

Abstract

In March 2000, the EU Heads of State and Government agreed to make the European Union the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-driven economy by 2010. There are only three years left and the time has come to see to what extent these ambitious targets have been reached. For this reason, the Bridge Forum Dialogue invited its friends to a discussion concerning Research Policy in the European Union. The ultimate message was clear. For the moment, the EU lags far behind the US and Japan in the domain of research and development. Insufficient spending on research as well as political rigidities within the EU are the main reasons for this disappointing situation. At least, the Lisbon Agenda is a step in the right direction. However, much still remains to be done in order to achieve success.