

Ms  
Ludovine Dubois  
Boulevard de la Sauvenière 40  
4000 Liège  
BELGIEN

Minoritenplatz 5, 1010 Vienna, Austria

Reference number: BMBWF-360.097/0011-V/5/2018

Vienna, 19. December 2018

Dear Presidents of the European Academy of Sciences,  
dear ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank you for your letter in which you included the list of signatories of your petition.

The Austrian EU Council Presidency had the honour to chair the negotiations of Horizon Europe in Council. In this context, Austria acted as an honest broker and reconciled the views of the other 27 EU-Member States. Our Presidency has almost ended and we can look back at a number of successes since July. The most important one is the agreement on the Regulation of Horizon Europe at the Competitiveness Council on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in Brussels. This important milestone will be a step forward in the interinstitutional legislative procedure in the months to come.

Reference is made in your letter to the budget of Horizon Europe. This was not yet debated at this stage because it is an ongoing deliberation among finance ministers. But I believe that the EU-28 research ministers have shown their willingness to move on swiftly and with a strong EU-research programme into the next decade, as of 2021.

Another relevant milestones that sometimes goes unnoticed because of the magnitude of the Horizon Europe proposal, were the Council Conclusions on the European Research Area. These conclusions pave the way for a renewed future of ERA under a new Framework Programme and address some of the issues you have raised in your letter, such as innovative capacities in the EU, addressing societal challenges, a focus on human resources and

education. Let's not forget that the EU-Research Framework Programmes constitute only a fraction of research funding available at national levels in EU-Member States and our aim should be to coordinate and align our programmes in the medium term.

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hans-Joachim', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.