

# VI Innovation Policy Conference

## Shaping an Ambitious EU Innovation Agenda to accelerate the twin green and digital Transitions

15 June 2022  
Townhall Europe, Sq. de Meeûs 5, Brussels

**This Vanguard Initiative Policy Conference will facilitate an expert panel discussion to reflect on how the urgent need to accelerate on the green and digital transition calls for an ambitious and comprehensive EU innovation agenda.**

Panel discussions will put in light how the EU Industrial Strategy would benefit from an active EU innovation policy with EU Innovation ecosystems development as cornerstone, and to what extent a strong EU Internal Market is essential to support interregional collaboration.

Equally, the policy conference will explore what should be the relevant framework conditions to support the inherent interregional dimension of EU industrial value chains, and in this context, what opportunity the EU Chips Act could represent towards the development of networks of innovation and technology infrastructures.

The essence of the VI network is to harness the potential of its member regions innovation ecosystems; member regions are committed to act collectively on the basis of their Smart Specialisation Strategies to scale up financing and address market failure.

In this context, the conference will highlight the pivotal role of EU Innovation ecosystem development and its fundamental interregional dimension, how it can be enhanced through an ambitious EU innovation policy, and why it is critical to shaping a successful EU industrial policy in a currently shifting and uncertain geopolitical context.

## Agenda – VI Conference on 15 June 2022

### **Moderator:**

Simone Van Trier, <https://datspreekt.nl/>

### **Discussion Panellists:**

- Cristina Oyon, Director of Technology, Innovation and Sustainability at SPRI, Member of the EU Industrial Forum Expert Group, Basque Country, Spain
- Muriel Attané, Secretary General of EARTO – European Association of Research and Technology Organisations
- Željko Pazin, Executive Director, EFFRA – European Factories of the Future Research Association

14.00 – 14.20

**Welcome coffee and registration**

**14.20 – 14.30 *Welcome and Introduction***

Eddy van Hijum, Regional Minister for Overijssel, East Netherlands, VI Chair

**14.30 – 14.50 *Keynote Speech***

Nicola De Michelis, Director, DG Regional and Urban Policy, Smart and Sustainable Growth and Programme Implementation IV (REGIO.G)

**14.50 – 15.30 *Discussion with the Panellists***

**15.30 – 16.00 *Networking Coffee***

**16.00- 16.20 *Keynote Speech***

Doris Schroecker, Head of Unit, DG Research and Innovation, Industrial Research, Innovation & Investment Agendas (RTD.E.1)

**16.20 – 17.00 *Discussion with the Panellists***

**17:00 *Networking reception***

**Annexes:**

- Vanguard Initiative - Developing an integrated EU approach for interconnected innovation ecosystems and industrial value chains
- Industrial Policy for the 21st Century: Lessons from the Past:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/economy-finance/dp157\\_en\\_industrial\\_policy.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/economy-finance/dp157_en_industrial_policy.pdf)
- Digital sovereignty: Commission proposes Chips Act to confront semiconductor shortages and strengthen Europe's technological leadership:  
[file:///C:/Users/farha/Downloads/Digital sovereignty Commission proposes Chips Act to confront semiconductor shortages and strengthen Europe s technological leadership .pdf](file:///C:/Users/farha/Downloads/Digital%20sovereignty%20Commission%20proposes%20Chips%20Act%20to%20confront%20semiconductor%20shortages%20and%20strengthen%20Europe's%20technological%20leadership.pdf)