



Open letter to the President of the European Council

## European decision makers must do better!

16th of July 2020

Dear President of the European Council,

Bearing in mind the [declaration](#) jointly signed last month and forwarded to the EU and national authorities, the presidents of CNR, CNRS, CSIC, the Helmholtz Association, the Leibniz Association and the Max Planck Society (hereinafter G6), would like to recall the need to guarantee that research and innovation receive in the next MFF the budget that truly gives Europe the chance to build its future.

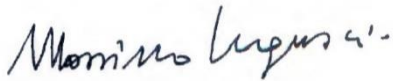
The proposed cut of 5 billion euros to the European Commission's current proposal for Horizon Europe, as it emerges from your most recent negotiation box, does not match the ambitious goals of the recovery plan, namely convergence, resilience and transformation. These three targets assume research and innovation as trigger for the recovery of Europe and neither the economic reform nor the society remodeling can be realized without a sound and well-funded EU research. More than ever before, the pandemic has made obvious to the general public that research and innovation are crucial to tackle global challenges. The additional funds made available by the recovery plan provide targeted support for specific, notably Covid-19-related topics; but the 13.5 billion euros from the Recovery Plan have been allocated to research and innovation to complement the regular budget of Horizon Europe in a few specific areas, not to replace it. The G6, therefore, support the European Parliament's demand to considerably increase the budget of Horizon Europe far beyond the European Commission's proposal, especially in view of the corona pandemic.

In this respect, we consider that the latest proposal to reduce the budget of Horizon Europe is entirely counterproductive and harmful for the future of next generations and therefore incomprehensible.

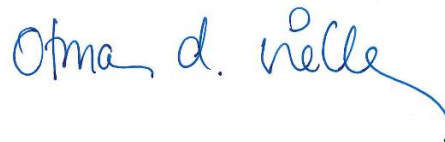
Today is the time to invest in science for Europe and its sovereignty. We, the presidents of six of the largest research organisations, representing more than 135.000 employees and an annual budget of around 14 billion euro, hope that the European decision makers will not accept this proposal and, conversely, will take the necessary steps to reinforce research and innovation.

We rest at your entire disposal for further discussions on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



**Massimo Inguscio**, President, CNR



**Otmar D. Wiestler**, President, Helmholtz Association



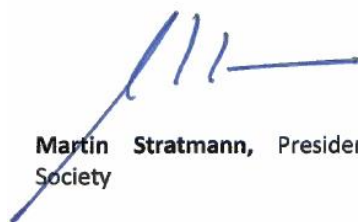
**Antoine Petit**, President, CNRS



**Matthias Kleiner**, President, Leibniz Association



**Rosa Menéndez**, President, CSIC



**Martin Stratmann**, President, Max Planck Society