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Mr Charles Michel  
President of the European Council  
Rue de la Loi, 175  
BE-1049 Brussels

Munich, July 16, 2020

## Petition for a strong EU research budget in response to your MFF negotiating box

Dear President Michel,

On the eve of the important Special European Council, we urge you to support a strong EU research and innovation budget in the coming Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). We welcome your efforts to reach a rapid agreement on the MFF. However, we are disappointed by your current proposal to cut the Horizon Europe Program by €5 billion. At the edge of a deep economic recession, Europe requires now more than ever a future-oriented MFF with clear and ambitious commitments to prioritize research, development and innovation (RD&I) investments. With EU private RD&I investments reducing, strong commitments of public RD&I investments at EU, national and regional levels are key.

Europe must emerge from the current crisis stronger, technologically excellent, and more resilient. Research, development and innovation are the key enablers of the future development: in the short term to fight the global corona pandemic and in the long term to strengthen resilience, technological sovereignty and the green and digital transformation of the European continent. The upcoming economic upheavals can only be tackled by boosting the innovation capacity of Member States. For this, we need world-class research generating new knowledge and new tools, excellent infrastructures and highly skilled researchers. In this context, a reduction of the Horizon Europe budget is absolutely counterproductive and harmful, since it hampers the achievement of the jointly agreed and ambitious European goals.

We therefore ask you to advocate for a significant increase in the research budget within the MFF, for the European Research Council (ERC), the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions, the European research and technology infrastructures as well as funding of cooperation between industry and science in all research related programs (e.g. Digital Europe, European Defence Fund).

Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e. V., München  
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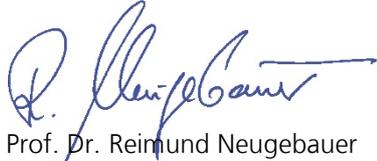
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It is vital to invest long-term, sustainably and future-oriented in the »European knowledge triangle« of education, research and innovation.

We very much appreciate your valuable commitment to European research in this context.

Yours sincerely,



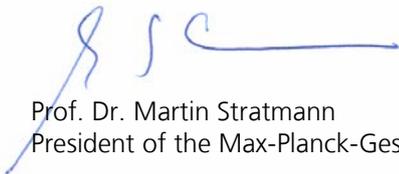
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