support innovation. In this context, the question of how to achieve synergies between the various EU sectorial policies in different Directorates-General will be key. Here, integration and synergies are not aims in themselves but are means to support European Institutions & Member States in making the right policy mix to bring growth and create jobs in Europe. It is clear that priorities need to be made in terms of what is to be financed in order to tackle the innovation challenges ahead that will require multi-disciplinary, multi-level and multi-stakeholders approaches. This will bring forward new dialogues. RTOs are willing to participate in the dialogue for prioritizing existing resources and developing smart and sustainable innovation policies in support of maximum impact.

Accordingly, EARTO as the European RTOs network, is ready to work with you and your services for the setting-up and implementation of policies and strategies supporting innovation, promoting synergies of policies in different DGs and ensuring an integrated and improved evidence-based policy making.

Remaining at your disposal for further dialogue,
Yours sincerely,



Ms Maria Khorsand
President
EARTO

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