



Selection of Quotes from our First Supporters

Under embargo until 16.00 CET, 8 February 2022

- Austria "As one of the oldest and largest universities in Europe, we have a long standing tradition in cooperating with British and Swiss universities."
Prof. Heinz Engl, Rector, University of Vienna
- Austria "The community of scholars, scientists, students, researchers has to remain ONE and united to keep the free spirit of science and innovation."
Prof. Giulio Superti-Furga, Director CeMM, Vice-Chair EU-Life, ex ERC Scientific Council Member CeMM Austrian Academy of Sciences
- Belgium "The European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities believes that science has no borders, especially when we are engaged with identifying new knowledge for people's welfare. Collaboration makes our sciences thrive and our societies progress."
Dr. Gabi Lombardo, Director, European Alliance for SSH
- Belgium "A strong EU framework programme for research and innovation is essential for Europe to remain a successful scientific hub and be a sustainable competitive area in the global landscape. Political disagreements need to be set aside when discussing research collaborations."
Dr. Lidia Borrell-Damián, Secretary General, Science Europe



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- Belgium "There is no more time to waste on Swiss and UK association to Horizon Europe, if we want to avoid irreparable damage to EU-Swiss-UK cooperation in the field of research & innovation. Political games at EU and national level, which delay this association, should stop immediately."
Prof. Kurt Deketelaere, Secretary-General, League of European Research Universities (LERU)
- Belgium "Europe will only be as strong as its universities will be. Our rich innovation and education ecosystem derives from deep collaboration and partnership among diverse institutions of Europe - Swiss and UK universities being among the most prominent."
Prof. Michael Murphy, President, European University Association
- Belgium "There are no borders for the challenges facing our continent. There should be no borders for scientific collaboration."
Prof. Vincent Blondel, Rector, University of Louvain
- Belgium "Scientific cooperation cannot be held hostage to bilateral politics. Decades of successful cooperation with our British and Swiss partners are at risk of being jeopardized at a period in time when global challenges have never required so much international research collaboration."
Prof. Ludovic Thilly, Executive Board, Chair Coimbra Group
- Belgium "If UK and Swiss association do not happen imminently, we all lose: Scientific collaboration will be fundamentally weakened, Horizon Europe will lose a significant part of its global appeal, and Europe will lose its scientific edge on a world stage."
Prof. Jan Palmowski, Secretary-General, The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities



- Belgium "Full engagement of Switzerland and the UK in Horizon Europe is essential to realise our scientific ambitions. Science knows no borders, especially when it comes to cooperation with our partners in these two countries. They have been so crucial to the impact of our research."
Prof. Luc Sels, Rector, KU Leuven
- Belgium "Science became a truly international endeavour long before the term "globalization" was coined by politicians. Research collaboration on our continent has become a shining example of genuine realization of the European ideal. Let's not put that at risk!"
Prof. Marc Schiltz, President, Science Europe
- Belgium "To allow researchers and innovators to contribute to a sustainable future it is key that R&I collaboration remains possible at the pan-European level. I therefore urge the EU, the UK and Switzerland to remove existing barriers and to let the ERA further reach its full potential."
Prof. Rik Van de Walle, Rector, Ghent University and President, CESAER Ghent University
- Finland "On behalf of the University of Helsinki: Academic collaboration in Europe, and beyond, should not be held captive by politics. It is very much in the interest of EU and its member states to facilitate smooth association of both Swiss and UK universities into Horizon Europe."
Prof. Sari Lindblom, Rector and President, University of Helsinki
- Finland "We are stronger together."
Prof. Mari Walls, Vice-President, ECIU University
- France "As former ERC vice-president, I could observe the importance and the efficiency of gathering the whole European research community under the same supporting umbrella."
Dr. Daniel Esteve, Research Director at CEA, former ERC VP

- France "The cooperation between scientists from ALL European countries is essential to address the most pressing scientific and societal challenges and to drive innovation."
Eric Labaye, Chairman and President École Polytechnique Paris
- France "It is essential that R&I collaboration remains possible at European level in order to keep Europe competitive."
Prof. Sylvie Retailleau, President Université Paris-Saclay
- France "The Europe of research, which we need so much, must be built with the scientists of the UK and Switzerland. Without them, we will be less strong. Without us, they will have to seek cooperation elsewhere. And Europe as a whole, socially and economically, will be the big loser."
Prof. Antoine PETIT, CEO and President, CNRS
- Germany "EU-funded research is even stronger, when the best scientists work together. This includes colleagues from Switzerland and the UK. It seems impossible to think that this may not be possible."
Prof. Michael Kramer, Director / Previously ERC Scientific Council Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie
- Germany "The Swiss and British research institutions are an extraordinary strong part of the European research landscape. We have to keep them integrated!"
Prof. Ulrich Rüdiger, Rector, RWTH Aachen University
- Germany "Science plays a crucial role in developing solutions to current challenges. Rapid association of the UK and Switzerland to Horizon Europe is key to maintaining strong scientific collaboration across Europe."
Prof. Matthias Kleiner, President, Leibniz Association



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- Germany "Research and innovation have no borders and European collaborations involving all countries of the continent are essential for success. All actors in this field must work freely to strengthen the R&I landscape in Europe but also internationally."
Prof. Emmanuelle Charpentier, Scientific and Managing Director Max Planck Unit for the Science of Pathogens Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020
- Germany "Both, UK and Switzerland, were members from early on and actively supported the founding of the ERC."
Prof. Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker, First Secretary General of the ERC, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich
- Germany "A strong and united European Research Area will not only strengthen Europe in international competition. It will help Europe to build trust and understanding – overcoming some of the polarization that is so detrimental in our times."
Prof. Hans-Christian Pape, President Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
- Germany "Both CH and UK gave important and significant contributions to the European fusion research programme in H2020. The scientists in these countries have a number of unique facilities and competences that are complementary to those in the rest of Europe. We need to work together."
Prof. Tony Donn , Programme Manager (CEO), EUROfusion
- Ireland "The Science and Technology on which our modern society is based has been developed by joint human efforts spanning the globe and spanning centuries. We owe it to future generations to maximise global collaboration as we build on this jointly-owned foundation."
Prof. Andrew J Deeks, President, University College Dublin



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- Italy "Science has no borders and researchers should be made free to participate in any initiative to gather their forces with any other forces. No matter where they live. UK's association to Horizon Europe has to be facilitated and ensured."
Prof. Carmelo Rizzari, President of The European Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOPE)
- Italy "Scientific research and technological innovation are global activities that should not be limited by political borders. The grand challenges ahead of us require researchers of all countries to work together."
Prof. Credi Alberto, Vice-rector for research, Università di Bologna
- Netherlands "The Dutch AWTI acknowledges the strong position of Switzerland in STI and therefore finds it highly desirable that the negotiations between the Swiss Federation and the European Commission can resolve any hurdles preventing full association of Switzerland to Horizon Europe."
Dr. Sjoukje Heimovaara, Vice-chairman Advisory Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (AWTI)
- Norway "Collaboration across all of Europe is essential for our future success."
Gunnar Boe, Managing Director Sigma2 AS, Member of PRACE Strategy Working Group and PRACE Council
- Romania "UBB's values, "Traditio et Excellentia", fuel our motto "Traditio Nostra Unacum Europae Virtutibus Splendet"! Therefore, we think that Science itself can fully shine only considering the European values in the context of cooperation within the largest European academic area."
Prof. Daniel David, Rector, Babeş-Bolyai University (UBB)



- Spain "From space, there are no borders in our planet. Borders are just a human invention. The advancement of knowledge through R+I is better achieved working together. Let's work together!"
Prof. Josep M. Garrell, Rector, Ramon Llull University (URL)
- Sweden "The UK and Switzerland are inseparable parts of the European research community."
Prof. Erik Renström, Vice-Chancellor, Lund University
- Switzerland "The way to innovation is through cooperation!"
Dr. Stephan Mumenthaler, Director General, scienceindustries
- Switzerland "Research knows no borders. Let's focus on the benefits of scientific collaboration for the sake of all. It is science and global scientific talents that will always be key for solving the world's most pressing challenges."
Dr. Alessandro Curioni, VP Europe and Africa, IBM Research and Director IBM Research - Zurich
- Switzerland "The challenges of our time can only be solved if scientists, research disciplines and universities work together. We are not in the situation to lose time because of artificial borders and political considerations."
Dr. Lukas von Orelli, Director / President, VELUX STIFTUNG / SwissFoundations
- Switzerland "Swiss science needs collaboration in international networks in order to be successful. The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) supports a timely and full association of Switzerland to Horizon Europe, the world's largest international programme for research and innovation."
Prof. Matthias Egger, President of the National Research Council Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)



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- Switzerland "Science is a knowledge construct based on free and easy international exchanges of ideas and collaborations. They are no single valid reason and zero benefits to society any country to restrain its expression by any means."
Prof. Didier Queloz, ETH Zurich, Nobel Prize in Physics 2019
- Switzerland "International research and development is the prerequisite for the transfer of knowledge to industry. This is the basis for innovation and competitiveness, which promotes economic development."
Eva Jaisli, CEO PB Swiss Tools AG
- United Kingdom "Many profound EU-UK research partnerships are at stake. Further delays or non-association would result in a missed opportunity to tackle the major challenges of our time. We owe it to future generations to ensure that the new EU-UK relationship best serves them through research."
Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive, NHS Confederation
- United Kingdom "The University of Derby's reputation for delivering research with real impact and being at the forefront of innovation continues to grow, particularly in data science, biomedical sciences and net zero carbon. We are keen to continue to participate in Horizon Europe opportunities."
Prof. Kathryn Mitchell, Vice-Chancellor, University of Derby
- United Kingdom "It is crucial to expedite the UK's association agreement with the EU concerning continuing participation in research and innovation programmes. Our close collaborations will help us both tackle global issues together and support a world-class environment for research in the UK."
Prof. Stuart Croft, Vice Chancellor and President, University of Warwick



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United
Kingdom

"The importance of UK association to Horizon Europe can't be overstated. By participating in collaborative European programmes, the University of Glasgow has built global partnerships & continued to produce the world-class research needed to tackle the greatest challenges we face."

*Prof. Sir Anton Muscatelli, Principal and Vice-Chancellor,
University of Glasgow*

United
Kingdom

"Being able to access ERC grants is incredibly valuable to the UK research sector. It not only provides financial backing to explore important, unanswered questions, but also positions the UK as an attractive country for world-class researchers choosing where to work."

*Sir Paul Nurse, Director The Francis Crick Institute, Nobel Prize
in Physiology or Medicine 2001*