

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
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From the President Venki Ramakrishnan

19 October 2017

Dear Prime Minister,

The recent Brexit paper on Science and Innovation, once again showed your Government's commitment to the UK being one of the best places in the world for research. It also recognised the importance of international collaboration, and in particular our continued collaboration with European partners. I understand the current negotiations are difficult but given the wide recognition across Europe of the benefits of the closest possible scientific collaboration, I believe that this can be an area where progress can be made.

Your early commitment to underwriting the full funding for all Horizon 2020 grants that are awarded to UK researchers before we leave the EU will have reassured many. However, uncertainty is still a real threat that could lead to UK researchers being marginalised from Horizon 2020 collaborations and to scientists leaving the UK to seek greater stability. This risk was brought into focus again recently with the European Commission reminding Horizon 2020 grant applicants that UK researchers will no longer be eligible for funding when the UK leaves the EU, unless there is an agreement with the EU that ensures their continued eligibility.

In order to stem this uncertainty, I would urge you to fully commit the UK to Horizon 2020 throughout the proposed Brexit implementation period. Making an early commitment to this would offer reassurance to scientists across Europe. It would send a strong signal about our intentions to remain a full player in the successor programme to Horizon 2020, thus ensuring that we continue to play a leading role in influencing the future directions of European science.

As always I stand ready to support you in any way we can to help to ensure that issues around mobility and collaboration, funding and regulation can be resolved in order to support UK and European research maintaining its world leading position.

Yours sincerely



Venki Ramakrishnan

CC The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer,
The Rt Hon David Davis, Secretary of State for Exiting the European
Union and The Rt Hon Greg Clarke MP, Secretary of State for
Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.



President Sir Venki Ramakrishnan
Executive Director Dr Julie Maxton

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