



A NEW INNOVATION PARADIGM FOR A EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL RENAISSANCE

DECLARATION

We, the Presidents of Cotec Portugal, Cotec Spain and Cotec Italy, meeting in Rome on October 28th, 2015, during the X Cotec Europa Meeting, recognize:

1. The opportunity to lead, from Southern Europe, a new paradigm of open, collaborative and social innovation, by embracing its very nature, symmetrical to our culture and way of life.
2. The need to identify and encourage this new paradigm as the driving force for the economic and human development of our countries and for Europe as a whole.

Hereby, we state that:

Italy, Portugal and Spain are great European nations, highly respected for their contribution to different aspects of universal culture, namely art, literature, gastronomy, sports, language or geographic discoveries. For a long period in history, specifically from the end of the Middle Ages to the rise of the modern world –the so called Renaissance–, our countries were considered world leaders in generating and implementing scientific and technical knowledge.

From the 17th century on, first Enlightenment and then the Industrial Revolution, laid the foundations of a thinking and technological development model which has been extremely valuable for Western civilization. During the rise and evolution of both movements, Southern Europe played a secondary role which has been relegating us to a less prominent position within the global innovation landscape.

Nevertheless, thanks to science during Enlightenment and industrial technology, today our countries have abilities which significantly contribute to build a more sustainable and comprehensive Europe, based on knowledge and, in certain arenas, we are becoming a world-wide reference.

In the last few years, the classical concept of industrial society is giving way to a new model drove by the digital revolution and other contemporary phenomena. At the same time, we are witnessing the birth of a new paradigm for innovation, one that is rapidly taking its place within the global context. This new innovation model, more collaborative, open and humanistic... is fully aligned to our culture and way of life.

That is precisely why we, the Presidents of Cotec Spain, Cotec Italy and Cotec Portugal, consider this new paradigm the perfect opportunity for a "European industrial renaissance" that will allow Southern European countries to acquire a renewed prominence.

Therefore, we encourage all institutions and companies from our countries to seize such a historic opportunity and lead the challenge to claim innovation as a unique attribute of our very own culture. And by innovation, in the broadest sense of the word, we mean "any change –not just technological– based on knowledge –not just scientific– which generates value –not just economic–". This broad and humanistic approach to innovation will prove to be paramount to face economic and social challenges in Europe in the years to come. As southern Europeans we can and must lead this Renaissance, as we already did in the past.