

### Chancellor Merkel: Research and Technology the focal point of German policies in the years to come

Federal Chancellor Mrs. Merkel invited the members of the Science Advisory Council for a reception in the Federal Chancellery. She would like to make Research and Technology the focal point of her policies in the years to come. Also during the German Presidency of G-8 in the next year, she would bring forth the topic of innovation.

The Chancellor emphasised that “Partaking in Education” is a very “essential question of social justice”. By 2010, she would like to invest 3% of the GDP per annum in Research and Development.

The Coalition has agreed to make an additional of 6 Billion Euros available for Research and Technology by 2009. Merkel appealed to the States and the Industry to also put in their contributions.

The Federal Government expects 4 billion Euros to come from the budget of the state. The presumption is that for every additional Euro made available from the public funds the industry will invest two Euros.

The Chancellor clarified further that for the utilisation of the envisaged additional resources for research she will strongly support the recommendations of the Science Advisory Council.

The Science Advisory Council advises the Federal Government and the State Governments. The 54 member board works out recommendations concerning content and structures for the development of colleges and institutions for higher studies. It also gives recommendations in the overall field of Science and Research. Together with the German Research Foundation (DFG), the council decides on the promotion of elite Universities.