



## Kiel Institute for the World Economy

Vicepresident

Prof. Dirk Helbing  
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Chair of Sociology  
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Clausiusstrasse 50  
8092 Zurich  
Switzerland

November 23, 2010

Dear Professor Helbing,

As the President of the Kiel institute for the world Economy, I hereby confirm our great interest in and support for the proposed FET Flagship FuturICT project within the eighth Framework Programme of the European Commission.

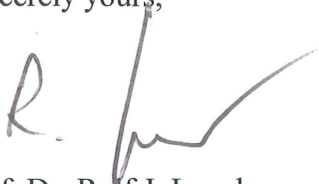
The Kiel institute considers the FuturICT project as an ambitious multi-disciplinary endeavor that addresses some of the most important challenges to science and society in our times. As we have witnessed over the last few years the complex interactions of humans in socio-economic systems can easily lead to systemic instabilities and contagious reactions of markets that all too easily put the well-being of our industrial societies at risk. Economic instabilities might interact with social and political forces in a vicious way leading to 'pathological' collective behavior like the thread of a new protectionism. Obviously, a deeper understanding of the interaction between economic and social/political dynamics is required to face the grand challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The Kiel institute has a traditional focus of research on global economic problems from a global perspective, and it aims at fundamental economic research that provides a foundation for policy and business strategies for addressing global problems. These aims are fully in line with the stated goals of the FuturICT project, and I believe that such a strong cluster of

scientists from various fields could tremendously foster our understanding of the socio-economic world that we ourselves have created.

The Kiel Institute is, therefore, fully supportive of the FuturICT proposal, and it will be represented in the consortium by Prof. Thomas Lux, Head of the Research Area *Financial Markets and Macroeconomic Activity*. I look very much forward to the implementation of this important initiative.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'R. Langhammer', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Prof. Dr. Rolf J. Langhammer