



Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe

European Innovation Council

Statement of the Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe

Brussels, 29 April 2016. The Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe (BioMed Alliance) welcomes the consultations on the creation of the European Innovation Council. Cutting edge research and innovations are vital instruments to overcome economic and societal challenges faced by European citizens.

Europe has long been the world's centre for breakthroughs in medicine and science, and we should aim to retain that position in the future. Biomedical research is a prime example of innovation – characterized by research from bench (basic research) to bedside (translational research and innovation). The Biomed Alliance deems it absolutely essential not to divide research and innovation into two separate sectors. Research results are ultimately innovation products that raise the level of excellence and competitiveness in Europe for the benefit of European citizens.

In this context the BioMed Alliance welcomes the current developments at EU-level on open access and open science. These are important aspects to consider in any discussion on innovation in the biomedical sector.

In Horizon 2020, innovation instruments have a central role. Teaming up research programmes with innovation helps Europe to foster world-class science, improve competitiveness and create new employment opportunities.

The EU budget allocated to innovation is consistent and multiple instruments are now in place to boost innovation in EU; such as: *Innovation Union, InnovFin, EU Finance for Innovators, European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), European Innovation*



Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe

Partnerships (EIPs), Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs), Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs).

The BioMed Alliance considers that an in-depth assessment is necessary to optimize and increase the efficiency of the current initiatives and instruments dedicated to innovation. There is a need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach. An impact analysis will emphasize the potential overlap/duplications/fragmentation in the current initiatives and instruments. Policymakers, together with all stakeholders, should have the relevant information to come up with practical proposals to close the gaps in innovation.

The BioMed Alliance proposes to collaborate with EU institutions to discuss initiatives and mechanisms dedicated to innovation. It is very important to avoid overlapping activities and financing new tools that consequently will diminish the current funds, until we do not have a clear understanding about the mission and efficiency of the existing innovation mechanisms.

Colm O'Morain

President

Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe



Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe

About The Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe

The Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe (BioMed Alliance) was founded by four major European academic medical societies namely the European Cancer Association (ECCO), the European Respiratory Society (ERS), the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD).

The BioMed Alliance is committed through its actions to promote excellence in European biomedical research and innovation with the goal of improving the health and well-being of all European citizens. For more info: <http://www.biomedeuropa.org/>.

BioMed Alliance's members:



Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe



President: Colm O'Morain
Past- President: Karin Sipido
Board Member: Françoise Meunier
Board Member: Ulf Smith

Board Member: Gustave Moonen
Board Member: Ulrich Jager
Board Member: Jean-Paul Sculier
Board Member: Steffen Gay
Board Member: Wilfried Ellmeier

 BioMed Alliance
c/o ESC Office:
Square de Meeûs, 29
1000, Brussels (BE)
info@biomedeuropa.org
www.biomedeuropa.org