‘Over the next five years, the digital economy should grow each year by 8% in G20 countries, and by double that in many developing markets. Think of the opportunities.’

Herman Van Rompuy, president of the European Council, in a landmark address leading up to the European Summit on digital economy and innovation.

President Van Rompuy Keynotes The 2013 Innovation Summit

Shortly before the October European Council on innovation and the digital agenda, Herman Van Rompuy, president of the European Council, delivered a forceful keynote at The 2013 Innovation Summit. The Lisbon Council and Nesta, the UK’s innovation charity, used the opportunity to launch Plan I(nnovation) for Europe: Delivering Innovation-Led, Digitally-Powered Growth, a seven-point plan for making Europe “the best place in the world to innovate.” John Bell, head of cabinet of European Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn; Carlo D’Asaro Biondo, vice-president of Google; Dainius Pavalkis, minister for education and science of Lithuania and acting chair of the competitiveness council of the European Union (research); Nico Perez, co-founder of Mixcloud and young adviser to European Commission Vice-President Neelie Kroes; Desirée van Welsum, economist and programme lead for business scenarios at The Conference Board; Stian Westlake, executive director for policy and research at Nesta; and Andrew W. Wyckoff, director for science, technology and industry at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), joined the debate on how to stimulate innovation and digital advancement in Europe. Watch President Van Rompuy’s Lecture, view Photo Highlights on the Lisbon Council Google+ Page, download Plan I(nnovation) for Europe and read a Financial Times Article on the Publication.
StartUp Europe Forum @ Campus Party in London

StartUp Europe, a joint project by the Lisbon Council and Telefónica, used the occasion of Campus Party, Europe’s largest technology festival, to host two meetings on London’s digital peninsula. StartUp Europe Forum brought together the doers and shapers of Europe’s digital community, including Neelie Kroes, vice-president of the European Commission in charge of the digital agenda; José María Álvarez-Pallete López, chief operating officer of Telefónica; Shaygan Kheradpir, chief operations and technology officer at Barclays; Tom Kirschbaum, co-founder and chief financial officer of Waymate; Geoff Mulgan, chief executive of Nesta; Alex “Sandy” Pentland, director for the media lab entrepreneurship programme at the MIT media lab and Toshiba professor of media, arts and sciences; Lord Puttnam of Queensgate, digital champion for Ireland, film producer and educator; Joanna Shields, CEO of Tech City Investment Organisation and member of the Leaders Club; Mark Surman, executive director of Mozilla Foundation; and Matthias Ummenhofer, head of venture capital at the European Investment Fund (EIF). The event culminated in the launch of the Manifesto for Entrepreneurship and Innovation to Power Growth in the European Union, a powerful call from leading European digital entrepreneurs. Also, StartUp Europe welcomed Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European commissioner for research, innovation and science; and Vince Cable, UK secretary of state for business, innovation and skills, for a working lunch on Innovation Union: Driving Europe’s Competitiveness Agenda. Watch StartUp Europe Forum Highlights Video, support the Leaders Club Manifesto, and view Photo Highlights on the Lisbon Council flickr Photostream.

“Do you want Europe to be a digital hub? A place where innovations are born, grow, prosper? A place not just dependent on gadgets from the East and corporate giants from the West, but a continent making its own mark?”

Neelie Kroes, vice-president of the European Commission in charge of the digital agenda, addressing the StartUp Europe Forum

Powering Public Sector Innovation

The European Centre for Government Transformation, a collaboration between the Lisbon Council, the College of Europe and Accenture, hosted the launch of Powering European Public Sector Innovation: Report of the Public Sector Innovation Expert Group. Christian Bason, director of MindLab and chair of the expert group, presented the nine recommendations aimed to spur greater innovation in the public sector. Speakers included Gian Luigi Albano, head of research and development at Consip, the Italian National Central Purchase Agency; Nicolas Conso, head of unit for innovation and user services at the secretariat-general for government modernisation in the Office of the French Prime Minister; Marion Dewar, member of cabinet of Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European commissioner for research, innovation and science; Peter Dröll, acting director for Innovation Union and European Research Area at the European Commission’s research and innovation directorate-general; and Karel Tobback, head of cabinet of Flemish Minister-President Kris Peeters. Download the Expert Group Report.
‘With only three years of existence, The Euro Plus Monitor has become a reference tool for academics, journalists and policymakers in Europe. I find it particularly interesting to look at the two main aggregate indicators developed by the study.’

Olli Rehn, vice-president of the European Commission and commissioner for economic and monetary affairs and the euro, at The 2013 Euro Summit

Competitive Advantage in an Era of Innovation

Ginni Rometty, chairman, president and CEO of IBM, led a fascinating discussion on Competitive Advantage in an Era of Innovation in her first major speech in Brussels. Constantijn van Oranje, head of cabinet of Neelie Kroes, European Commission vice-president in charge of the digital agenda, and Gilles Babinet, serial entrepreneur and digital champion of France, also joined a high-level panel on growth and innovation. Watch Ginni Rometty’s Address and view Photo Highlights on the Lisbon Council website at www.lisboncouncil.net.

The 2013 Euro Plus Monitor Launched in the Presence of Olli Rehn

The Lisbon Council and Berenberg launched The 2013 Euro Plus Monitor in Brussels at The 2013 Euro Summit. Olli Rehn, vice-president of the European Commission and commissioner for economic and monetary affairs and the euro, delivered a powerful keynote speech. John Peet, Europe editor at The Economist, discussed the economic outlook for 2014, and Holger Schmieding, chief economist of Berenberg and principal author of The 2013 Euro Plus Monitor, presented the study’s key conclusions. As in previous years, the Euro Plus Monitor generated intense media interest, with coverage in Financial Times, The Economist, Ekathimerini, L’Express, Euractiv, Il Sole 24 Ore and more. The report concluded that the systemic crisis that has rocked Europe since 2010 could be largely over by mid-2014, if the eurozone and its 17 members stay the course. Watch Vice-President Rehn’s Keynote. Download The 2013 Euro Plus Monitor.

Global Thought Leaders Visit Lisbon Council to Weigh in on Europe’s Outlook

The Lisbon Council hosted several distinguished thought leaders of global stature this autumn, all of whom weighed into the debate on Europe’s economy and how to spearhead the recovery. Legendary sociologist Anthony Giddens, former director of the London School of Economics, presented his latest book, Turbulent and Mighty Continent: What Future for Europe?, while former Polish Central Bank chief Leszek Balcerowicz presented a Lisbon Council e-book on Economic Growth in the European Union. Don Tapscott, one of the world’s leading technology gurus, delivered a special briefing on maximising the potential of the digital economy at the Lisbon Council’s Single Market Entrepreneurs Centre, a joint initiative with Google. Watch Anthony Giddens’ Lecture, Joaquin Almunia’s Speech and an Interview with Lord Giddens at www.lisboncouncil.net. Download Economic Growth in the European Union and watch Interview with Don Tapscott.
‘I would like to thank the Lisbon Council for all the work it has done in the past few years and is doing. I have used it quite extensively in this book and I am grateful to the Lisbon Council for this.’

Anthony Giddens, former director, London School of Economics; life fellow, King’s College, Cambridge; member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom, at the Brussels launch of Turbulent and Mighty Continent: What Future for Europe?, his most recent book

News and Outreach

In October 2013, the Lisbon Council celebrated 10 years of work at the forefront of the European project. A special tenth anniversary publication marked the occasion with an insightful and fun look back at the organisation's activities over the past decade. Download Special Ten-Year Anniversary Publication. In other news, Lisbon Council principals kept very busy in the second half of the year. Alessandro Leipold, chief economist, continued his weekly column in Il Sole 24 Ore and his hard-hitting Economic Intelligence commentary series on the European Council’s crisis fighting, which you will find at http://lisboncouncil.net/chiefeconomist. Ann Mettler, executive director, welcomed the Leaders Club, a group of top European web entrepreneurs, for a discussion with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and European Commission Vice-President Neelie Kroes on the eve of the October European Council. She also took part in the World Economic Forum’s Global Agenda Summit in Abu Dhabi and delivered a presentation on innovation and digital economy to the Competitiveness Council. Finally, Paul Hofheinz, president, spoke on the growth potential of the creation of a more integrated single market at Policy Network, a London-based think tank.

Forthcoming

European Digital Forum: New Think Tank on Tech Entrepreneurship and Digital Economy

The Lisbon Council and Nesta, the UK's innovation foundation, launch the European Digital Forum, a new think tank dedicated to empowering web entrepreneurs and growing Europe's digital economy. The new organisation will be officially announced by European Commission Vice-President Neelie Kroes at the World Economic Forum in Davos. Founding partners include the European Investment Fund, Telefónica, Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria (BBVA) and Orange. It will form part of the European Commission’s Startup Europe Partnership.

Lisbon Council @ the Innovation Convention

The Lisbon Council will host a session on Plan I(nnovation) for Europe: Priorities for the Next European Commission at the second edition of the European Commission’s Innovation Convention. An array of high-level speakers will join the Lisbon Council fringe event, including Mark Surman, executive director of the Mozilla Foundation.

Employment and Skills: How Europe Can Leave the Crisis Behind

The European Centre for Government Transformation hosts a high-level roundtable on employment and skills. Xavier Prats-Monné, deputy director-general at the European Commission’s education and culture directorate-general; Stefano Scarpetta, director for employment, labour and social affairs at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); Winston Toh, deputy CEO of the Singapore Workforce Development Agency; and Dilip Chenoy, CEO of the National Skill Development Corporation in India, keynote.

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