To whom it may concern

March 28, 2010

Support for the FuturIcT Flagship Project

Dear Professor Helbing!

On behalf of the PANORAMA (Pervasive Adaptation) Research Agenda Group within the Future and Emerging Technology (FET) unit of the European Commission, we write to express our strong support of the proposed FuturIcT Flagship Project.

PerAda is a vibrant consortium of researchers, manifested in the FET FP7 PANORAMA coordination action, involving the leading Pervasive Adaptation research consortia ALLOW, ATTRACO, FRONTS, REFLECT, SOCIALNETS and SYMBRION, all concerned with technologies used in information and communication systems which are capable of autonomously adapting to highly dynamic user contexts. The development of future systems will increasingly require collaborative systems, involving complex interactions between people, intelligent objects and computers. The real challenge will be the constantly changing networked environment that can no longer be centrally controlled, or even completely understood, by the developer or user. To be successful especially in such highly dynamic environments, systems will have to adapt themselves, taking into account the emergent behaviour of the system. More than 650 renowned researchers in this area are coordinated by PANORAMA (see www.perada.eu).

Within PANORAMA, the Research Agenda Group is concerned with the identification of the most challenging frontiers of research in Pervasive Computing and Communications, supporting decision makers, stakeholders and policy makers within the Future and Emerging Technology (FET) unit of the EC, the leading authorities in academia and scientific research worldwide, and future-oriented industrial stakeholders in the ICT area in Europe and across continents.

Many of the grand research challenges identified by PANORAMA are coherent with what FuturIcT attempts to establish as the most profound scientific initiative in this century. After almost a whole century of ICT focussed on and centered around the individuals or groups of people, the FuturIcT Flagship approach will open a whole new dimension of ICT at the level of societies, and eventually the whole human mankind. It is crucially important for an initiative that reaches out for the ultimate ICT frontiers, to find its underpinning not only in
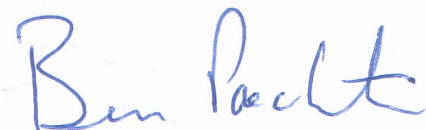
technology, but also in societal knowledge and understanding, in societal behaviour and styles of living, in the physics and laws of society, and in the fabric of socio-technical compounds.

To the best of our knowledge, no ICT research initiative, in Europe or elsewhere, has ever raised or rigorously aimed for a "future ICT" that addresses not only single users or user groups, but all humankind. No ICT research initiative has ever addressed the societal dimension of ICT so profoundly as FuturIcT, and never has humankind been in a more challenging situation as far as ICT is concerned - considering the explosive growth of the Internet, the miniaturization of highly advanced electronics, the pervasive availability of (wireless) communication, the confluence of humans and machines, the self-awareness of ICT-enabled things, just being vanguards of what FuturIcT envisions as today's horizon, but tomorrows past of ICT.

The Research Agenda group of PANORAMA with all its enthusiasm expresses its whole-hearted support of the FuturIcT Flagship and is willing to share, exchange, accelerate and coordinate, in order to make the most fascinating scientific endeavour of this century become reality. The group—associated with the whole pervasive computing and communications scientific community—is excited about the proposed scientific challenges, and even more by the social and societal impacts envisioned by the FuturIcT Flagship initiative.

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