



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 30.05.2017
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*Ms Malu DREYER
President of the Bundesrat
Leipziger Straße 3-4
D – 10117 Berlin*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Bundesrat for its Opinion submitted in response to the public consultation, which ran from 20 October 2016 to 15 January 2017, on the interim evaluation of the Horizon 2020 programme¹.

The interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 will, in general, seek to demonstrate the contribution of Horizon 2020 to boosting growth and jobs through research and innovation, tackling societal challenges, and will also capture the longer-term impacts of predecessor Framework Programmes.

The Bundesrat's input will be particularly valuable for the interim evaluation, where many of the issues highlighted in the Opinion will be assessed in detail. This includes the extent to which the new simplification measures introduced for Horizon 2020 are proving effective, and whether the programme is successfully helping to spread excellence and widen participation in research and innovation across Europe.

The Commission highly appreciates the clarity and depth of the Bundesrat's feedback, as well as the concrete recommendations outlined on how to optimise Horizon 2020 and its successor (for example, in relation to a future European Innovation Council).

The results of the public consultation will help the Commission to improve the implementation of Horizon 2020 and will set the scene for the future discussions on the next EU research and innovation funding programme post-2020. They will be taken into account alongside recommendations provided by a High Level Group on maximising the impact of EU research and innovation programmes,² and the Commission services' own assessments which will be published in the form of Staff Working Documents.

The Commission thanks the Bundesrat's for its active engagement on these issues and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Carlos Moedas
Member of the Commission*

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/interim_h2020_2016/consultation_en.htm

² http://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/index_en.cfm?pg=hlg