



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 27.7.2018
C(2018) 5128 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Communication on the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation: maximising the impact of European Union research and innovation – {COM(2018) 2 final}.

The Commission welcomes the input of the Senát, which has been highly valuable for the preparations of the post-2020 European Union programme for research and innovation, Horizon Europe.

The key message of the Communication was that Europe must step up investments in research and innovation and maximise impact. The interim evaluation proved that Horizon 2020 has so far been a success story, with a high European added value and real impact on our economy and benefits for citizens.

The Commission appreciates the strong emphasis in the Opinion on the need for more investment in European Union research and innovation. The Communication identified the current underfunding of Horizon 2020 as a key area for improvement, echoing the call made in the "Lab-Fab-App" report of the High Level Group on maximising the impact of the Union's research and innovation programmes. The need to improve success rates for applicants, as highlighted in the Resolution, is a key driver for this. Accordingly, the Commission has proposed an increased budget of EUR 100 billion for Horizon Europe under the next multiannual financial framework.

The call for 'evolution not revolution' will guide the approach towards the whole programme, leading to strong continuity and optimisation. For instance, the Commission will build on the successful simplification measures introduced for Horizon 2020 and continue to support the European Research Council, already an international beacon of excellence. At the same time, the future European Innovation Council will support breakthrough market-creating innovation in full complementarity with the work of European Institute for Innovation and Technology, which will continue to pursue the integration of the knowledge triangle.

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Taking into account the lessons learned from Horizon 2020, the valuable feedback received from stakeholders and partners, and the indications for the future already outlined in the Communication, the Commission has come forward with the legal proposals for the Union's post-2020 research and innovation programme on 7 June 2018.

The Commission hopes that these comments address the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue.

Yours faithfully,

Věra JOUROVÁ

Member of the Commission