

## Introduction-Conference

Dear Mr. Prime-Minister Topolánek,  
dear Mr. Commissioner Potočník,  
distinguished guests,  
dear colleagues!

On behalf of the Programme and Organizing Committees of the conference „Researchers in Europe without Barriers“, it is my great pleasure and indeed honour to welcome you to the Conference. We all who have gathered here want to build the strong, inspiring and successful European Research Area. To do this, we need to attract young people to science and research, to recognize and foster their talents, to give them the best conditions here in Europe for developing their professional careers and for facilitating their cooperation with experienced scientists as well as with their peers abroad and to teach young scientists the skills and competences necessary for converting research results into successful innovations.

This conference will deal with all these important questions. Its programme is based on the May 2008 Communication of the Commission „Better Careers and More Mobility: A European Partnership for Researchers“. At the same time, the Conference is a follow-up of the French conference „Young Researchers in Europe“, held in Rennes in October 2008.

Before I give floor to our most distinguished speakers, allow me a short comment on young researchers in Europe. These are the ones who will build the European Research Area. When they ask for fellowships or post-doctoral positions in Europe, they often fail, just because they had not been lucky enough to have a world-class supervisor during their PhD studies and, due to this, they lack an impressive publications record as well as strong recommendations. Nevertheless, they may be highly gifted, motivated and devoted to science. Let's open the European Research Area even to these young researchers, in fact to all gifted young scientists, let's invite them for interviews, give them a chance to work in good European laboratories. May the slogan of our Conference run as follows: „Give a chance to all gifted young European researchers and let this chance bring excellence to the European research!“