



Brussels, November 2020

G6 Declaration

Fundamental research is the basis for Europe's competitiveness Let's have the courage to give it the means it really needs

One of the main lessons of the crisis we are going through and of the challenges that lie ahead is that the human and economic wellbeing of European citizens and the development of Europe depend on the excellence of its research.

It is to promote and strengthen its scientific potential that Europe has set up the ERC, which, in 15 years, has become a world benchmark in terms of excellence. Together with the Marie-Sklodowska-Curie-Actions which train the next generation of scientists, and the Research Infrastructures programme, which ensures that European scientists have access to world-class facilities across European borders, they represent key instruments to strengthen the New ERA.

However, today, pillar I of Horizon Europe, though essential for ensuring the breakthrough science Europe needs, is under threat. In addition, collaboration in fundamental science on the global challenges is losing further ground in pillar II in order to focus on high-TRL initiatives.

This endangers the scientific flagship that the world envies us, but also our ability to be prepared for the challenges to come, be they societal or economical.

It means taking the risk of no longer retaining or attracting the best researchers and of irremediably sacrificing the discoveries and innovations to which fundamental research could lead.

This is the reason why the G6 network, which brings together the major European research organizations - CNR, CNRS, CSIC, Helmholtz Association, Leibniz Association and Max Planck Society -, and represents 135 000 staff, solemnly calls on the European Council and the European Parliament for allocating to fundamental research the increasing budget it absolutely needs.

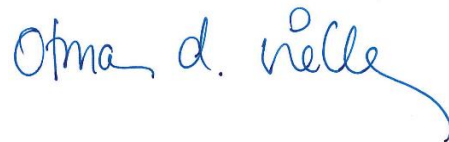
The coherent and consistent way to achieve this is to allocate to pillar I of Horizon Europe a significant proportion of the additional budgets of 4 billion euros negotiated during the trilogue, and to dedicate the remaining funds to collaboration in fundamental research in pillar II.

By doing so, the EU would demonstrate to its research communities, to its citizens and to its partners in the world the strength of its scientific ambitions and its determination to devote all the necessary resources to them.

Yours sincerely,



Massimo Inguscio, President, CNR



Otmar Wiestler, President, Helmholtz Association



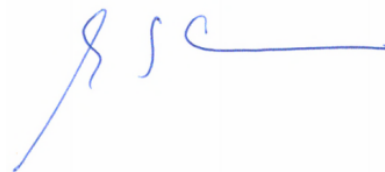
Antoine Petit, President, CNRS



Matthias Kleiner, President, Leibniz Association



Rosa Menéndez, President, CSIC



Martin Stratmann, President, Max Planck Society