



Enterprise Directorate General

European Commission



Innovation

# **Policies towards world-class clusters in the EU**

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***Support for Innovation***

***DG Enterprise, European Commission***

# Clusters matter



- Economic prosperity is linked to the degree of cluster strength
  - 85% of cluster firms state that a cluster initiative has improved their competitiveness
  - Cluster firms are more innovative than non-cluster firms
  - Cluster firms register more trademarks (29% vs. 14%) and apply for more patents (29% vs. 12%)
  - Cluster firms contract out more research (41% vs. 20%) and carry out less research in-house (44% vs. 53%)
- ... but only 10% of cluster initiatives have concrete internationalisation strategy plans**

# Towards more world-class clusters in the EU



- Policy discussions at European level have started
- A High-Level Cluster Policy Group will be established
- European Cluster Alliance will be further supported
- Striving for excellence at all levels is the "Leitmotiv"

**... by learning from the best!**

# International cluster cooperation



- Clusters should be open for cooperation, not become “closed shops”
- Question is: Who should cooperate with whom on what?
- At policy level, main common interest is on mutual policy learning
- Cluster organisations are seeking for complementarities
- Clusters are gateways for the internationalisation of businesses

... **“Win-Win”** is the magic word

# EU-Japan cluster cooperation



- The EU-Japan Regional Cluster Forum 2008 in Yokohama has shown potential for closer cooperation;
- EU-Japan Center and JETRO will be instrumental for future cooperation;
- European Cluster Observatory will provide platform for information and partner search;
- EU-Japan cluster cooperation could serve as a model for the future.



***THANK YOU***