



Science & Technology

FORESIGHT

From Research to Market

Foresight: driving EU towards a knowledge-based society

11 July 2017 - European Parliament - Brussels



Foresight: driving EU towards a knowledge-based society

After sixty years from the Treaty of Rome, Europe has faced many challenges.

In order to compete at global level, Europe needs to evolve from a Union based on goods and free circulation to one based on knowledge and open access, where ideas, solutions and choices are closely and inevitably interconnected at trans-national, cross-sectoral and trans-disciplinary levels.

In recent years, the socio-economic system has faced an increased number of variables and stakeholders, introducing pressures and challenges whose political choices in preventing and managing emergencies have asked to address a complexity hard to tackle. Complex systems are characterized by the difficulty to make accurate predictions on their evolution which can result in abrupt changes, faster than the capacity to adapt and resile. In this context, a knowledge-based support is required, but the ability to foresee the future is a difficult task.

The act or ability to predict what will happen or be needed in the future is usually referred as “foresight” and despite different methodologies can be adopted, their ultimate goal is to

support decisions.

A Science and Technology Foresight, while driven by societal, political or economic needs, can address scenarios or solutions, eventually identifying breakthrough technologies to tackle the challenges and proposing research and innovation paths.

In the process towards the definition and launch of the Ninth Framework Program of the European Union, a reflection at European level on the role of research in support to policy, is urgently needed.

The event aims at debating on the relevance of foresight, in particular addressing the role of Science & Technology in fulfilling the societal needs. Participants will be invited to discuss different visions, roles and impacts of foresight, distinguishing between the approach of forecasting (that is, designing scenarios and their risk assessments) and the one of backcasting (that is, defining a clear objective and the strategies to achieve it). In particular, the debate will address the role of EU institutions, Member States, industry, research and civil society in forecasting and/or in driving the future.

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11 July 2017, 16:00 – 18:00, Altiero Spinelli Room A3G-2
European Parliament – Brussels

16:00 – 16:10 Welcome

Patrizia Toia Vice President ITRE Committee (MEP)

Massimo Inguscio President of the National Research Council of Italy

16:10 – 17:10 Foresight to support policy

Lieve Van Woensel Responsible for Foresight initiative at European Parliament (STOA):
“The role of foresight in the EU decisions”

Nikos Kastrinos Team leader: Foresight (DG RTD - EC): “The role of foresight in the
design of the next Framework Programme”

Ezio Andreta Director of S&T Foresight of CNR (National Research Council of Italy):
“The S&T foresight to tackle societal challenges”

17:10 – 17:50 Foresight to support solutions

Round table moderated by Luisa Tondelli - Member of S&T Foresight of CNR (National Research
Council of Italy), with

Matthias Weber Head of Research, Technology and Innovation Policy Unit at AIT Austrian
Institute of Technology, Vienna: “Shaping or driving the future: scenarios
or strategies?”

Sierd A.P.L. Cloetingh President of COST Association: “How foresight and brainstorming can
be facilitated at funding level?”

Xavier Troussard Head of Unit Foresight Behavioral Insight and Design for Policy (JRC - EC):
“Foresight as support to design policies”

17:50 – 18:00 Conclusion

Carlos Moedas Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation

Patrizia Toia Vice President ITRE Committee (MEP)