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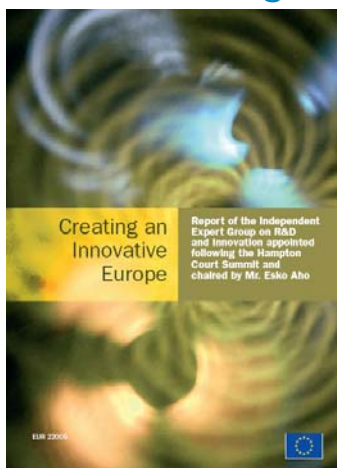
Creating an Innovative Europe

Networked Business and Government –
Something Real for the Lisbon Strategy

Finland's EU Presidency Conference in
Helsinki 23-24 October, 2006
House of the Estates

Mr. Esko Aho
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Creating an Innovative Europe



Report of the Aho Group

Submitted to the European
Commission in January 2006

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23 – 24 October 2006, Helsinki

Members of the Aho Group

- **Mr. Esko Aho (Chairman)** - Former Prime Minister of Finland & President of the Finnish national fund for research and development (Sitra)
- **Dr. Josef Cornu** - Chairman of the information society technologies advisory group of the Commission (ISTAG), former President and COO of Alcatel Telecom, board member at Alcatel, KBC Group, AfgaGevaert, Barco & Arinso
- **Prof. Luke Georghiou (Rapporteur)** - Associate Dean for Research, Faculty of Humanities and PREST, Professor of Science & Technology Policy and Management, and Director of PREST, Manchester Business School - University of Manchester.
- **Prof. Antoni Subirá** - Former Catalan Government Minister of Industry, Trade & Tourism, Professor at the IESE Business School (Barcelona), Chairman of the Advisory Board of the competitiveness institute TCI, Board Member at Mercapital & Air Products.

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Negative Trends

- European economic forecast remaining weak
- Productivity falling behind
- Failing to capitalise on the application of ICT
- Losing out as large firms globalise their R&D
- Locked into unmodernised traditional sectors and under-investing in services R&D
- Rising demographic challenges

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Four-pronged strategy

- Simultaneous and synchronous actions are needed at all levels in:
 1. Creation of a market for innovative products and services
 2. Providing sufficient resources for R&D and innovation
 3. Improving the structural mobility of Europe, and
 4. Building positive attitudes and a culture favourable towards entrepreneurship and risk taking

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Pact for research and innovation

- Builds on the achievements and on-going actions under the revised Lisbon Strategy and the National Reform Programmes
- Much stronger commitment is needed to adapt the European economy to the new paradigm of Innovative Europe - a joint process!
- Independent panel to monitor progress
- A route which resonates strongly with the origins of the European Union, the Single Market and the Common Currency - ***Before it is too late!***

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