

The role of Regions in a possible Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Joint Technology Initiative

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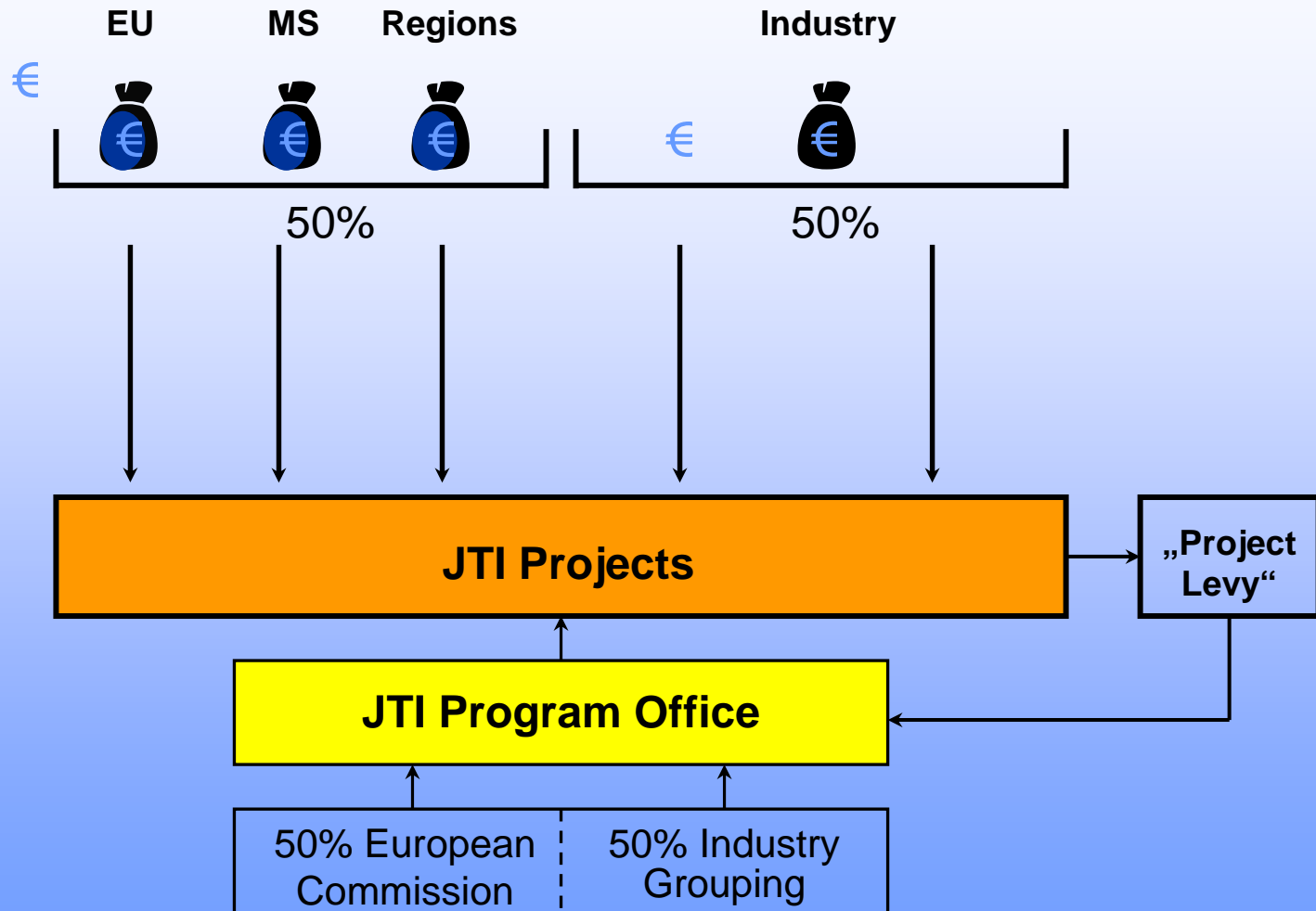
JTI membership

The founding members of the JTI will be:

- the **European Community**, represented by the **European Commission**
- a **Grouping** established as an international not-for-profit association (i.e. with legal personality), representing **European industry interests**
- (possibly) a similar **Grouping** with legal personality, representing the interests of the **European research community**

The Grouping (s) must operate in a transparent manner,
and be open to new members on an equitable basis
(not a “closed shop”)

Proposed financing scheme of the JTI



EC proposal to Council to establish the JTI according to **Article 171** of the EC Treaty expected in **early 2007** (i.e. after the adoption of FP7 legal texts). It will initially have a lifetime of 10 years, but this may be extended

Legislative process will take some months to complete (EP opinion required; not “co-decision”; Council alone will decide)

To facilitate the start-up of the JTI and ensure a rapid transition to full operational readiness, an **interim “structure”** is necessary

A **FP7 Support Action** might be needed to carry out the necessary preparatory activities. The Industry Grouping would share 50% of the costs

Leveraging MS / Regions resources

Possible mechanisms include:

- “topping-up” funding of national and regional partners/activities, thus complementing the EC contribution
- complementary/joint/coordinated national and regional calls (including transnational cooperation) in parallel with JTI calls
- networking (or clustering) of nationally and regionally funded activities to provide an added EU dimension

Appropriate legal and administrative regimes need to be worked out and included in MS and Regions programmes

General conclusions of Turin Workshop

- ✘ The workshop contributed to clarify many aspects, but **understanding and awareness of the process still limited**. More interregional communication and interaction between Regions and HFP is needed.
- ✘ **Overall support of Regions to the JTI concept**. JTI perceived as an important and promising initiative with many potential advantages and benefits. Unanimous opinion for participation through funding specific projects but not through contributions to JTI operational budget (unless they are members of the JTI)
- ✘ JTI needs to understand how to engage and not exclude: Regions, Industry, and Research Centres. **A joined up approach should be worked out**. Regions expect to have a voice and to influence in the JTI process and on the future JTI governing structures. JTI's *Action Plan* should incorporate the Regions Vision

- ✘ Specific resources that Regions can offer to the JTI vary from one to another but can be summarise as follows:
 - Encouraging **political support** to JTI from top **national level**
 - R&D **infrastructures** and **facilities** for **test-bed** of different applications
 - **Research expertise** in particular areas (e.g. Biological Hydrogen production, micro CHP generation)
 - Ideally placed for **connecting** the different project partners and **communicating** with the population
 - **Joint multi-regional projects** and networking with other regions in general also across country borders
 - Funding of **Regional PPPs** to provide means to initiate a range of small scale local and regional projects and demonstrations involving regional companies
 - Involvement of innovative **SMEs** which employ the majority of the European workforce

Questions to reflect

- ✘ Do these conclusions remain still valid or **should they be adapted** in view of the new information?
- ✘ Can Regions contact their national authorities to express their interest in a H2/FC JTI in view of **building support for a Council adoption** of a JTI proposal to be presented by the EC?
- ✘ Is it worthwhile to form a “**Group or a Network of Regions**” which can act with a single voice ? Who should be the interlocutor (HFP AC, HFP MG, future MS supervisory committee, JTI Governing Board)?
- ✘ Would the establishment of “**regional PPPs**” facilitate the access of Regions to the JTI?
- ✘ How can “**Roads2HyCom**” and “**HyLights**” help the Regions to align/integrate their activities with the JTI?
- ✘ Which **next steps** do you propose?