

**Ms. Teresa Riera's speech**  
**SET-PLAN Conference**  
**Madrid, 3 June 2010**

..... Greetings.....

There is starting to be clear consensus around the idea that, the sooner we achieve a green economy, the sooner we will overcome the economic crisis.

Studies commissioned by the European Commission estimate that promoting the goal of 20% penetration by renewable energies will see 2.8 million European workers employed in this sector by 2020. It is also estimated that two-thirds of the employment created will be in small and medium enterprises – companies like many of those represented here today.

The idea is also gaining ground that the next industrial revolution will take place specifically in the field of energy. The challenges imposed on us by climate change will involve developing technologies that enable us to reduce the cost of clean energies and exploring new, low carbon emission technologies.

**So the key is to give decisive support to the development of green technologies.** We know the European Union has already lost its leadership in **manufacturing** green technologies, and we cannot allow ourselves to also lose our lead in **technological development**.

To ensure this does not happen, the Parliament **has given its backing to the SET plan through two resolutions:** the resolution of 9 July 2008 and the resolution of 11 March 2010.

Most political groups in the Parliament agreed on four major goals in both of these documents:

- Firstly, a real commitment to providing new funds for the SET Plan. It is not enough just to regroup and rename the support programmes that already exist.

We need to translate our objective into a **clear increase in the funds provided** for research into renewable energies and energy efficiency. **And we need to do so now**, in the next review of the financial perspectives.

In the longer term, we should think about carefully studying Delors' proposal to set up a Common Energy Fund, designed to develop new technologies.

- Secondly, if we want the jobs our economy needs in order to emerge from the crisis to become a reality, then **it is vital to drive forward the demonstration phase of innovative technologies**. We should encourage these to be adopted by the market, by means of support mechanisms not only to translate research into products, but also to ensure that research centres' resources are not exhausted during the demonstration phase.

The Socialist Group thinks we should also provide incentives to **create a European intellectual property market**, in which universities and SMEs would be able to share and use intellectual property rights, which would mean opening up the option of providing access to knowledge, at fairer prices and, above all, finding investors.

- Thirdly, I would like to stress that energy efficiency should play a more prominent role. To date, this has been limited to the Smart Cities initiative. However, I wonder if it is enough to limit ourselves to financing measures in 30 pilot cities. **Don't we need to invest in R&D+i in the field of energy efficiency technologies?**
- Lastly, we will be unable to channel the potential of green job creation if we do not have access to highly-qualified labour. **We need to invest in education and training** to strengthen the ties between the worlds of employment and education. We must, and this is my final point, ensure qualifications of excellence in R&D and innovation, in order to be in a position to make up for any potential shortfalls in the renewable energies job market.