

First International Meeting on Technological Sovereignty and Strategic Sectors

Europe is facing a decisive stage in which its strategic autonomy, industrial competitiveness, and capacity for global influence depend on its scientific and technological leadership. In sectors such as semiconductors, quantum communications, security and defense, and critical materials and energy resources, not only the economic future of the continent is being defined, but also its technological sovereignty and geopolitical positioning. Regions such as Bavaria and the Rhine axis in Germany, Lombardy and northern Italy, or Île-de-France have consolidated benchmark models through the effective integration of science, industry, and public policy.

In this context, the **Region of Madrid** stands on this same European front line. Its concentration of universities of excellence —with **the Complutense University of Madrid** as one of its main academic references— international research centers, advanced scientific and technical infrastructures, technology companies, and strategic industry position it as one of the most dynamic hubs in southern Europe for the generation and application of knowledge. The Region of Madrid actively competes in the sectors that will define the continent's strategic autonomy and holds a relevant place in value chains linked to microelectronics, quantum technologies, defense, advanced materials, and the energy transition.

Human capital constitutes the foundation of this position. The ability to train, attract, and project researchers, highly qualified professionals, and technological entrepreneurs strengthens its competitiveness and contributes, by extension, to Spain's positioning in the major strategic programs and initiatives of the European Union.

The organization of **this event in Brussels on June 10th and 11th** responds to a clear institutional intention: to position the Region of Madrid at the core where European policies, financial instruments, and strategic priorities are defined. The objective is not merely to participate in the debate, but to actively contribute to shaping it through the accumulated experience, scientific and industrial strength, and academic capacity represented by its institutions. In this framework, the Complutense University of Madrid, as the promoting institution and a central actor in the initiative, plays a strategic role in articulating knowledge, delivering excellence in education, and connecting research, business, and public policy.

Over the course of two days, **the discussion panels will bring together industry, academia, innovation agents, and public administrations** in a space for structured cooperation aimed at strengthening knowledge transfer, public–private collaboration, and the international projection of the regional ecosystem.

Ultimately, these sessions aim to consolidate the international profile of the Region of Madrid as a European reference in critical sectors for the continent’s technological autonomy, fully integrated into the national strategy and aligned with the most advanced regions in Europe.

Objectives

General Objective

To strengthen the positioning of the Region of Madrid, within the framework of the national and European strategy, as a reference in strategic technological sectors for the continent’s autonomy. This will be achieved by promoting in Brussels a space for structured dialogue between industry, academia, innovation ecosystem agents, and public administrations, while highlighting its scientific, industrial, and talent-generation capabilities.

Specific Objectives

1. **Showcase the leadership of the Region of Madrid.** To highlight and project the leadership of the Region of Madrid in the four strategic sectors addressed in the event —semiconductors, quantum technologies, security and defense, and advanced materials and energy resources— taking advantage of the institutional framework of Brussels and the Forum of the Regions to demonstrate the strength of its scientific, technological, and industrial ecosystem, its capacity to generate and attract talent, and its relevant role in European value chains.
2. **To place Madrid at the center of the European** debate for two days, strengthening its connection with EU institutions and with the programs and instruments that define the Union’s strategic autonomy.
3. **To identify and highlight the talent linked to Madrid,** both in the scientific and in the business and institutional spheres, strengthening its recognition and international projection.
4. **To generate and consolidate networks** among the different actors of the ecosystem —companies, universities, research centers, startups, clusters, and administrations— fostering stable alliances and shared projects.
5. **To promote public–private cooperation,** encouraging instruments and policies that facilitate knowledge transfer, industrial scalability, and participation in European strategic initiatives.
6. **To strengthen the strategic connection with Madrid** of researchers, entrepreneurs, and professionals who carry out their activities in

international environments, consolidating the region as a natural space for reference and collaboration.

- 7. To contribute to the development of a national strategy in critical sectors**, aligning regional capabilities with European objectives to strengthen Spain's role in strategic value chains.

Directors

Federico Morán, Director of the Madri+d Foundation

Javier Sierra Sánchez, Associate Professor at the Complutense University of Madrid

Secretary:

Sira Laguna Fernández

- **Place:** Brussels, headquarters of the Committee of the Regions
- **Dates:** June 10th and 11th, 2026
- **Format:** Conferences + panels + round tables + institutional visits + networking
- **Language:** Spanish / English (with translation)

Strategic Axes

- Semiconductors
- Quantum Technologies
- Security and Defense
- Advanced Materials

First International Meeting on Technological Sovereignty and Strategic Sectors

Program

June 10th

9:30h – Opening

- Councillor for Economy & Councillor for Education, Research, and Universities (Foundation)
- A European representative from the Committee of the Regions or a DG (Javier)
- Federico Morán, Director of the Madri+D Foundation and Director of the Summer Course

10:00 – Opening Keynote

- Tomás Palacios – MIT + Soldier Nanotech Institute (He has been contacted; he will be in Italy on those dates but is considering traveling to Brussels for one day to participate. As a last resort, an online keynote could be offered or another speaker could replace him.) (Ana)

11:00–11:30 – Coffee break

Session I: Policies Driving Innovation in Strategic Sectors

11:30 – Panel: “Multilevel Governance for European Strategic Autonomy”

Moderator: **Federico Morán**

- Is there real coordination between Brussels, Madrid, and the Spanish state?
- Do policy instruments overlap or complement each other?
- Who leads the strategy in critical sectors?
- Are current instruments sufficient (EIC, Chips Act, PERTE, NextGen Funds)?
- Is there excessive bureaucracy?
- Does Europe adequately finance industrial CAPEX?
- Do we need a European sovereign fund?
- Which infrastructures are critical today?
- Who should finance them?
- Can a Spanish region compete with Bavaria or Île-de-France?
- Is Madrid aligned with national and European strategies?
- Is Europe losing strategic talent?
- What contractual or fiscal reforms are necessary?
- Can talent be considered critical infrastructure?
- If Europe wants real technological autonomy by 2035, what political decision must be taken in the next two years?
- Is competition between European regions compatible with continental sovereignty?
- Is strategic autonomy a real priority or just rhetoric?
- Should Europe accept lower efficiency in exchange for resilience?
- How can fragmentation of resources be avoided?
- What tools are needed for security in innovation and research, and how will they be defined?

Participants

Regional Councillor for Economy/Education (or alternative representatives at lower levels)

DG CONNECT (semiconductors / quantum) or a representative from the Committee of the Regions. Alternatives: DG DEFIS (defence and space), DG GROW (strategic industry), DG RTD (research), ESRA (Javier)

Silvia Gamo (Director of Fundación Círculo) (Daniel contact)

Héctor Guerrero (Deputy Director General for Aerospace Policy, Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities)

Carlos Luca de Tena (Center for the Governance of Change, IE) (daniel)

Jaime Martorell (former SETT) (ana)

13:00–15:00 – Lunch

Session II: Knowledge Generation and Talent as Strategic Innovation Infrastructures

15:00 – Perspectives

Invitation to UAH, URJC, CSIC, Ana Cremades

(7-minute interventions per speaker)

15:30 – Keynote Ignacio Vicente del Olmo – Pons IP (Keynote on intellectual property in disruptive sectors)

16:00 – Coffee break

16:30 – Panel: “From Strategic Knowledge to Industrial Capability”

Moderator: **Ana Cremades (UCM)**

Given the strength of Madrid’s scientific ecosystem, this panel could emphasize:

Real university–industry connections
Scientific-technical infrastructures as strategic assets
Talent as critical infrastructure
Technology transfer in dual-use sectors

Questions include:

- Should universities be considered critical infrastructure?
- Which disciplines are strategic today for Europe?
- Is European funding aligned with real priorities?
- What really hinders technology transfer in Europe: regulation, culture, or incentives?
- Does the academic evaluation system penalize industrialization?
- Should the university intellectual property model be reformed?
- Do spin-offs require governance different from academic structures?
- Does Europe need more intermediate pilot infrastructures?

- Should universities operate semi-industrial infrastructures?
- How should strategic scientific CAPEX be financed?
- Does Europe train excellent talent but fail to retain it?
- What incentives are needed to attract technological leaders?
- Should specific contracts exist for strategic researchers?
- If Europe seeks real technological autonomy, what must change tomorrow in the university system?
- Should Europe prioritize strategic research over complete thematic freedom?
- Are we prepared for a security economy?
- Can universities remain neutral in a fragmented geopolitical context?
- Should there be a special statute for dual-use science?
- How do we develop security in research?

Participants

- **Vicente Martín (UPM)**
- **Bianchi Méndez (UCM)**
- **Guillermo Carpintero (Leapwave, UC3M)**
- **Arturo Azcorra (IMDEA Networks, PIXIE)**
- **Félix Zamora (Vice-Rector for Innovation, UAM)**

June 11th

Session III: Leading and Strategic Sectors

9:30 – Perspectives

Invitations to CEIM, AESEMI, TEDAE, Daniel Granados

(7-minute interventions per speaker)

10:00 – Keynote

Indra (Jorge)

11:00–11:30 – Coffee break

11:30 – Panel: “Strategic Industry: Dependencies, Synergies, and the Potential of the Dual-Use Market”

- **Moderator:** Daniel Granados (IMDEA Nano)

Questions include:

- Where does your sector depend today on non-European suppliers?
- Which part of your value chain is critical?
- What geopolitical risks do you perceive?

- Is it harder to scale deep tech in Europe than in the U.S. or Asia?
- Where is the biggest bottleneck: capital, regulation, talent, or demand?
- Do large companies purchase enough European technology?
- Does European public procurement drive innovation or hinder it?
- Can defense act as a driver of technological sovereignty?
- What regional instrument is missing in Madrid?
- An industrial fund? Strategic procurement programs? More pilot infrastructures?
- Is Europe willing to pay more to produce domestically?
- Is the concept of “open strategic autonomy” realistic?
- How can strategic deep-tech companies avoid acquisition by non-European actors?
- Should resilience be prioritized over efficiency?
- Are we moving toward a security economy?

Participants include:

- MCA (Elena Arroyo) (daniel)
- QCentroid (Carlos Kutchowsky) (ana)
- Sensia (Francisco Cortes) (daniel)
- Oesía (Patricia Arguerey) (ana)
- Westinghouse / European Nuclear Training Center in Madrid (foundation)°
- Jesús Gallego (UCM, CITT Space) (ana)

13:00–15:00 – Lunch

Session IV: Madrid – A Vibrant and Innovative Ecosystem

15:00 – Perspectives

Beable (Foundation), Omatidia Lidar (daniel), OBUU (ana), Jorge Lang (7 minutes per speaker, Jorge will introduce Luis Socias)

15:30 – Panel “Why Madrid? Innovation and Startups”

Luis Socias – Invest in Madrid (Strengths of Madrid, sectors, programs, etc.)

16:30 – Panel: The Madrid Innovation Ecosystem and Its Role in the Development of Strategic Sectors

- **Moderator:** Juan Moreno (FIBK)

Discussion topics include:

- What is the current landscape of deep-tech startups in Madrid, Spain, and Europe?

- Can European private capital truly function as an instrument of technological sovereignty, or do we structurally depend on public co-investment?
- What conditions must a project meet to be considered “strategic” from an investment perspective?
- Is Europe penalizing technological risk compared to the United States or Asia?
- Which sectors are currently considered truly critical for European autonomy: semiconductors, quantum technologies, defense, energy, materials?
- Are funds prepared to assume maturation cycles of **8–12 years** in hardware, microelectronics, or advanced materials?
- What metrics replace “product-market fit” in technologies with a strong scientific base?
- How do investors evaluate **university intellectual property** in pre-industrial stages?
- What governance model do you recommend for **scientific spin-offs**?
- What should change in **European regulation** to facilitate strategic scale-ups?
- Is a **European sovereign fund** for critical sectors necessary?
- Does **public–private co-investment** accelerate innovation or introduce excessive bureaucracy?
- Where is the main bottleneck in Europe today: **early-stage capital, growth capital, or industrial financing (CAPEX)**?
- How can Europe prevent deep-tech companies from being acquired by **non-European actors**?
- What role should regions such as **Madrid** play in attracting strategic scale-ups?
- How important is proximity to **industrial clusters** (Bavaria, Lombardy, Île-de-France)?
- Is private capital prepared to invest in **dual-use technologies**?
- How do funds manage **reputational risk** when investing in the defense sector?
- Do you see clear opportunities in **security, cybersecurity, or quantum communications**?
- Does current **European regulation** facilitate or hinder these investments?
- What profiles do investors look for in **deep tech founding teams**?
- Does Europe train excellent talent but fail to retain **technological CEOs**?
- How important is **industrial experience** compared to purely academic profiles?
- What **structural mistakes** do you observe in university spin-offs?

Participants:

- Arribes Enlightenment, Luis Martín (Jorge)
- Kfund, Pablo Ventura, Miguel Arias (Daniel)
- Fundación Madri+d – Eduardo Díaz (Foundation)
- RBZ – Daniel Amor (Jorge)
- Jorge Lang (CITT Semiconductors, former Intel)

COTEC Report: Technological Sovereignty – **Semiconductors** (Ana) / **Quantum Technologies** (Luis Ignacio) – Video?