I AM DELIGHTED to present the Commission’s proposal for five public-private partnerships and four public-public partnerships, which was adopted in July as the ‘Innovation Investment Package’. The European Council has asked the Commission to maximise the impact of the new EU budget on growth, and this is exactly what we have proposed in this Package. It has a proposed budget of some €22 billion, of which around €8 billion from Horizon 2020 would leverage €10 billion from industry and €4 billion from Member States.

The public-private partnerships will be in the form of Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) in key strategic sectors for the future of European industry [...]. The public-public partnerships are joint programmes with Member States in the areas of clinical trials, SMEs, metrology, and active and assisted living.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Building on the experience and evaluations of the current JTIs under the EU Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), the Commission has proposed significant changes in the new generation of JTIs under Horizon 2020. This is not business as usual.

First, each JTI has clear and measurable objectives set out in the legal base. These are backed up with key performance indicators, closely related to the challenges addressed. Second, there is a higher level of commitment from industry partners. This allows us to leverage more investment from the EU budget and enables the JTIs to bridge the gap between research and deployment. Third, we have introduced improved governance of the JTIs to ensure that they are open to new partners and new participants across Europe. In all cases, the majority of EU funding will be allocated through fully open, competitive calls. A fourth major change is simplification. All of the JTIs will follow the standard Horizon 2020 rules, with derogations kept to an absolute minimum. In addition we have proposed a specific status for the JTIs under the new Financial Regulations that will make them more efficient.

HIGH HOPES

I have high hopes for this new generation of JTIs. [...] Let me briefly introduce the four JTIs under my responsibility and also the Electronic Components and Systems (ECSEL) JTI, which is under the responsibility of Commissioner Neelie Kroes (see p26):

- The Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 (IMI2) JTI aims to get urgently needed next-generation vaccines, medicines and treatments to patients faster. Specific objectives include a 30 per cent better success rate in clinical trials of priority medicines identified by the World Health Organization; clinical proof of concept in immunological, respiratory, neurological and neurodegenerative diseases; and new antibiotics or new therapies for Alzheimer’s disease.

- Fuel cell and hydrogen (FCH) technologies can make a major contribution to a low-carbon society, but are still too expensive to compete with incumbent technology. The first-generation initiative on FCH generated strong technical progress. The proposed successor will help bring down costs and improve performance so that the technologies can be successfully commercialised in many applications.

- Another strategic sector is aeronautics, where strong cooperation between different countries has given Europe a leading edge. However, European aviation faces immense environmental and competitiveness challenges. The Clean Sky JTI has been very successful, with more than 500 organisations working together to make aviation cleaner. Now we are entering into the next, more challenging phase of this partnership. Clean Sky 2 will develop and demonstrate new breakthrough technologies for the civil aircraft market to cut aircraft emissions and noise, and secure the industry’s future competitiveness.

- The JTI on Bio-based Industries is entirely new. It is a flagship of the European Bio-economy Strategy and updated Industrial Policy that aims to accelerate the transition towards a more resource-efficient post-petroleum economy; boost regional growth and jobs, especially in rural areas; and increase the competitiveness of the European industries [...].

- The new ECSEL JTI will combine EU, national and industrial resources to cover the full electronics value chain and bridge the gap between research and deployment, through large-scale projects and pilot lines for production. We are building on the lessons of the ARTEMIS (see p9) and ENIAC JTIs, with a single partnership to cover hardware, embedded software and smart systems. This will make the programme easier, faster and more engaging, and provide greater impact. The single initiative will strengthen the most important links in the value chain: namely, design, manufacturing and integration in final products. [...]