

Dr. Margarete Schramböck
Minister for Digital and Economic Affairs
Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs
Stubenring 1
AT-1010 Vienna
AUSTRIA

19 October 2018

Dear Minister,

In connection with the current discussions on the Horizon Europe programme, I would like to share our concerns about the current slow pace of the co-decision process. Notably, a delayed adoption of the Framework and Strategic Programmes would result in a momentous hole in the EU's research and innovation funds that neither the EU companies nor the citizens can afford.

For decades now, the multi-annual research and innovation programmes have contributed to significant results, including the growth and economic development, the creation of new job opportunities and sustainable solutions, the support for industrial competitiveness and social inclusion, as well as a way to address societal challenges.

BusinessEurope, has always been a strong voice in support of EU programmes for research and innovation. European industry considers that the new Horizon Europe programme is a unique opportunity to further deepen Europe's innovation capability, playing a crucial role in financing far-reaching research and innovation projects in Europe.

We acknowledge that the timing is scarce because of the European Parliament's elections of next year. However, industry needs clarity and certainty that Europe is committed to support industrial technologies and business solutions to tackle societal challenges. Business is committed to bring private capital, infrastructures, networks and skilled force to finance research and innovation activities. But the next framework programme will be decisive for companies' investment decisions as to where to invest, when to invest, how much to invest and on what to invest.

We are confident that we share the ultimate objective to place Europe at the forefront of the global innovation race. Thus, we call on you to consider all available options to fasten the pace of the negotiations in order to reach a General Approach on the European Commission's proposal at next Competitiveness Council of 30 November. This is absolutely necessary in view of reaching an agreement before the EU elections next May.

I remain at your disposal for further discussions on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Markus J. Beyers

