

Minister of Economic Affairs and Ports, P.O. Box 101529, 28015 Bremen

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Bremen, July 22nd 2010

**Invitation to the seminar “Staying Competitive in a Changing World”
on September 14th 2010**

Dear Sir or Madam,

the Federal State of Bremen in Germany is organising a seminar called **“Staying competitive in a changing world – Regional innovation and cohesion policies in present and future with the example of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen for the significance of ERDF assistance for the regional innovation system”** on September 14th 2010 at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels.

As the future shape of EU cohesion policy will strongly influence the promotion of innovation in the west-German regions the aim of this event is to show the importance of the Structural Funds' objective - Regional Competitiveness and Employment (RCE objective), for the development of innovation systems in the concerned regions. This is directly related to the current debate concerning the continued support for the RCE objective 2014 and the implementation of the aims of the Europe 2020 strategy of the Union through the regions.

In the first part the main connection between innovation and regional policy will be demonstrated and in the second part, Prognos AG will present an analysis on how successful was the establishment and development of individual competencies by the RCE programme in Bremen. Finally, there will be a panel discussion on how regional innovation systems can be optimally supported by the future EU regional policy. **Dirk Ahner** (Director-General for "Regional Policy", DG Regio) and **Danuta Hübner**, (Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the Committee on Regional Development, European Commissioner for Regional Policy (2004-2009)) will participate in the panel discussion.

I would be delighted to welcome you! Please find attached the detailed schedule and the registration form.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Günthner
Minister of Economic Affairs and Ports