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To the President

Dear President

EIROforum reiterates the need to ensure the budget for science is strong, and stays resilient against competing demands upon the European budget. As Directors General and senior representatives of Europe's eight world-leading intergovernmental research organisations, we repeat that it is absolutely vital that investment in our scientific resources (both human and technical) is sustained at a time when a return to growth is the most pressing policy priority across Europe.

The future of funding for science in Europe and the impact it will have on European innovation, productivity and competitiveness, has been discussed by the EIROforum Council and it has:

- Noted the pressure on the EU budget in the current financial climate,
- Noted the focus of the European Commission and the Member States on supporting measures to promote economic growth across the EU,
- Recognised the need for clear evidence of the positive effects on long-term growth that arise from public investment in scientific education, training, research and development, and
- Recognised the importance of science in underpinning the creation of the technically skilled workforce that is essential for the future sustainability of Europe's economic health and social wellbeing.

EIROforum calls again upon – the Heads of State or Government of the EU Member States and the Presidents of the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission – to reconfirm their collective support for science so that it can continue to make a significant contribution to Europe's economic recovery and beyond.

We welcome the European Commission's action to propose a modern and forward looking EU budget with Research and Innovation at its core; and the proposal for a substantial increase on the previous budget under the next Framework Programme (2014-2020). We wish you a successful conclusion to current discussions and look forward to agreement being achieved at the European Council and with the European Parliament.

Yours sincerely,



Signed by ... Professor Rolf Heuer, Director General, European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN)

Signed by ... Professor Francesco Romanelli, Leader of the European Fusion Development Agreement (EFDA-JET)

Signed by ... Professor Iain Mattaj , Director General, European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)

Signed by ... Professor Alvaro Giménez Cañete, Director of Science & Robotic Exploration, for the European Space Agency (ESA)

Signed by ... Professor Tim de Zeeuw, Director General, European Southern Observatory (ESO)

Signed by ... Professor Francesco Sette, Director General European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF)

Signed by ... Professor Massimo Altarelli, Director General, European XFEL (XFEL.EU)

Signed by ... Professor Andrew Harrison, Director General, Institut Laue-Langevin (ILL)