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Commissioner for the Digital Economy & Society

Günther Öttinger

Commissioner for Budget & Human Resources

Andrus Ansip

Vice President and Commissioner for Digital Single Market

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Dear Commissioners and Members of the European Parliament,

PhotonicSweden, as the recognised voice of the Swedish Photonics, wishes to express its opinion about the proposition of the European Commission for the next framework Programme as published on June 7.

Our main concerns are:

1. The structure of Horizon Europe in three new pillars is decreasing the importance of collaborative research related to industrial applications and to manufacturing of European hardware products in Europe.
2. The 6 Key Enabling Technologies selected in 2009 by the European commission, which are mostly related to hardware, seem to be questioned and their importance and key role are apparently reduced in the new proposition.
 - a. Adding two new KETs, Artificial Intelligence and Digital Security and Connectivity, is for sure a good proposition but we see a risk for a decreased focus on European hardware. This is even more true if four of the initial KETs, and in fact the ones most related to hardware, are regrouped 2 by 2.
 - b. An integration of Photonics to Micro- and Nanoelectronics through an ECSEL like model in Horizon Europe may mean an end to the European Photonics success story and will ruin many years of efforts by the photonics community and the Photonics PPP to make the field of photonics more visible, which has certainly contributed to an acceleration of the growth of the photonics field.
3. Photonics appears in this proposition for Horizon Europe only at the third sub-level (as part of "Digital Technologies" in its turn part of "3. Digital and Industry" of the

second pillar). If the combination of Photonics and Micro- and Nanoelectronics is not avoidable, we would like that Photonics at least be lifted to the second position in the list of topics describing "Digital Technologies".

4. Photonics21 and the Photonics **PPP** have been extremely useful and successful, and we really hope that their existence will not be questioned by the structure and organisation of Horizon Europe.

In the name of PhotonicSweden with its members.

Magnus Breidne, Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA) and chairman of PS

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