

Brussels, 28 November 2015

Dear Members,

It has been too long before you received an update of the implementation work of the various recommendations in the Blueprint, as requested at the last meeting in Rome. My apologies, it results from a combination of personal circumstances and overall workload.

In order to deepen the recommendation about resilience as a new way to achieve sustainability and innovation combined (Blueprint, 3.6), a tripartite expert group has been working, as is our method in full independence and under Chatham House rules, and with the scientific support of the Stockholm Resilience Center. It is currently finalising its work and will deliver its final conclusions this month to the European Council and Commission. Its work will be particularly relevant for the further elaboration of the Circular Economy Package proposed recently by the Commission.

Another tripartite expert group, operating with the same methodology, has started its work on governance systems innovation (Blueprint, chapter III), as the basis to achieve better regulation and better framework conditions for industrial and social innovations. Following a promising first meeting, the group will be enlarged with additional experts and deliver its conclusions by the summer next year. The focus is on designing a process of systemic innovations in the European policy making system.

Preparations are well advanced for tripartite expert work on infrastructures for industry 4.0 and on new ways of funding research and innovation. As for our work on resilience, we will be doing so in cooperation with the best research institutions in Europe in order to combine deep thinking and operational recommendations.

We are coordinating with other groups which strive for innovation in Brussels, and with the new Senior Advisor for Innovation of the Commission, Robert Madelin, who has kindly agreed to address our next meeting.

I look forward to meeting all of you again on 15th January in Brussels, and for an amicable dinner on 14th, in order to discuss how we can contribute to stimulate necessary reforms processes for innovation.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stefan Schepers', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stefan Schepers