

To:

Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission

Violeta Bulc, Commissioner for Transport (from Slovenia)

Members of the Committee on Economics and Monetary Affairs (ECON)

cc: Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, President of the ERC

Ljubljana, 11.03.2015

The Investment plan for Europe: Cuts in R&D will send the wrong message.

Dear Mr. President,

The commission has proposed an “**Investment plan for Europe**” to strengthen Europe’s competitiveness and to stimulate investment for the purpose of job creation – an admirable goal. However, by simultaneously cutting research funding it **sends a clear message that the European Commission does not see science and technology as the spearhead of new industrial breakthroughs**, and considers high technology and innovation as secondary.

The majority of the EU Framework programme has been progressively more industrially oriented, and Horizon 2020 is strongly targeted at funding R&D in advanced technology companies, extensively supporting SMEs and big industry alike.

The Horizon 2020 programme and particularly the ERC carry the flag of European scientific and technological leadership, and are the envy of US and Asian counterparts. The Marie-Curie program is unparalleled elsewhere in the world in giving young researchers the opportunity to gain high technology experience Europe-wide. Cuts in these programmes will result in an immediate accelerated brain drain to the US and Asia, where science and technology receive ever increasing attention. Southern European countries, where R&D funding is already critically low, will suffer most, with accelerated brain drain.

While we fully support the drive for industrial investment, it is our opinion that the resources should come from **channeling large available pools of savings into the**

productivity-enhancing public-sector investments, rather than cutting on R&D. On the contrary, for the programme to succeed, the investment should focus more on research and innovation.

Signed:

Dragan Mihailović, President of the Scientific Council, Jozef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Simona Golič Grdadolnik, President of the Scientific Council, National Institute of Chemistry Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Jana Žel, The President of the Scientific Council, National Institute for Biology Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Martin Čopič, Vice – rector for Research University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Vito Turk, President of the Scientific Council, National Research Agency of Slovenia

The Investment plan for Europe: Cuts in R&D will send the wrong message.

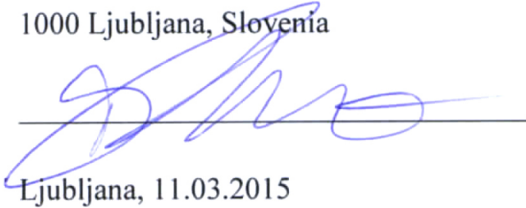
Signed:

Dragan Mihailović, President of the Scientific Council,

Jožef Stefan Institute,

Jamova cesta 39

1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia




Ljubljana, 11.03.2015

The Investment plan for Europe: Cuts in R&D will send the wrong message.

Signed:

Simona Golič Grdadolnik, President of the Scientific Council,
National Institute of Chemistry Slovenia
Hajdrihova 19, p.p. 660
1001 Ljubljana, Slovenia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simona G.', is written over a horizontal line.

Ljubljana, 11.03.2015

The Investment plan for Europe: Cuts in R&D will send the wrong message.

Signed:



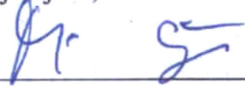
Jana Žel, President of the Scientific Council,
National Institute for Biology Slovenia
Večna pot 111
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Ljubljana, 11.03.2015

The Investment plan for Europe: Cuts in R&D will send the wrong message.

Signed:

Martin Čopič, Vice – rector for Research
University of Ljubljana Slovenia
Kongresni trg 12
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia



Ljubljana, 11.03.2015

The Investment plan for Europe: Cuts in R&D will send the wrong message.

Signed:

Vito Turk, President of the Scientific Council,
National Research Agency of Slovenia
Bleiweisova cesta 30
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia



Ljubljana, 11.03.2015