



30 November 2018

Dear Prime Minister / Chancellor / Taoiseach / President,

## **Horizon Europe - EU Multiannual Financial Framework**

*(a letter to Heads of State or Government, signed by Nobel Prize and other international award winners and CEOs and Chairmen of leading European companies)*

At the European Council meeting in December, European leaders will discuss the 2021-2027 EU Multiannual Financial Framework, including the budget to be assigned to Research and Innovation, mainly through the next framework programme Horizon Europe. On this occasion, we want to remind them of the economic impact and the tangible improvements to European citizens' lives that have been generated over the years by the EU framework programmes for Research and Innovation. We urge Europe's Heads of State or Government to support or even to increase the investment in Horizon Europe. €120 billion was seen as the absolute minimum to make Europe a global frontrunner by the High Level Group set by the European Commission and chaired by Pascal Lamy.

Indeed, EU-funded research had a decisive impact and positively contributed to various areas, such as avoiding unnecessary chemotherapy for breast cancer patients; opening the way to batteries and solar cells of the next generation; reducing aircraft emissions and noise; enhancing cybersecurity; qualifying the future impact of artificial intelligence on jobs; etc.

European industry underlines that the EU framework programmes help companies to build up know-how, have access to the "state-of-the-art", achieve synergies and critical mass, access highly skilled and talented people, and network with customers and suppliers. EU-funded research has made an immense contribution to creating and disseminating scientific knowledge indispensable for innovation to flourish. This in turn helps European firms to stay globally competitive in a world that is more and more challenging.

Winners of distinguished international scientific awards emphasise the role of EU funding, in particular via the European Research Council, in adequately supporting ambitious researchers who work at the frontiers of scientific knowledge. The framework programmes are essential to establish the next generation of scientific leaders who, following their curiosity, make ground-breaking and unexpected scientific discoveries that often lay the foundation of technologies and industries of the future.

Together, we urge European leaders to make sure that the next EU financial framework guarantees an appropriately ambitious Research and Innovation budget of €120 billion as a bare minimum. Now that Europe is back on track with its goal of becoming a knowledge-based, sustainable and inclusive society, it must devote even more attention and resources to ensure the basis of its future economic growth and societal development.

When the EU budget funds quality scientific research, it's not only science, the environment, society and the economy that benefit; it is all European citizens.

Yours sincerely,

**Ben Feringa**, Nobel Prize in Chemistry  
**Alessio Figalli**, Fields Medal (Mathematics)  
**Theodor Hänsch**, Nobel Prize in Physics  
**Serge Haroche**, Nobel Prize in Physics  
**Stephan Hell**, Nobel Prize in Physics  
**Jules Hoffmann**, Nobel Prize in Medicine  
**Bengt Holmström**, Nobel Prize in Economy  
**Tim Hunt**, Nobel Prize in Medicine  
**Klaus von Klitzing**, Nobel Prize in Physics  
**Jean-Marie Lehn**, Nobel Prize in Chemistry  
**Lászlo Lovacs**, Wolf Prize in Mathematics  
**May-Britt Moser**, Nobel Prize in Medicine  
**Edvard Moser**, Nobel Prize in Medicine  
**Erwin Neher**, Nobel Prize in Medicine  
**Konstantin Novoselov**, Nobel Prize in Physics  
**Paul Nurse**, Nobel Prize in Medicine  
**Christiane Nüsslein Volhart**, Nobel Prize in Biology  
**Christopher Pissaridès**, Nobel Prize in Economy  
**Joseph Sifakis**, Turing Award (Informatics)  
**Cédric Villani**, Fields Medal (Mathematics)  
**Ada Yonath**, Nobel Prize in Chemistry

**Jean-Paul Agon**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, L'Oréal  
**José María Álvarez-Pallete**, Chairman and CEO, Telefónica  
**Nils S. Andersen**, Chairman, AkzoNobel  
**Paulo Azevedo**, Chairman and Co-CEO, Sonae  
**Ben van Beurden**, Chief Executive Officer, Royal Dutch Shell  
**Jean-François van Boxmeer**, Chairman and CEO, HEINEKEN  
**Carlo Bozotti**, Former President and CEO, STMicroelectronics  
**Svein Richard Brandtzaeg**, President and CEO, Norsk Hydro  
**Martin Brudermüller**, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, BASF  
**Paul Bulcke**, Chairman, Nestlé  
**Pierre-André de Chalendar**, Chairman & CEO, Saint-Gobain  
**Jean-Pierre Clamadieu**, Chairman of the Executive Committee and CEO, Solvay  
**Rodolfo De Benedetti**, Chairman, CIR  
**Claudio Descalzi**, Chief Executive Officer, Eni  
**Wolfgang Eder**, Chairman and CEO, voestalpine  
**Henrik Ehrnrooth**, President and CEO, KONE  
**Börje Ekholm**, President and CEO, Ericsson  
**Christoph Franz**, Chairman of the Board, F. Hoffmann-La Roche  
**Ignacio S. Galán**, Chairman and CEO, Iberdrola  
**Zsolt Hernádi**, Chairman and CEO, MOL  
**Frans van Houten**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Royal Philips  
**Pablo Isla**, Chairman and CEO, Inditex  
**Jean-Sébastien Jacques**, Chief Executive, Rio Tinto  
**Jan Jenisch**, Chief Executive Officer, LafargeHolcim  
**Leif Johansson**, Chairman, AstraZeneca  
**Harald Krüger**, Chairman of the Board of Management, BMW Group  
**Thomas Leysen**, Chairman of the Board, Umicore  
**Martin Lundstedt**, President and CEO, Volvo Group  
**Bill McDermott**, CEO, SAP  
**Lakshmi N. Mittal**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, ArcelorMittal  
**Dimitri Papalexopoulos**, Chief Executive Officer, Titan Cement  
**Benoît Potier**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Air Liquide  
**Gianfelice Rocca**, Chairman, Techint Group of Companies  
**Kasper Rorsted**, Chief Executive Officer, adidas  
**Güler Sabanci**, Chairman, Sabanci Holding  
**Jean-Dominique Senard**, Chief Executive Officer, Michelin  
**Risto Siilasmaa**, Chairman, Nokia  
**Søren Skou**, Chief Executive Officer, A.P. Møller-Mærsk  
**Tony Smurfit**, Group Chief Executive, Smurfit Kappa Group  
**Ulrich Spiesshofer**, President and Chief Executive Officer, ABB  
**Carl-Henric Svanberg**, Chairman, BP and Chairman, ERT  
**Johannes Teyssen**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, E.ON  
**Hans Van Bylen**, Chief Executive Officer, Henkel  
**Jacob Wallenberg**, Chairman, Investor AB