



**Mr Donald Tusk**  
President of the European Council  
European Council  
175 rue de la Loi  
BE-1048 Brussels  
BELGIUM

30 May 2018

Dear President,

### **An ambitious budget for “Horizon Europe”**

Investing in research and innovation is increasingly crucial for shaping Europe’s future in a globalised world. Countries around the world are investing massively in research and innovation. This is intensifying global competition for innovative solutions. However, Europe does not capitalise enough on the knowledge it has and produces. The EU needs the right framework to be faster and more intensively turn innovations into new products, technologies and services. Industry plays a fundamental role in this process.

The post-2020 research and innovation programme “Horizon Europe” is a unique opportunity to deepen Europe’s innovation capability and to ensure the necessary investments. The programme is key in financing projects with a clear and strong EU-added value and is a truly future-oriented policy. It is decisive in the promotion and facilitation of a collaborative approach with all actors of the research and innovation value chain, including from global strategic partners with a reputation for excellent research that share European values. And it plays a crucial role in leveraging private investments that are indispensable to finance far-reaching research and innovation projects in Europe.

In view of the EU leaders’ debate on innovation at the next summit in June, I am writing to express the strong plea of the European business community for an ambitious budget for “Horizon Europe”. The European Commission’s proposal is not ambitious enough to fill the gap of €150 billion a year to reach the EU’s own 3% of GDP research and development investment target.

The volume of resources allocated to “Horizon Europe” will be an expression of the policy ambition. We count on leaders to give a clear political signal that Europe will be at the forefront of the global innovation race.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Marcegaglia