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European
Federation of
Precision
Mechanical and
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e u r o m



Position Paper

Classification of analytic and measurement instruments on the Taxonomy list

The European Federation of Optical and Precision Mechanical Industries EUROM was founded in Brussels on May 17, 1960, shortly after the constitution of the European Community. EUROM represents the interests of large, medium and small companies in the European precision mechanical and optical industries, covers a wide range of both consumer goods and industrial products and is actively engaged in making Europe an outstanding attractive industrial location.

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Taxonomy as a tool for investment for research and innovation (R&I)

Research and Innovation (R&I) play a key role in order to achieve environmental goals such as decarbonization. R&I - including basic research - are essential for breakthroughs. Therefore, it is quite important to use Taxonomy as a tool to promote private investment for R&I activities.

Hereby it is quite important not to limit the R&I field by putting strict criteria based on current knowledge. Some research field is obviously directly related to a concrete solution, while others may not be categorized as sustainability-relevant at first glance but may well contribute to the sustainability society in the future. Therefore, it is quite difficult and dangerous to categorize and judge R&I activities based on the current knowledge whether the research activity will contribute to sustainability in the future.

Furthermore, the current Taxonomy activities list is not suitable criteria for the categorize R&I activities. For example, the investment on the R&I activity on coal usage should not be blocked simply because "it is coal-related". This kind of research may contribute to the improvement of the combustion efficiency of bio-coal in the future.

The categorization of R&I activities based on current knowledge can damage the big innovation chance for the future solution for the sustainable.

Taxonomies should encourage the investment for R&I activities and their related infrastructure, equipment, services, and technologies without setting narrow criteria. It should be left to market forces which R&I fields it should be invested.

Examples of analytical equipment

Providing data on climate change:

To take appropriate measures against climate change, first, we need to understand the impacts of climate change precisely. For this, monitoring and data analysis are inevitable. For example, by using chromatographic, mass spectrometric, photonics, and spectroscopic techniques, it is possible to perform qualitative and quantitative analysis of greenhouse gases such as CO₂ and hazardous chemicals. The investment in R&I will promote the improvement of the performance of these instruments which leads to more precise data.

Enables new material and products for a sustainable society:

Technologies and services for R&D and quality control are inevitable for the establishment of new material technologies that contribute to reduce negative environmental impact and promote renewable energy. For example, to promote the use of hydrogen energy, analysis of the physical and chemical properties of hydrogen tanks and hydrogen absorption alloys are essential. In promoting wind power generation, testing of the safety and durability of the materials and shapes used in wind power feathers is also essential. For photovoltaic power generation, in addition to the durability test, it is quite important to measure the various physical properties to improve power generation efficiency. The investment in R&I would promote the improvement of the performance of these instruments and accelerate the innovation of new sustainable products.