

Mr Carlos Moedas

Commissioner in charge of Research, Science and Innovation

European Commission

200 rue de la Loi

BE – 1049 Brussels

BELGIUM

1 March 2018

Dear Commissioner,

Dear Carlos

Thank you for your commitment and hard work in preparation of the 9th research and innovation framework programme, which you know is a high-stake proposal for the European business community.

As you have seen on several occasions already, you can count on BusinessEurope to be a strong voice in support of increasing the EU budget for research and innovation. There are several reasons for that and one is more true today than ever. Global players are taking bold actions, for instance with China over-taking us in terms of R&D spending and more and more turning its attention to supporting industrial technologies.

As raised by Markus J. Beyrer during the lunch meeting last week, nervousness among our broad membership is growing because of the possible merging of the 'industrial leadership' and 'societal challenges' pillars into a single 'global challenges' pillar. There are serious concerns that such a move would imply a decrease in EU funding in support of industry-led projects.

We are confident that this is not your intention. We would therefore urge you to either maintain the existing structure, with a stand-alone 'industrial leadership' pillar financed with an increased budget, or to give clear guarantees that in any new structure of the next framework programme, there will be a substantial increase of budget earmarked for industry-led projects and key enabling technologies.

Industry needs clarity and certainty that Europe is committed to support industrial technologies to tackle societal challenges.

We remain at your disposal to discuss this important matter further.

Yours sincerely,


Emma Marcegaglia
President


Markus J. Beyrer
Director General

Cc: Vice President Katainen, Commissioners Bienkowska and Oettinger