

Ms. Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1040, Brussels

Brussels, 10 April 2025,

Dear Commission President Von der Leyen,

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for your leadership in strengthening the European Union in an increasingly unstable geopolitical environment. As the EU and its citizens navigate an era of profound transformation, marked by unprecedented challenges, **it is essential to equip the Union with a robust and strategic research and innovation (R&I) agenda**. This agenda must be firmly rooted in the core values of the European project: human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and human rights.

At a time when R&I lies at the heart of the EU's political vision and enjoys broad support across the political spectrum and among stakeholders, **we strongly believe that a dedicated budget and an independent programme, in line with Article 182 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, are indispensable for the European R&I agenda. Science must serve as a unifying force, not a source of division. It is a cornerstone of Europe's prosperity, resilience, and the long-term sustainability of its economic and social model. It is also a means to strengthen global collaboration, enhance social cohesion, and ensure human security.**

The European R&I agenda must address pressing global societal challenges, strengthen strategic autonomy, and improve food and energy sustainability and global health while delivering on the green and digital transitions. The Framework Programme must be embedded in a vision that builds a prosperous and more equitable future for all humans and the environment.

In recent weeks, both the European Parliament and the Council of the EU have expressed strong support for a stand-alone Framework Programme 10. The research community, industry representatives through their sectoral associations, and civil society organisations have also voiced significant concerns over any move to dilute the Framework Programme into a European Competitiveness Fund. Disregarding these positions would send a damaging signal to the EU's co-legislators and actors in the research and innovation ecosystem but also to the European citizens.

It is with profound concern that we, the undersigned, urge you to work towards building a strong and independent Framework Programme 10. It is essential not only for EU competitiveness but also for addressing the most pressing societal challenges. A fragmented or weakened R&I framework would risk diminishing the EU's ability to respond effectively to future crises and societal needs.

We, the signatories, stand ready to engage in constructive dialogue on the reform of the programme to strengthen its role in fostering scientific excellence, driving sustainable innovation, engaging society and reinforcing Europe's leadership in addressing global challenges.

Sincerely yours,

Signatories

1. Aidsfonds, International
2. ALICE, Alliance for Logistics Innovation through Collaboration in Europe, Europe
3. ALLEA - The European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities
4. ARCHE NOAH, Denmark
5. ASD - European Aerospace, Security and Defence industry, Europe
6. Association of ERC Grantees, Europe
7. Aurora Universities Network, Europe
8. Bio Garancia Kft, Hungary
9. Biocoop, France
10. BioForum vzw, Belgium and Europe
11. Connected, Cooperative, Automated Mobility Association A.I.S.B.L., Europe
12. De Landgenoten, Flanders
13. DSW - Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung, International
14. EASN, European Aerospace Science Network, Europe
15. Ecocert, International
16. Ecovalia Association, Spain
17. EPSO, European Plant Science Organisation, Europe
18. EREA - Association of European Research Establishments in Aeronautics, Europe
19. ESRE - Association of the European Space Research Establishments, Europe
20. EuMaT - The European Technology Partnership on Advanced Materials, Europe
21. European Agroforestry Federation (EURAF), Europe
22. European Aquaculture Technology & Innovation Platform, Europe
23. European Consortium for Mathematics in Industry, Europe
24. European Road Transport Research Advisory Council, Europe
25. FABRE TP, Europe
26. Federation of European Biochemical Societies, Europe
27. FederBio - Italian Federation for Organic and Biodynamic Agriculture, Italy
28. FiBL Europe, Europe
29. FiBL, Switzerland and Europe
30. Fondazione Italiana per la Ricerca in Agricoltura Biologica e Biodinamica – FIRAB, Italy
31. IFOAM Organics Europe, Europe
32. International Center for research in Organic Food Systems, Europe
33. National Institute for Aerospace Research "Elie Carafoli" - INCAS Bucharest, Romania and Europe
34. Naturland, International
35. Norwegian Centre for Organic Agriculture, Norway
36. ÖMKi Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Hungary
37. Photonics21, Europe
38. Plants for the Future ETP, Europe
39. SAFE Food Advocacy Europe, Europe
40. Sciences Citoyennes, France
41. TP Organics, Europe



Aidsfond



*ALICE, Alliance for Logistics
Innovation through
Collaboration in Europe*



*ALLEA, The European
Federation of Academies of
Sciences and Humanities*



ARCHE NOAH

ARCHE NOAH



*ASD - European Aerospace,
Security and Defence
industry*



aerg.eu

*Association of ERC
Grantees*



*Aurora Universities
Network*



Bio Garancia Kft



Biocoop



BioForum vzw



*Connected, Cooperative,
Automated Mobility
Association A.I.S.B.L.*



De Landgenoten



*DSW - Deutsche Stiftung
Weltbevölkerung*



*EASN, European Aerospace
Science Network*



Ecocert



Ecovalia Association



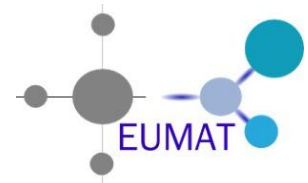
*EPSO, European Plant
Science Organisation*



*EREA - Association of
European Research
Establishments in
Aeronautics*



*ESRE - Association of the
European Space Research
Establishments*



*EuMaT - The European
Technology Partnership on
Advanced Materials*



European Agroforestry Federation (EURAF)



European Aquaculture Technology & Innovation Platform



European Consortium for Mathematics in Industry



European Road Transport Research Advisory Council



FABRE TP



Federation of European Biochemical Societies



FederBio - Italian Federation for Organic and Biodynamic Agriculture



FiBL



FiBL Europe



Fondazione Italiana per la Ricerca in Agricoltura Biologica e Biodinamica



IFOAM Organics Europe



International Center for research in Organic Food Systems



National Institute for Aerospace Research "Elie Carafoli" - INCAS Bucharest



Naturland



Norwegian Centre for Organic Agriculture



ÖMKi Research Institute of Organic Agriculture



Photonics21



Plants for the Future ETP



SAFE Food Advocacy Europe



Sciences Citoyennes



TP Organics