

President Juncker
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels

19 October 2018

Dear President Juncker

Scientific research and innovation are crucial for tackling the many shared challenges we face, including treating disease, generating clean energy, building the digital industries of the future, protecting the environment and ensuring an adequate and affordable supply of food. However, to meet these challenges for everyone's benefit, science needs to flourish and that requires the flow of people and ideas across borders to allow the rapid exchange of ideas, expertise and technology.

Europe was the home of the enlightenment and the birthplace of modern science, but partly as a result of two devastating internecine wars in Europe in the 20th century, it suffered a decline relative to the USA. However, this decline has been reversed in the last few decades as a result of the ease of collaboration nurtured by the EU through its many initiatives and programmes, which have greatly benefited European science. Creating new barriers to such ease of collaboration will inhibit progress, to the detriment of us all. Many of us in the science community therefore regret the UK's decision to leave the European Union because it risks such barriers.

All parties in the negotiations on the UK's departure from the EU must now strive to ensure that as little harm as possible is done to research. It is widely recognised that investing in research and innovation are increasingly crucial for shaping a better European future. In a recent speech, Prime Minister May restated her desire for the UK to have a 'deep science partnership with the European Union'. We must not allow the UK or the EU to become more insular in our approach to each other.

By deciding to leave the EU, the UK has given up its right to participate in EU research and innovation programmes. It must now step up its commitment to those programmes if it wants to remain involved. For the EU it is vital that it makes international cooperation a trademark of its research and innovation programmes. That means acting on Pascal Lamy's report for the European Commission on maximizing the impact of EU research and innovation programmes which calls for opening up the programmes to 'association by the best and participation by all', based on a financial contribution that is fair to all.

The challenges we face must be tackled in a manner that benefits everyone and those challenges are better faced together. Only a deal which allows the closest possible cooperation between the UK and the EU, now and in the future, will make that possible.

Yours Sincerely

Jules Hoffmann Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine	Paul Nurse Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine
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Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine	Venki Ramakrishnan Nobel Prize in Chemistry
Klaus von Klitzing Nobel Prize in Physics	Michael Atiyah Fields Medal
Claude Cohen-Tannoudji Nobel Prize in Physics	Paul J Crutzen Nobel Prize in Chemistry
Jacques Dubochet Nobel Prize in Chemistry	Simon Donaldson Fields Medal
Albert Fert Nobel Prize in Physics	Gerhard Ertl Nobel Prize in Chemistry
Timothy Gowers Fields Medal	John Gurdon Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine
Martin Hairer Fields Medal	Serge Haroche Nobel Prize in Physics
Harald zur Hausen Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine	Stefan W Hell Nobel Prize in Chemistry
Richard Henderson Nobel Prize in Chemistry	Avram Hershko Nobel Prize in Chemistry
Gerardus 't Hooft Nobel Prize in Physics	Robert Huber Nobel Prize in Chemistry
Jean-Marie Lehn Nobel Prize in Chemistry	Tomas Lindahl Nobel Prize in Chemistry
Pierre-Louis Lions Fields Medalist	Hartmut Michel Nobel Prize in Chemistry
Edvard Ingjald Moser Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine	Erwin Neher Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine
Kostya Novoselov Nobel Prize in Physics	John O'Keefe Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine
Christopher A. Pissarides Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences	Peter Scholze Fields Medalist
John E. Walker Nobel Prize in Chemistry	Kurt Wüthrich Nobel Prize in Chemistry
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