



BRITISH ACADEMY

Mr Martin Schulz
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European Parliament
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Dear President, dear Mr Schulz,

With the negotiations on finalising the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework continuing, there remain considerable concerns within Europe's research community about the commitment of Member States towards responsible levels of research and innovation funding to drive economic growth and develop our understanding of the challenges we face in the 21st century in the context of an increasingly competitive global knowledge economy with emerging powers investing massively.

The European Parliament to its great credit has had the vision and courage to support Europe's vital need for research and innovation funding by setting out its commitment to increase the €80 billion proposed by the European Commission to €100 billion for Horizon 2020. This commitment provides the foundation for a strong European recovery from the financial crisis through supporting a key engine of productivity, job creation and growth, as well as delivering scientific excellence, providing value for money, and creating the basis for researchers to leverage critical private funding. For example, the estimated long-term impact of FP7 is that it will have generated an extra 0.96% of GDP and created 900,000 jobs. That is a boost to growth the size of the total expenditure on all other budget lines combined.


The research community is though well aware that at the 22-23 November Summit on the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework the views of, not only the European Parliament, but also the European Commission were ignored, and that both proposals put forward by the European Council's President argued in favour of a cut to the Commission's proposed budget for Horizon 2020. This cut may at best constitute a freeze on funding provided between 2007-2014 under Framework Programme 7, and quite possibly a reduction. Put against the European Union's commitment to innovation and research, and its desire to drive growth such an approach is illogical and deeply damaging to our ability to generate jobs and wealth across the European Union, as well as deepen our knowledge of the very economy, society and culture that we live in together and Europe's relationship with the rest of the world.

We strongly call on the European Parliament, and yourself as President, to maintain your commitment to a properly funded Horizon 2020 budget at €100 billion as a red line in the budget negotiations and particularly at the European Council Summit on 7-8 February. At present, research and innovation seems to be everyone's second favourite budget line in the 2014-2020

Multiannual Financial Framework. This equates to being everyone's favourite sacrificial lamb; that is not good enough. If we wish to reach the ambitions proposed under the Europe 2020 Strategy we must have a properly resourced Horizon 2020 budget.

A cut in the proposed budget for Horizon 2020 would represent a clear own goal in our drive for growth, jobs, wealth creation and understanding and resolving the societal challenges we face today. We look to you, and the European Parliament as a whole, to show the leadership required to ensure the commitments you have made to research and innovation funding in the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework are kept.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Wallace". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Professor Dame Helen Wallace DBE CMG FBA

From
Professor Dame Helen WALLACE DBE CMG FBA
Foreign Secretary and Vice-President

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