



**Stick to Science**  
Put science collaboration before politics

## Statements from the six co-initiator organisations

**Under embargo until 16:00 CET, 8 February 2022**

All media queries should be directed to [media@stick-to-science.eu](mailto:media@stick-to-science.eu)

**Vivienne Stern MBE, Director, Universities UK International, an organisation representing over 140 UK universities:**

*“In the UK we feel that we are running out of time to finalise association to Horizon Europe. Throughout the Brexit process we, and colleagues from all over Europe, argued that it was in our common interest to be part of this programme. It was agreed by the UK and EU as part of the Trade and Co-operation agreement – but the process is now stalled. We simply want all sides to get on with it and speed up association for the UK, and for Switzerland, and not to allow other issues to stand in the way of that.*”

*UUKi is a founding partner of the ‘Stick to Science’ campaign because we believe that we need collaborative science to address global challenges. We stand alongside colleagues across the European research community in urging our governments and the European Commission to allow Europe’s scientists to work together for the benefit of us all.”*

**Martin Vetterli, EPFL President**

*“I’m pleased that so many scientists and others working in science, research and innovation are backing the ‘Stick to Science’ initiative and stating the crucial importance of comprehensive agreements involving Switzerland and the UK. And that other voices, including from the business community, are now also emphasizing the need to transcend borders and work together.”*

**Martin Vetterli, président de l’EPFL**

*“Je me réjouis qu’autant de scientifiques et d’acteurs de la science, de la recherche et de l’innovation s’engagent pour l’initiative « Stick to Science » et*

*disent l'importance cruciale d'accords complets avec la Suisse et le Royaume-Uni. Et que désormais d'autres voix, des industriels notamment, soulignent aussi ce besoin de travailler ensemble au-delà des frontières."*

**Jeremy Farrar, Director of Wellcome:**

*"Research is intrinsic to the fabric of society. As we have seen through the pandemic, its wide-ranging impact extends far beyond health – shaping livelihoods and economies. Shrinking the membership of Horizon Europe would be a backwards step, not only endangering scientific and health advances but also damaging the economic benefits all nations gain from cross-border cooperation. The greatest advances are underpinned by shared knowledge. We have to work together if we want the strongest shared future."*

**Michael Hengartner, President ETH Board**

*"Switzerland has a long tradition of collaboration with all countries in the European Research Area, and has done so for many years. Scientific cooperation undoubtedly benefits all partners, including the European Union, and the EU will be stronger if countries within and outside the EU collaborate intensively. Excluding Switzerland and the UK from Horizon Europe is a political decision that creates collateral damage for both our countries and the EU. It is therefore an excellent signal that so many actors in the world of research and innovation from all over the continent are committed to the Stick to Science initiative and are calling on politicians to act. Science can build bridges to find solutions to challenges that affect us all, such as climate change and public health. Scientific collaboration, based on shared values, is our common key to building a future together and to strengthening Europe's competitiveness. I call on the entire scientific community to join this action and sign the initiative at [www.stick-to-science.eu](http://www.stick-to-science.eu)."*

**Michael Hengartner, Président du Conseil de EPF**

*"La Suisse a une longue tradition de collaboration avec tous les pays de l'Espace européen de la recherche, depuis de nombreuses années. La coopération scientifique profite indiscutablement à tous les partenaires, y compris à l'Union européenne, et celle-ci sera plus forte si les pays en son sein et en dehors collaborent de manière intensive. Exclure la Suisse et le Royaume-Uni d'Horizon Europe est une décision politique qui crée des dommages collatéraux autant pour nos deux pays que pour l'UE. C'est donc un excellent signal si autant d'acteurs du monde de la recherche et de l'innovation, provenant des quatre coins du continent, s'engagent pour l'initiative Stick to Science et appellent les politiques à agir. La science permet de jeter des ponts afin de trouver des solutions qui répondent aux défis qui nous touchent tous, comme le changement climatique et la santé publique. La*

*collaboration scientifique, basée sur des valeurs partagées, est notre clé commune pour construire un avenir ensemble et pour renforcer la compétitivité de l'Europe. J'appelle toute la communauté scientifique à participer à cette action et à signer l'initiative sous [www.stick-to-science.eu](http://www.stick-to-science.eu)."*

**Joël Mesot, President ETH Zurich**

*"Cooperation across national borders has never been more important as the world faces serious global challenges. Be it pandemic containment, climate change or food security, all of these require the brightest minds in the world, regardless of nationality. With their top scientific institutions, Switzerland and the UK have an enormous amount to offer to address these challenges. Moreover, unresolved political issues should never prevent scientific cooperation. This would be contrary to the interests of society as a whole. Taking science hostage is never a good idea."*

**Joël Mesot, Präsident ETH Zurich**

*"Eine Zusammenarbeit über Ländergrenzen hinweg war noch nie so wichtig wie heute, da die Welt vor ernststen globalen Herausforderungen steht. Sei es die Eindämmung von Pandemien, Klimawandel oder die Ernährungssicherheit: Wir brauchen die hellsten Köpfe weltweit, egal woher sie stammen. Mit ihren wissenschaftlichen Spitzen-Institutionen haben die Schweiz und Grossbritannien enorm viel zu bieten. Ausserdem sollten offene politische Fragen die wissenschaftliche Zusammenarbeit nie verhindern. Dies würde den Interessen der Gesellschaft als Ganzes widersprechen. Die Wissenschaft in Geiselschaft zu nehmen ist nie eine gute Idee."*

**Adrian Smith, President of the Royal Society**

*"Collaboration is at the heart of science. Relationships that have built up between UK and other European researchers over the decades have made a real difference to people's lives across the continent and beyond. It is time to stop playing politics and put the interests of people first. That means getting the Horizon Europe association deals done and once again facilitating the best of scientific cooperation."*

## About the supporting organisations

### Universities UK

Universities UK is the collective voice of 140 universities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Its mission is to create the conditions for UK universities to be the best in the world; maximising their positive impact locally, nationally and globally. Universities UK acts on behalf of universities, represented by their heads of institution. [www.universitiesuk.ac.uk](http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk)

### ETH Board

The Board of the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology is the strategic unit appointed by the Swiss Federal Council to manage the ETH Domain. It determines the domain's strategic direction and allocates the funding provided by the Swiss Confederation to the six institutions.

Find us online <https://ethrat.ch/en/eth-board/overview-of-the-eth-board/>

### ETH Zurich

Freedom and individual responsibility, entrepreneurial spirit and open-mindedness: ETH Zurich stands on a bedrock of true Swiss values. Our university for science and technology dates back to the year 1855, when the founders of modern-day Switzerland created it as a centre of innovation and knowledge. At ETH Zurich, students discover an ideal environment for independent thinking, researchers a climate which inspires top performance. Situated in the heart of Europe, yet forging connections all over the world, ETH Zurich is pioneering effective solutions to the global challenges of today and tomorrow.

Find us online <https://ethz.ch/en.html>

### EPFL

EPFL, one of the two Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology, based in Lausanne, is Europe's most cosmopolitan technical university with students, professors and staff from over 120 nations. A dynamic environment, open to Switzerland and the world, EPFL is centered on its three missions: teaching, research and technology transfer.

Find us online <https://www.epfl.ch/en/>

### Wellcome

Wellcome supports science to solve the urgent health challenges facing everyone. We support discovery research into life, health and wellbeing, and we are taking on three worldwide health challenges: mental health, global heating and infectious diseases.

Find us online <https://wellcome.org/>

### The Royal Society

The Royal Society is a self-governing Fellowship of many of the world's most distinguished scientists drawn from all areas of science, engineering, and medicine. The Society's fundamental purpose, as it has been since its foundation in 1660, is to recognise, promote, and support excellence in science and to encourage the development and use of science for the benefit of humanity.

Find us online <https://royalsociety.org/>