



Brussels, June 2020

## G6 Declaration

The presidents of CNR, CNRS, CSIC, the Helmholtz Association, the Leibniz Association and the Max Planck Society call on European authorities to take a historic step by guaranteeing research and innovation the budget that really gives Europe the means needed to build its future.

The coronavirus global pandemic challenges Europe in an unprecedented way. It also dramatically underlines how fragile our societies can be in coping with major threats for the health systems or the economy.

On the other hand, COVID-19 highlights the crucial role of research and development for our societies. Massive investments in research, comprising the entire knowledge value chain in terms of technology readiness levels, from basic research to market deployment will be essential to return to economic and societal prosperity following the pandemic.

This investment is a crucial necessity because the major economic upheavals, which will unsettle the world in the months to come, will demand tremendous efforts to rebuild our economies and strengthen our competitiveness. The innovation capacity of Member States and the availability of world-class research generating new knowledge, new concepts and new tools to overcome the current crisis and to build the future will be decisive.

It will also be essential to reinforce Europe's global leadership in the field of scientific discoveries, technological progress and digital networks. Let us join forces to build a stronger and better integrated Europe by allowing all Member States and all European regions to share research results, to benefit from scientific progress and innovation breakthroughs, in every sector of the economy and society as such and to strengthen scientific capability against anti-science attitudes and fake news.

Europe now has a unique opportunity to play its international role and to promote its scientific model worldwide, with a clear priority for excellence, the efficiency of its programs, from ERC to collaborative research, its world-class research infrastructures and the uniqueness of its social, democratic and ethical values.

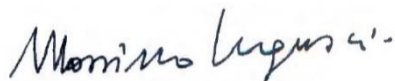
In this regard, the adoption of the European Commission's recovery package and new Multiannual Financial Framework proposal are critical steps. It is also vital that knowledge-driven, fundamental research represents a major priority in both plans.

In November 2018, the European Parliament recommended a budget for Horizon Europe in the order of €120 billion. Furthermore, the Lamy Report (July 2017) has outlined that a €160 billion budget would create 650,000 jobs and increase European GDP by 0.46% by 2040.

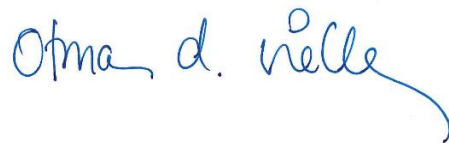
In view of the recent major challenges and on behalf of the 135 000 researchers and research facilitators that our 6 organizations represent, we urge for a strong budget increase for Horizon Europe far beyond the proposal of the European Commission in approximation to the request of the European Parliament.

The Europe of tomorrow has to be the Europe of knowledge and innovation in order to flourish. Time has come to make the right choices for a prospering future. We must not miss the chance that is within our reach today to position Europe as a source of intelligence and inspiration for ourselves and for the world.

Yours sincerely,



**Massimo Inguscio**, President, CNR



**Otmar Wiestler**, President, Helmholtz Association



**Antoine Petit**, President, CNRS



**Matthias Kleiner**, President, Leibniz Association



**Rosa Menéndez**, President, CSIC



**Martin Stratmann**, President, Max Planck Society