

The logo for Technology Academy Finland (TAF) features the letters 'TAF' in a large, bold, black sans-serif font.

TECHNOLOGY  
ACADEMY  
FINLAND

## **ERAB'S 2<sup>ND</sup> REPORT “REALISING THE NEW RENAISSANCE”**

REQUESTED RESPONSE BY DR. AINOMAIJA HAARLA  
PRESIDENT AND CEO, TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY FINLAND  
BRUSSELS, 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2010

## **TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY FINLAND**

### **SUPPORTING HUMANE TECHNOLOGY**

- Is an independent foundation which works closely together with Finnish enterprises, all five technical science universities of the country, several ministries and research institutes
- Supports scientific research and innovation which are based on humane values and have a positive impact on quality of life of many all over the world
- Promotes Finland as a high-tech country by strengthening and bringing together domestic and international networks and thus pursues to improve Finland's competitiveness
- Awards the biennial Millennium Technology Prize worth 1M € and grants other rewards and scholarships
- Demystifies technology and actively participates in public discussion about its significance
- With youth activities, encourages children and teenagers to study mathematics, natural sciences and technology and helps young people to start a career in these fields
- TAF's actions reflect the principles of social corporate responsibility

# GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE REPORT

## **Sense of urgency**

**Aim towards more concretism is good , implementation is the key.**

**We need to work with other regions of the world** as they are not only

following the development of ERA but **they are advancing quickly**

themselves and **are hungry** to reach their own ambitious goals. (I & C)

**Humanistic sciences should be more integrated with technological**

**solutions** – simply to improve the user interface.

All the relevant resources must be mobilised to strengthen the competitiveness of EU; **The focus on young researchers and scientists!**

## **UT**

**Where are the end-users and consumers with their future demands, in and outside Europe? AND What are the incentives?**

## **COMMENTS ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTIONS (#1-3)**

**e need to establish a Europe-wide patent system** as soon as possible –

**it is the precondition for the Open Innovation Charter.**

Q: WHAT TO DO WITH EXCESS IDEAS? IS THERE ANY PROCESS?

pen innovation approach in Europe is challenging: we need some well

communicated examples from the industry to promote this approach. (#1)

**here is a large untapped potential in the public sector purchasing** to

drive innovation indeed – yes, **it should be used as stimulus to foster**

**European wide RDI but not on the cost of value creation!** (#2)

**ncreased focus and concentration of the RDI funding** – this is good news,

yes, with better focus we can get more force and **reach real results.** (#3)

## **COMMENTS ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE AND MEDIUM TERM ACTIONS(#4-6)**

**ow to increase the visibility of science and innovation,  
gain trust**

**and strengthen the cooperation between various  
stakeholders?**

**awarding the title** of 'the European Capital/Region' of RDI –  
yes, but

this is not enough. **We should start much earlier** by  
influencing

schoolchildren and teenagers through 'joint doings' (#4)

## **COMMENTS ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEDIUM-TERM ACTIONS (#7-9)**

- **Concentrate and streamline all R&D funding: YES** by all measures! Could **results-based funding** be taken into use in other than high risk projects? **High risk projects should be encouraged more. Funds from the common agriculture policy could well be used more** i.e. for water and food related projects. (#7)
- **Foster an acceptable degree of risk-taking (with high impact)** and also excellence **in all the RDI programmes** – I fully support this proposition. We should get out of the mind-set of "peer-reviewed safe science". (#8)
- **Create a European venture capital fund** capable of investing in early-stage "proof of concept" and business development prior to commercial investment. – **YES!** (#9)

## **COMMENTS ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LONGER-TERM ACTIONS (#10)**

- **Create result and risk oriented funding as a dominant criterion – yes, the sooner the better! (#10)**

***It is all about competitiveness.***

***Thank You!***

Ainomaija Haarla, D.Sc. (Tech.), MBA

President and CEO

Technology Academy Finland

[ainomaija.haarla@technologyacademy.fi](mailto:ainomaija.haarla@technologyacademy.fi)

+358 40 716 0703