

Rt Hon David Cameron MP
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the President Paul Nurse

26 October 2012
Our ref: PNT/McB/JB

Dear Prime Minister

The Royal Society is aware of the on-going discussions about the EU Multiannual Financial Framework and efforts to identify spending priorities for the period 2014-2020. The need to prioritise and the pressure to identify potential economies in these austere times is understandable, but I am writing to urge you to preserve the EU's Research and Innovation budget, which is projected at €80bn.

Research and innovation (R&I) are drivers of growth and it would serve Europe's long-term benefit to maintain Horizon 2020's provisional budget. The R&I programme has proven itself to be an asset to Europe by supporting excellent discovery research, training talented people, supporting mobility within the EU and allowing top class researchers from academia and industry to work together across borders.

It is also an important source of research income for the UK, bolstering (and in some cases leveraging) other investments in UK science and innovation. Since 2007, the UK has received almost €4 billion from the EU's Framework Programme for R&D including approximately 20% of the grants awarded by the European Research Council, valued at c. £900m. In 2009-10, 10% of UK universities' research income came from the EU.

The UK's success in the Framework Programme also helps to attract leading international researchers to our shores and places UK institutions at the centre of high quality international scientific networks.

The R&I budget is an investment for European growth that benefits UK science and innovation. I hope you will consider these points when negotiating on behalf of the UK. The Royal Society would be glad to assist you if you would like any more information on this subject.

Yours sincerely



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cc: Rt Hon George Osborne MP
Rt Hon David Willetts MP
Sir Jeremy Heywood
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President Sir Paul Nurse
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Founded in 1660, the Royal Society is the independent scientific academy of the UK, dedicated to promoting excellence in science.

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