

Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for the Digital Agenda, gave a speak at the International Conference on Research Infrastructures ( [ICRI 2012](#) ).

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*When I look at the many troubles we face today, it can be dispiriting. Our citizens worry for an uncertain future; our young people especially face horrific unemployment; governments confront impossible-seeming deficits. But then I remember what we're good at here in Europe. And that gives me hope.*

*Europe has long been the smart continent, with a history of invention and innovation. We are the home of so many advances, from DNA to the SMS. Today I want to talk about how we can support this changing world of science. And how we should invest in infrastructures for innovation. Because one thing is clear: if we're going to give our economy the pick-me-up it needs, we're going to have to make most of our strengths.*

*That means we must do the best science, and innovate. For almost any question we face today, science and technology will help with the answer: from halting harmful climate change, to caring for an ageing population, to delivering the growth that secures future jobs.*

*But science itself is changing, too. We need to change with it. How?*

Please follow this [link](#) to read the full text.