



THE FORUM FOR EUROPE'S LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY

Mrs. Neelie Kroes
Vice-President of the European Commission
200, rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels

23 October 2012

LT-Innovate welcomes the Connecting Europe Facility and calls for the inclusion of a Multilingual Digital Service Infrastructure as a matter of priority.

Dear Vice-President Kroes,

LT-Innovate represents companies, mostly SMEs, involved in developing products using intelligent content, speech and translation technologies. LT-Innovate was founded in January 2012. As of 15 October, it gathers 115 LT suppliers in 22 countries, as well as several dozens of other LT stakeholders. The European Language Technology industry generated an aggregate turnover of 19.3 bn € in 2011. LT is a very dynamic industry, with a yearly growth rate in excess of 10%.

LT-Innovate welcomes the Conclusions of the European Council of 18-19 October 2012 recognising that “the future Connecting Europe Facility will constitute an important instrument to promote growth through investment in transport, energy and ICT links”.

Furthermore, LT-Innovate welcomes the European Commission's initiative promoting a *Multilingual Digital Service Infrastructure* as a key component of the Connecting Europe Facility. In our view, a major public investment in ICT networks is only justified if it goes hand in hand with a substantial effort to create and/or strengthen European platforms, in particular a language platform. In a multilingual continent, this would indeed appear as an absolute necessity both to safeguard the digital future of all European languages and to overcome the language barriers that are still one of the main factors accounting for the fragmentation of the Single Market.

LT-Innovate believes that a language-neutral Digital Single Market is unlikely to arise from market forces alone. The European Commission is therefore well entitled to take the lead in launching a *Multilingual Digital Service Infrastructure* as a major enabler closing an important gap in the Digital Agenda.

The goal of the Service Infrastructure - or European Language Cloud, as we would prefer to call it - should be to ease and speed up the deployment of multi-language and cross-language products and services supporting all European languages. European integration and business internationalisation are the main drivers pushing towards a Digital Single Market, which itself requires effective solutions for accessing and exchanging information, goods and services in Europe's many languages.

The European Language Cloud would considerably bring down the costs of cross-border products and services and allow all Europeans to seamlessly interact with the 1 billion+ market of speakers of European languages. This would constitute a major opportunity and boost for the European economy and society, creating many new jobs. In a second step, such a platform should also support the languages of our major trading partners, thus making European companies fittest for the global markets.

We would like to offer to you our encouragement and full collaboration in making the European Language Cloud available to European institutions, businesses and citizens as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Jochen Hummel
Chairman of the Board of Directors