

Draft – for approval

The Assessment from the Governing Board of the Annual Activity Report 2017 of the Executive Director of the ECSEL Joint Undertaking

Since the start of his duties as Executive Director of the Joint Undertaking on January 1st, 2016 Bert De Colvenaer has deepened and consolidated in 2017 the activities that have allowed for a proper continuation and smooth running of the Joint Undertaking.

Two calls for proposals were launched in 2017, resulting in the selection of 12 projects: 6 Research and Innovation Actions and 6 Innovation Actions. All together, they engage a total financial effort of 694 M€, of which the EU contributes 173 M€ and the ECSEL Participating States 162 M€. Some 6.5 M€ additional funding is provided through the European structural funds. The remaining 352 M€ represents the in-kind contribution of private members and other beneficiaries. All these figures prove the unique leverage effect of the Joint Undertaking. Grant Agreements for the 14 proposals selected from the Calls 2016 were signed, and all projects have started their activities in 2017.

The two Lighthouse Initiatives, Mobility.E and Industry 4.E that were selected in 2016, aiming to drive further cooperation and improving and accelerating the impact of projects, were further developed and a “LIASE” group identified for each: these groups have started work and concrete actions for 2018 are already planned. In addition, from the Call 2017, a third Lighthouse Initiative (Health.E) was selected to start its implementation as of early 2018.

The Governing Board recognises again that the important actions undertaken by the ECSEL JU in previous years, to address the remarks of the European Court of Auditors and the budgetary authority concerning the projects running under FP7 rules, have been diligently pursued in order to obtain reasonable assurance on the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions. ECSEL Participating States have sent their declarations of assurance, which underpin the declaration of assurance of the Executive Director for the year 2017. The Governing Board also recognises the continuation of the strategy for further finalisation of ARTEMIS and ENIAC projects, launched through a close follow up of documentation from beneficiaries and/or national funding authorities and allowing for the financial closure of the projects.

The Governing Board acknowledges that the internal control system has been assessed to be appropriate and appreciates being regularly informed on developments and updates.

The Governing Board appreciates all efforts of the ECSEL JU Office to satisfy all stakeholders' requests in a positive, constructive and friendly way, and recognises the high workload this brings to the team.

The Governing Board recognises that, according to the information provided in the Annual Activity Report, the Executive Director of the ECSEL JU has reasonable assurance that, overall, suitable controls are in place and are working as intended, risks are being properly monitored and mitigated, and necessary improvements detected by the auditors are being implemented. Therefore, the Executive Director, in his capacity as Authorising Officer, has signed the Declaration of Assurance without any reservation.

The Governing Board concludes that the Annual Activity Report for 2017 is adequate and correct and thanks the Executive Director for performing his duties.

For the Governing Board,

Dr. Sabine Herlitschka

Chairperson