

Taftie Policy Forum

24 November 2016
Brussels, Belgium



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1. Introduction

This year, TAFTIE Policy Forum will be dedicated to a high topical issue being among top priorities of the European Commission for the coming years: the European Innovation Council (EIC) project.

The EIC is based on the observation that positive steps have been taken in recent years to integrate an innovation component into EU programs and policies, in particular Horizon 2020. However the array of support mechanisms can be difficult to navigate, and lacks the flexibility and responsiveness that disruptive innovation (i.e innovation that creates new markets as opposed to incremental innovation) requires.

Europe is told to have a persistent backwardness in terms of companies scaling and disruptive innovation. As Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, says "Europe has excellent science, but we lack disruptive market-creating innovation. This is what is needed to turn our best ideas into new jobs, businesses and opportunities".

As envisaged by the Commission, the potential role of the EIC could be to simplify access to innovation support instruments, making them more responsive to company's needs (more bottom up) and filling gaps (scale up program; non grant support etc.).

Upon proposal of the European Commission (DG RTD), 13 Innovation agencies agreed to participate in a workshop in Brussels on 20 October to provide their experience and views on main questions related to the EIC.

TAFTIE policy forum agenda has been conceived as a follow up of these discussions. The general structure for discussion divided into three panels remains:

- 1) *Making EU instruments for innovation (SME Instrument, FTI, FET Open/Proactive) more prone to market-creating innovation*
- 2) *Bottom-up proposals evaluation: how to make it work (experts' profile, retaining experts, places for face to face interviews, role for national innovation agencies)?*
- 3) *Non-grant support for start-ups and SMEs: What financial instruments and opportunities for scale up are missing and how could they be implemented?*

The aim will be to first report on main points discussed on 20 October and then to go one step further addressing remaining questions with innovation agencies and EU stakeholders

In addition to TAFTIE members, this Policy forum will bring together innovation experts, academics, and representatives from the Commission, the EU Parliament, national representations in Brussels and trade bodies.

TAFTIE Policy Forum will also enable to report on three TAFTIE task forces namely: TAFTIE High potential SME community, TAFTIE SELECT and TAFTIE COMPACT. The Forum will end up with a conclusion by TACR to present an overview of TAFTIE 2017 priorities and will be followed by a Dinner with TAFTIE members and Policy forum speakers.

2. TafTie Policy Forum

DRAFT AGENDA

From 2 PM to 6 PM

**Venue: Stanhope Hotel
9, Rue du Commerce, 1000 Brussels
Room : Balmoral III**

- 2:00 – 2:15 Welcome Address by Laure Reinhart, TAFTIE Chair
- Key note speech
 - Landmarks and main conclusions on TAFTIE French chairmanship 2016
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|------------|---|
| 2:15- 4:15 | The European Innovation Council from the innovation agencies' perspective |
|------------|---|
- 2:15-2:25 The EIC: state of play, challenges and way forward
 → Matthew King, Head of Unit “Open Innovation”
- 2:25 – 3:00 Panel 1 – Making EU instruments for innovation (SME Instrument, FTI, FET Open/Proactive) more prone to market-creating innovation
- Main conclusions of the EC – Innovation agencies workshop
 → Luis Guerra, CDTI, Spain
 - Going one step further: panel discussion – Moderation by Christian Dubarry, Bpifrance
 → Luis Guerra, CDTI, Spain
 → Karin Aase, Vinnova, Sweden (tbc)
 → Gerhard Huemer, UEAPME, Belgium (tbc)
 - Q&A
- 3:00- 3:35 Panel 2 – Bottom-up proposals evaluation: how to make it work (experts' profile, retaining experts, places for face to face interviews, role for national innovation agencies)?
- Main conclusions of the EC – Innovation agencies workshop
 → Gearoid Mooney, Enterprise Ireland, Ireland
 - Going one step further: panel discussion – Moderation by Lola Merveille, Bpifrance
 → Gearoid Mooney, Enterprise Ireland, Ireland
 → Hanne Harmsen, Innovationsfonsden, Denmark
 → Mrs Sonia Ortega, Head of the USA National Science Foundation's (NSF) Europe (tbc)
 - Q&A
- 3:35 – 4:15 Panel 3 - Non-grant support for start-ups and SMEs: What financial instruments and opportunities for scale up are missing and how could they be implemented?
- Main conclusions of the EC – Innovation agencies workshop
 → Eero Silvennoinen, Tekes, Finland

- Going one step further - panel discussion – Moderation by Laure Reinhart, Bpifrance
 - ➔ Eero Silvennoinen, Tekes, Finland
 - ➔ David Golding, Innovate UK, United Kingdom
 - ➔ Edwige Avice, BIPE, France (tbc)
 - ➔ CTI, Switzerland (tbc)
- Q&A

4:15 – 4:30	Coffee break
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4:30- 4:45 EIC: the point of view of a member of the European Parliament
 ➔ Christian EHLER, EPP, Germany (tbc)

4:45 – 5:45	TAFTIE Task forces' report
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4:45- 5:45 TAFTIE Task forces: report on main results and way forward

- Task force 1 : TAFTIE High potential SME community
 - ➔ Gilles Le Cocguen, Bpifrance, France
- Task force 2: SELECT
 Selection procedures for innovative projects: comparison and good practices overview
 - ➔ Sabine Mayer, FFG, Austria
- Task force 3 : COMPACT
 Enhancing the next generation of Competence Centers programs: main recommendations
 - ➔ Otto Starzer, FFG, Austria

5:45- 6:00 Wrap up and conclusion
 ➔ Laure Reinhart, TAFTIE Chair

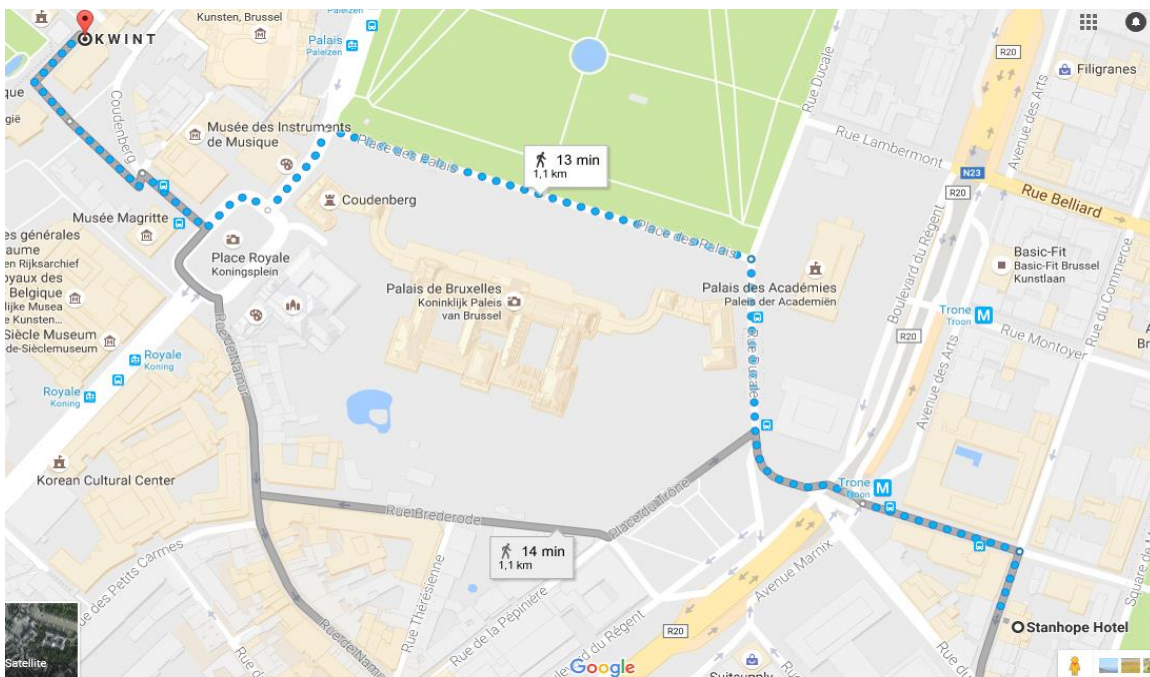
Overview of TAFTIE priorities in 2017
 ➔ Milena Vicensová, TACR, Czech republic

08:00	TAFTIE Dinner (see page below)
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3. Taftie Dinner

You are invited to join for dinner at Kwint restaurant at 8 pm. The restaurant is 13 minutes-walking distance from Stanhope hotel (see map below).

Kwint Restaurant
Mont des Arts 1, 1000
Brussels, Belgium
http://www.kwintbrussels.com/fr/restaurant_kwint_brussels.html



4. Practical information (map, hotels recommendations)

1. How to get to Stanhope Hotel from the airport or the train station?

Venue: Stanhope Hotel
9, Rue du Commerce, 1000 Brussels
Room : Balmoral I and II

➤ From Brussels Airport

1) **By Taxi:** about 20 minutes – approx. €45

2) **By Train:** About 25 minutes + 15 minutes by metro

The airport train station is located below the terminal (basement level-1). Up to 4 direct trains an hour connect the airport to Brussels North, Brussels Central and Brussels Midi stations. If you plan to take the train, get off at **Brussels Midi/Gare du Midi Station** (25 mn from the airport) and then take the metro (with direct access from the train station), **Line 6 or 2** direction Simonis (Leopold II) and stop at **Trône station** (15mn).

➤ From Brussels Midi Station

By Metro: Line 6 or 2 direction Simonis (Leopold II) and stop at **Trône station** (15mn)

2. Hotels recommendations

Hotel	Tel	Adress	Web site
Stanhope Hotel***	+ 32 (0)2 506 91 11	9 Rue du Commerce 1000 Brussels	http://www.thonhotels.com/fr/hotels/countrys/belgique/bruxelles/stanhope-hotel/
Thon Hotel****	+32 (0)2 204 3911	75 rue de la Loi 1040 Brussels	http://www.thonhotels.be/fr/hotels/countrys/belgique/bruxelles/thon-hotel-eu/
Renaissance Hotel***	+ 32 (0)2 505 29 29	19 rue du Parnasse Brussels, 1050	http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/brubr-renaissance-brussels-hotel
Leopold Hotel****	+32 (0)2 511 18 28	35 Rue du Luxembourg 1050 Brussels	http://www.hotel-leopold.be