

Mr Rodrigo Ferrão de Paiva Martins  
President of EURASC  
Uninova / CEMOP  
Quinta da Torre  
2829-516 Caparica  
Portugal

Brussels, 3 December 2018

Dear President,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 20 November concerning the petition in favour of 'Horizon Europe' promoted by EURASC and for bringing your concerns to my attention. As President of the European People's Party (EPP), it is important for me to receive feedback on the impact of European policies directly from where it matters the most – our citizens and civil society.

Firstly, let me assure you that I am vigilant on the progress of the EU's long-term budget. As you know, the European Commission's proposal for the Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) for the years 2021-2027 is currently being negotiated by the European Parliament and the Member States. The EPP is following this process closely.

As a matter of fact, the EPP established an Expert Group on the MFF in 2017 to prepare its priorities for the EU budget in consultation with key EPP decision-makers. The EPP calls for an ambitious budget to protect the future of Europeans, to boost competitiveness, create economic growth and jobs by supporting innovation, research and development. The Framework Programme will play a crucial role in achieving these objectives.

The EPP welcomed the ambitious MFF proposal which substantially increases the budget for research and innovation. Through EU funding, 'Horizon Europe' will enable the EU to become a global leader in scientific research. Nevertheless, as you rightly suggest, time is of the essence. A swift agreement on the next EU budget is imperative. The EPP is very conscious of the fact that any delays in the adoption of the MFF will cause significant difficulties to the beneficiaries of EU funding, including researchers and academics. At the same time, these complex issues must be thoroughly assessed and reflected upon. That is why the EPP called for a timely adoption, to provide clarity and long-term certainty to all people impacted.

Please find attached the document adopted by the EPP Political Assembly on 29-30 January 2018 outlining our detailed priorities for the MFF post-2020.

Best regards,



Joseph DAUL  
EPP President