

RESEARCH-INTENSIVE UNIVERSITIES AS ENGINES FOR THE “EUROPE OF KNOWLEDGE”

SUMMARY

- *European basic research has decayed in recent years and must be reinvigorated if a “Europe of Knowledge” is to be realised.*
- *Successful exploitation of research-based innovation is increasingly at the heart of much change within society and crucial to its economic success.*
- *The example of the USA suggests that such success depends upon highly creative basic research and a profound capacity to exploit it commercially and societally. That success is based on:*
 - *strong investment in basic research infrastructure and strong project funding;*
 - *strong support for the careers of young researchers;*
 - *a research culture in private industry, commerce and the public service.*
- *The European research effort is significantly less successful than that of the USA, and its economy less research intensive and less innovative.*
- *Europe needs:*
 - *a world leading research base;*
 - *industry with the capacity to exploit research as part of its competitive armoury;*
 - *effective mechanisms for interaction between them.*
- *In research, it is imperative that the European effort in basic research is strengthened by exploiting the unique capabilities of research-intensive universities, that have proved so successful in the USA and that are being emulated through government policy in many developing countries. Europe must:*
 - *increase funding to improve research infrastructure and project funding;*
 - *help research-intensive universities to develop greater financial flexibility;*
 - *ensure that funding is competitive;*
 - *develop a cohort of excellent and ambitious young researchers and ensure that they are placed in intellectually challenging and well supported centres.*
- *The research intensive capacity of industry, able efficiently to exploit the research base, must be strengthened together with tripartite collaboration between universities, industry and government.*