

Mr Jean-Claude Juncker
President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
BE-1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

26 April 2018

MFF post-2020 should boost spending on research, development and innovation

Dear President,

On 8 January we shared our initial views on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) post-2020, stressing that we believe that the next MFF must reflect the EU's future priorities and concentrate efforts on improving EU competitiveness. In particular, we underlined that it must prepare the EU for the challenges ahead such as digitalisation, industrial policy and energy transition.

As the release of the European Commission's package on MFF draws closer, I would like to highlight some crucial issues for the business community regarding research, development and innovation.

In particular, we find that R&D and innovation activities are still clearly underfinanced despite positive results, high demand, and benefits of EU action in these areas. Investment in research and innovation is a field where the EU continues to lag behind its main competitors such as the US and Japan, with China just recently having overtaken the EU. Another €150 billion would need to be invested to reach the EU target of spending 3% of its GDP on R&D by 2020.

We therefore believe that the overall EU budget for R&D and innovation should be consistently scaled-up in line with calls from the Lamy report (i.e. a doubling of the overall budget of the post-2020 EU R&D and innovation programme to €160 billion over seven years). We understand that there is still a real risk that the next EU Framework Programme (FP9) will be underfinanced and wish to reiterate the damage to EU growth, investment and job creation that such a decision would entail.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Marcegaglia