



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 27 11 2012  
C/2012/ 1089 final

Dear President,

*The Commission would like to thank the German Bundesrat for its opinion on the Green Paper on a Common Strategic Framework for EU research and innovation funding – {COM (2011) 48 final}, and apologises for the extremely long delay in responding.*

*The Commission particularly welcomes your strong support to the Common Strategic Framework, renamed Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) and its linking with the Europe 2020 strategy objectives.*

*The Commission, taking into account the input received during the consultation process, has presented legislative proposals for Horizon 2020 in November 2011.*

*Horizon 2020 is structured around three distinct, but mutually reinforcing blocks, in line with Europe 2020 priorities: the first block 'Excellent science base' will strengthen the EU's world-class excellence in science. The second block 'Industrial leadership and competitive frameworks' will support business research and innovation. The third block 'Tackling societal challenges' will respond directly to challenges, identified in the Europe 2020 Strategy. The implementation of the programme will be simplified and standardised, with simplification covering both funding schemes and rules.*

*The involvement of national Parliaments is of crucial importance for the development of the EU research and innovation policy and I am looking forward to further constructive exchanges on this important topic, especially in the context of the negotiation of a new multinational financial framework.*

*Yours faithfully*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

*Mr Horst SEEHOFER  
President of the Bundesrat  
Leipziger Straße 3 - 4  
D-10117 BERLIN*