

European Technology Platforms: Two Decades of Strategic Collaboration for Europe's Research and Innovation Future

As the European Union enters a decisive phase for its research, innovation and competitiveness agenda, with the negotiations on the next EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10) and European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) now underway, we **the undersigned European Technology Platforms (ETPs) call European policymakers to recognise and fully embed ETPs in Europe's policy and advisory architecture.** With more than two decades of expertise, ETPs have provided a structured, sector-led and multi-stakeholder mechanism to align research and innovation priorities, mobilise expertise across value chains and translate long-term visions into coordinated action. At a time when Europe must reduce fragmentation, strengthen the impact of public and private investment, and accelerate the translation of knowledge into solutions, the systematic integration of ETPs into policy-shaping, advisory and stakeholder processes is essential to achieving a competitive, resilient and innovation-driven Europe.

European Technology Platforms (ETPs) were envisioned by the European Commission in the early 2000s, and they emerged in the context of the Lisbon Strategy (2000). From 2003 onwards, **ETPs became the first structured public-private partnerships in EU research policy**, spanning technological fields from plant and animal breeding, food, organic agriculture and aquaculture to nanomedicine and nanoelectronics, transport, and manufacturing, among others. Early Commission documents¹ highlighted their role in uniting stakeholders around major economic, technological, and societal challenges requiring medium to long-term research and technological advances, while reducing fragmented R&I efforts and building the critical mass needed for future market deployment. In 2005, the European Commission recognised ETPs as capable of addressing innovation challenges from the laboratory to the market and strengthening the European Research Area through coordinated agendas and improved alignment of research priorities. Subsequent assessments, including the European Parliament's 2017 review², confirmed their continued influence on EU, national, and regional R&I programming through their SRIAs and advisory role, underlining their lasting value as instruments for mobilising expertise and supporting strategic coordination across Europe's innovation ecosystem. In recent Council conclusions (2024)³, the Council of the European Union explicitly recognises ETPs as part of the key mechanisms and partnerships supported by Member States. We believe that the main elements for the foundation of the ETPs remain valid, and these should play a role in the future R&I efforts in Europe.

In this context, **policymakers are called upon to ensure the formal and systematic involvement of European Technology Platforms in EU policyshaping, advisory and stakeholder structures**, including in the governance of FP10 and emerging competitiveness instruments. Integrating ETPs expertise into committees, expert groups and consultation processes will safeguard access to coordinated, sector-led and multi-actor input while providing the European Commission with established and operational public-private ecosystems capable of immediate action.

As mature structures with cross-value-chain networks, **ETPs offer a practical and cost-efficient mechanism to strengthen European competitiveness and innovation leadership**, reduce

¹ [European Technology Platforms: Knowledge for Growth. Official Publications of the European Communities, 2005. Catalogue number: KI-70-05-463-EN-D](#)

² [European Technology Platforms – At a Glance. European Parliamentary Research Service \(EPRS\), May 2017. PE 603.935.](#)

³ [A Competitive European Industry Driving Our Green, Digital and Resilient Future – Council of the European Union Conclusions, May 2024. Document 10127/24.](#)

fragmentation and accelerate private-sector engagement, fully aligned with the Union's objectives of simplification, impact and strategic coherence. Embedding ETPs structurally in future EU R&I and competitiveness frameworks would therefore reinforce both efficiency and industrial ownership without creating additional administrative complexity.

List of signatories



The European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATiP) seeks to support and promote a sustainable European aquaculture sector, across all aspects of the value chain and all concerning all types of aquatic production both freshwater and marine.



The Farm Animal Breeding and Reproductive Technology Platform (FABRE TP) is a forum led by knowledge institutes and academia collaborating with the private sector. It provides a platform to define research priorities for animal breeding, genetics and reproduction sector to accelerate the sustainability and resilience of all animal farming systems. The Platform is also active in promoting R&I in Aquaculture and Livestock Breeding and Reproduction.



ETP 'Food for Life' represents the food processing sector. It brings together experts from industry, academia and research centres to identify the R&I actions needed to achieve a more sustainable and resilient food system.



Plants for the Future ETP (Plant ETP) is a multi-stakeholder platform representing the plant sector from fundamental research to crop production and distribution. Plant ETP brings stakeholders from the plant sector together to consider the challenges and opportunities of agricultural value chains in a holistic way, while developing a vision for future systems spanning food, feed, and biobased raw materials.



TP Organics is the ETP for R&I into organics and agroecology. Representing the whole value chain from production, input & supply to food processing, marketing, and consumption, it integrates views of the organic and agroecological sector and of civil society to put forward research priorities that can leverage organic food and farming's potential to address contemporary challenges. TP Organics mission is to shape R&I for organic and other agroecological approaches that contribute to sustainable and resilient food and farming systems.