

**Prof. Danuta Hübner  
Member of the European Parliament**

**Intel - JA-YE "Sci-preneurship" event  
Introductory comments**

**European Parliament  
Brussels, Belgium**

**18 October 2011**

We are here because we all care about the future, about the quality of our lives, about the need to get Europe out of the crisis as quickly as possible, and because we see the need to do things together between EU institutions, national and local governments, academic and business community. And I believe we are here because we share the same idea - that our future as citizens is closely linked with innovation and entrepreneurship.

To help Europe emerge from the crisis, innovation is seen today as a major source of sustainable growth and jobs that will not be lost tomorrow to emerging economies, and that can produce productivity gains to increase competitiveness. That is also why we've been focussing European policies so strongly on innovation in recent years. I cannot think of any policy, any industry or sector, any enterprise, that would not benefit from innovation. But I am afraid that innovation is less and less about having an idea in the garage and moving directly from the garage to the market. It requires investment.

Most of the responses to all major challenges Europe faces - climate, demography, energy, global competition, quality of life - require reaching out to innovative solutions. Innovation is not a one-time boost. It is a process, it is about education systems, strategies, policies and the absence of risk aversion. Innovation is not a research-plus policy, it is a new deal we need. And there is of course the risk of an innovation divide in Europe as people might think that innovation is not for them. We cannot lose society when we move forward with innovation, we must combine technological change with

societal change. There is a huge space for social innovation. And of the utmost importance is the human factor.

I hope you would agree with me that it is people who transform innovations into material reality. Entrepreneurial spirit is needed to help innovation play its role. That's why I think that this event is so important: we have here in this room a large group of future innovators, future entrepreneurs, you are part of a generation that can help Europe make this link between ideas and material reality more effectively in the future.

Europe is a place where talents are mushrooming. What we need is to find the talent that exists in Europe and develop it in the best way possible by promoting integrated policies for education, training and labour markets. Finding talent alone is not enough, though. Once we find it and develop it, we must make sure that we keep it and don't lose it to other regions of the world. We have to promote a European entrepreneurial spirit among young people to allow them to help Europe to get back on top. We must pay attention to linking better innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship, that we link better research, education and business.

We need your enthusiasm for technical professions, and appetite for innovation and for entrepreneurship.