

The Innovation Link: Research Infrastructures for EU Competitiveness

Brussels · 1 October 2025 · 5:30 PM

Representation of Hessen to the European Union,
Rue Montoyer 21, 1000 Brussels

With Helmholtz President Otmar D. Wiestler, Vice-President Sebastian M. Schmidt
and representatives from science, industry and politics

Invitation

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Colleagues,

Europe's large-scale Research Infrastructures (RIs) have an enormous potential to bridge fundamental science and industrial innovation. They can act as dynamic Technology Infrastructures (TIs), offering a platform for long-term cooperation with industry in technology development. How exactly can collaborative ventures across industry and academia strengthen Europe's competitiveness? What role can they play in fostering technological sovereignty and attracting global talent? How do complementary facilities best collaborate across Europe? How can RI and TI become key drivers of innovation together – and which EU funding instruments and policy frameworks could support this evolution? Drawing from concrete Helmholtz examples, we will discuss with experts from science, industry and policy how strategic collaboration with industry advances Europe's innovation ecosystem.

We are sure that you will have many additional questions. We will literally make room for them, and you are welcome to ask our experts yourself!

We look forward to an inspiring meeting and to a lively exchange of ideas.

Kind regards,
Your Helmholtz Office Brussels

Please register before
25th September 2025

Programme

5:30 Get together

6:00 Welcome

- Thomas Eckert, Director of the Representation of the State of Hessen to the EU

Moderated Talk with

- Otmar D. Wiestler, Helmholtz President

Policy Impulse

- Jean-David Malo, DG RTD/European Commission

Round Table: Science and Industry

- Anne-Isabelle Étienne, Director General of CEA
- Bernhard Hesse, XPLORAYTION GmbH
- Anke-Susanne Müller, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

Helmholtz Matter: Inspiration, Invention and Innovation

- Sebastian M. Schmidt, Helmholtz Vice-President for Matter, Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf

Round Table: Science and Policy

- Lina Gálvez, European Parliament
- Beate Heinemann, DESY Board of Directors
- Alexandr Hobza, Cabinet of the Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy/European Commission

7:30 "Ask the Expert!" and Networking Reception

Exhibition of Hi-Acts showcasing how large research infrastructures support industry

Moderated by Kristine August, Helmholtz Office Brussels

Helmholtz in Numbers

47,500

Employees at Helmholtz are working on the world of tomorrow.

6 bn.

Euro budget annually offers our talents excellent conditions for cutting-edge research.

18

National labs are dedicated to the big questions of our time every day.

14,500

Internal and external scientists from all over the world