



Stick to Science
Put science collaboration before politics

Stick to science: campaign objective

An online signature campaign for an open and inclusive European Research Area

The Stick to Science initiative was set up in February 2022 by the European research community calling for open and barrier-free collaboration among Europe's research and innovation (R&I) actors, who all share the same values. The initiative is an active response to the delayed progression of association agreements with Switzerland and the United Kingdom (UK), which are being held up by political barriers that have nothing to do with science.

The signatories request that the European Council, Parliament, Commission, as well as European Union (EU) Member States, and the governments of the UK and Switzerland, recognise that advancement in R&I is best achieved when all actors in science and innovation work together across geographic boundaries. This has never been more important than now, as the world faces serious global challenges (e.g., mitigating pandemics, climate change, and addressing food security). Allowing political differences to prevent scientific collaboration is contrary to the interests of society at large.

The signatories urge the EU, the UK, and Switzerland to rapidly reach association agreements so that the two countries can contribute scientifically and financially to the strength of Horizon Europe and to a truly open, inclusive, and excellence-driven European Research Area.

The campaign has received a huge amount of support from leaders across the European R&I community, even before its official launch event. More than 300 individuals and major R&I organisations joined the initiative as first supporters, among them 13 Nobel Prize winners and 3 Fields Medalists. As of October 2022, the campaign has gathered the support of **more than 5900** major research funding/performing bodies, umbrella organisations, individual researchers, entrepreneurs and innovators.

An open letter was sent by the campaign partners to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on 22 June. An answer has not yet been received.

Various similar calls have been made at the highest level by politicians, regions, stakeholder organisations, networks of R&I institutions etc., but there is currently no sign of positive development coming from the side of the European Commission.

The campaign will remain active as long as the association of Switzerland and the UK to Horizon Europe is blocked.

The brochure "[The case for UK & Swiss Association to Horizon Europe](#)" gives additional arguments why the UK and Swiss association to EU R&I programmes is a win-win for Europe.

Media coverage of the launch (+80 articles at international level)

The Financial Times: [Science must trump politics on UK inclusion in Horizon Europe](#)

The Guardian: [UK and European scientists urge EU to allow UK access to €80bn fund](#)

The Financial Times: [Scientists campaign for UK and Switzerland to join EU programme](#)

PIE News: [UK and Switzerland push for Horizon involvement](#)

Times Higher Education: [Nobelists back petition for Swiss and UK Horizon association](#)

Times Higher Education: [The UK and Switzerland must be admitted to Horizon Europe](#)

Neue Zürcher Zeitung: [Stick to Science: Europäische Forscher lancieren Kampagne](#)

Le Temps: [Les chercheurs européens plaident pour réintégrer la Suisse et le Royaume-Uni dans Horizon Europe](#)

Joint the initiative and sign up under www.stick-to-science.eu

Follow us on Twitter @Stick2Science and on LinkedIn Stick To Science

#StickToScience