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Quantum Europe 2017: Towards the Quantum Technology Flagship

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The Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union hosted "[Quantum Europe 2017: Towards the Quantum Technology Flagship](#)". A conference that saw the High-Level Expert Group, created last summer, to present its first recommendations towards the future Flagship, focusing on its Strategic Research Agenda. Hon. Chris Agius, Parliamentary Secretary for Research, Innovation, Youth and Sport opened the event, which was attended by over 150 delegates from across Europe.

Hon. Agius emphasised the importance of quantum technology in creating a new generation of super-fast computers and super-secure communication systems. He lauded the growth of world-class quantum research in Malta, where researchers are working in the fields of quantum sensing, communication, and computation.

The [Quantum Technology \(QT\) Flagship](#) is a €1 billion-scale initiative announced by the European Commission to further develop, over the next decade, a dynamic QT research and innovation ecosystem in Europe, attractive to world-class talent, where ideas can freely emerge and find their way from scientific laboratories to the marketplace, and where the take-up into commercial products of QT is accelerated. This initiative is part of the Commission strategy for digitising European industry.

Following the "[Quantum Europe 2016](#)" conference in Amsterdam, where Commissioner Günther Oettinger [announced the QT Flagship](#), this conference marks a new milestone towards the Flagship, emphasising the added value it brings to European science, technology, industry, and – ultimately – society.

The [High-Level Expert Group in QT](#), chaired by distinguished scientist Prof. Jürgen Mlynek, handed over its [intermediate report](#), with recommendations for the objectives and structure of the QT Flagship to the European Commission. Representatives from Italy, France, Germany, Austria, the United Kingdom, and Hungary presented their national initiatives in QT.

These initiatives will both support a European strategy on QT and contribute to the overall goals of the QT Flagship.

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Other prominent speakers at the conference included Dutch MEP Cora van Nieuwenhuizen, Mr Khalil Rouhana (Deputy Director-General at the European Commission DG for Communications Networks, Content and Technology), and Prof. Serge Haroche (Nobel Prize in Physics, 2012).

