

**Urgent request to the European Parliament**

**to reconsider the allocation of research funding**

To: David Maria Sassoli, President European Parliament

From: Lettera150 <https://www.lettera150.it>

Europe and the whole world are emerging from possibly the worst emergency since the end of the Second World War. The health emergency has turned into a serious economic and social crisis and should have taught the importance of scientific research in the field of biomedical sciences and disruptive high technologies. The countries that are following science recommendation are indeed emerging earlier and better from the pandemic. In spite of all that however, for the first time in the history of Europe, the funding proposed by the European Parliament and the Commission for the 2021-2027 framework program is drastically cut by the European Council with a reduction of 13.5 billion euros, about 25% of the total. We go back to the levels of the previous work-program established in 2014. It is important that European people are aware of the fact that the research funding in 2021 and 2022 will decrease compared to the 2020 level.

According to initial estimates, the consequences of these cuts are equivalent to the elimination of support for 22,500 researchers, a loss of 400 patents for 110 inventions and a loss of 220 clinical tests. All that in a context where Europe spends only 2.2% of GDP against 2.8% of the USA, 3.2% of Japan, 4.3% of Korea.

The message for the new generations, the hardest hit by the consequences of the crisis, is devastating: Europe does not intend to invest in their future.

Without research and innovation, we are condemned to be marginal in the world scenario without supporting the development of our societies. How can we think of having sustainable development according to the Green New Deal, of developing skills in Artificial Intelligence, also in order to build-up an innovative public health response to a pandemic, to produce clean energy, to have more efficient buildings and means of transport, to fight dangerous and even devastating diseases, to encourage the development of businesses, if we do not invest in research and innovation?

It is a fact that in the discussion at the European Council, none of the Member States defended Research and Innovation, nobody thought about health, the environment, the creation of wealth, everyone forgot about the new challenges of the digital agenda.

We urge the European Parliament to reconsider the allocation of research funding, likewise described in the original proposal. We must be aware of the fact that, without research a future of prosperity and well-being is not possible for the peoples of Europe.

Lettera150

*Lettera150 is a group that spontaneously formed in Italy during the worst period of the pandemics to advocate a rational approach to the emergency. After the pandemics the group, which brings together 250 professors belonging to all kind of academic sectors -scientists, jurists, historians, economists etc., and some judges- has stayed together recognizing the need for a competence and knowledge based reform of the Italian governance and economic system.*

*See the full updated list of the Lettera150 members at:* [*https://www.lettera150.it/comitato-dei-sottoscrittori-di-lettera-150/*](https://www.lettera150.it/comitato-dei-sottoscrittori-di-lettera-150/)

Also endorsed by:

1. Prof. Alfonso Castro. Decano de la Facultad de Derecho de Sevilla. Catedrático de Derecho Romano.
2. Prof. Javier Paricio, Catedratico de Derecho Romano, Universidad Complutense, Madrid.
3. Prof. Franciszek Longchamps de Berier, Professor of Roman Law, Jagellonian University, Krakow.
4. Prof. Gianluca Donatini, professor of Suregery, University of Poitiers.
5. Prof. Ioannis G. Stratis, professor of Mathematical Analysis, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.
6. Prof. Athina Dimopoulou Professor of Roman Law of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.
7. Prof. Jean-François Gerkens, Professor of Roman Law, University of Liege.
8. Prof. Jose' M. Arrieta, Catedratico of Applied Mathematics, Universidad Complutense de Madrid.
9. Prof. Giuseppe Veltri, Maimonides Center for Advanced Studies.
10. Prof. Dr. Marcus Greferath, School of Mathematics and Statistics, University College Dublin, Republic of Ireland.
11. Prof. Jean Paul Brasselet, Institut de Mathématiques de Luminy, Marseille.
12. Prof. Alain Verschoren, Honorary Rector, Universitet Antwerpen.
13. Prof. Matteo Bonforte, Departamento de Matematicas, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid.
14. Prof. Martin Loebl, Department of Applied Mathematics, Charles University, Prague
15. Prof. Juan Luis Vázquez Suárez, Profesor Emérito Ex Catedrático de Matemática Aplicada. Universidad Autonoma de Madrid
16. Prof. Alex Friedrich, Head of Medical Microbiology Department, UMCG, Groningen, The Netherlands
17. Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Ingrid Kögel-Knabner, Chair of Soil Science, Department of Ecology and Ecosystem Management and Institute of Advanced Study (TUM-IAS) Technische Universität München, Germany
18. Dr. Carlos Garcia Research Professor CEBAS-CSIC, Dept. Soil and Water Coservation, and Organic Waste Management., Campus Universitario de Espinardo, PO Box: 30100. Murcia, Spain.
19. Dr. Angela SESSITSCH, Unit Head / Bioresources Center for Health & Bioresources, AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH, Konrad-Lorenz-Straße 24 | A-3430 Tulln | Austria
20. Prof. dr. Ir. Stefano Stramigioli, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science, Robotics and Mechatronics, University of Twente, Enschede, The Netherlands
21. Prof. dr. Jan G. Grandjean, Professor of Technology in Cardiac Surgery, University of Twente, Enschede, The Netherlands
22. Dr. Raffaella Maria Balestrini, Research Director, National Research Council - Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection, Torino Unit, Italy
23. Prof. Dr. Georg Guggenberger, Institute of Soil Science, Leibniz Universität Hannover, Herrenhäuser Str. 230419 Hannover, Germany
24. *Univ. Ass. Mag. Dr. Judith Ascher-Jenull,* Institut für Mikrobiologie, Universität Innsbruck, Technikerstr. 25d, 1. Stock, Zr. 516 A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria
25. Prof. Gerassimos Barbatis, professor of Mathematical Analysis, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.
26. Prof. Anibal Rodriguez-Bernal, Catedratico of Applied Mathematics Universidad Complutense de Madrid.
27. Prof. Bronislaw Sitek, Roman Law, member of Scientific Committee of Law Sciences of the Polish Academic Sciences.
28. Prof. José Luis Linares Pineda, Catedrático de Derecho Romano, Univ de Girona.
29. Prof. Emmanuelle Chevreau, Professor of Roman Law, Univ. Paris II.
30. Prof. Theodora Ioannidou, professor of Applied Mathematics, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.
31. Prof. Abdallah Raweh, Vice-Rector L.U.de.S. University, Lugano, Switzerland.
32. Prof. Gianluigi Condorelli, Professor of Cardiology, Humanitas University, Milano.
33. Prof. Antoine Henrot, professor of Mathematical Analysis, Institute Elie Cartan de Lorraine and Universite' de Lorraine.
34. Prof. Marco Bohnhoff - GFZ German Research Center for Geosciences and Professor of Experimental and Borehole Seismology at Free University Berlin
35. Prof. Alan Deidun, University of Malta, Director of the International Ocean Institute - Ocean Ambassador for Malta.
36. Ana Maria Perez Vallejo, titular de derecho civil, universidad de Almeria, Espana
37. Dr. Hab. Cristina Andenna, Technische Universität Dresden, Wiss. Mitarbeiterin, Professur für ältere und frühneuzeitliche deutsche Literatur und Kultur
38. Prof. Pierre Tollet, Ingénieur de recherche émérite, [Université Libre de Bruxelles – Institut d’études du judaïsme](https://societedesetudesjuives.org/?post_type=place&p=578).
39. Prof. Isabel Blanco Montenegro, Professor of Physics, Universidad de Burgos, Spain.
40. Prof. Silvana Peretta, Professor of Surgery, University of Strassburg.
41. Prof. Joerg Winkelmann, Lehrstuhl Analysis II, Fakultat fur Mathematik, Ruhr-Universitat Bochum, Germany.
42. Prof. Dr. Roberto Lorusso, Professor of Cardiac Surgery and Extracorporeal Life Support, University of Maastricht*,* The Netherlands.
43. Prof. Dr. Rudolf de Boer, Professor of Translational Cardiology, University of Groningen, the Netherlands.
44. Prof. Dr. Michael Bonkowski, Terrestrial Ecology, Inst. of Zoology, Universität zu Köln
Zülpicher Str 47b, 50674 Cologne, GERMANY
45. Visa Nuutinen Senior scientist, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke), Tietotie 4
31600 Jokioinen, Finland
46. Prof Giacomo Pietramellara, Ordinario di Chimica Agraria, Università di Firenze, Italy.
47. Prof Michael Schloter, Coordinator BioPac, HelmHoltz Zentrum Monaco, Germany
48. Prof. Luigi Badalucco, Full Prof. in AgroChemistry, Dip. Scienze Agrarie, Alimentari e Forestali, Coordinatore CdL in Viticoltura ed Enologia, Università di Palermo, Palermo, Italy
49. Prof Luisella Celi, Full Professor, Dipartimento di Scienze Agrarie, Forestali ed Ambientali, University of Torino, Italy.
50. Dr. Habil. Kerstin Michel, Researcher, deputy head of the Soil Biology Unit, Austrian Research Centre for Forests (BFW), Department of Forest Ecology and Soils, Vienna, Austria.
51. Prof. dr. J.D. van Elsas, Microbial Ecology, GELIFES, University of Groningen, The Netherlands.
52. PD Dr Habil Evgenia Blagodatskaya, Dept. of Soil Ecology, Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung, Halle (Saale), Germany.
53. Dr. Sergey Blagodatsky, University of Hohenheim, Institute for Plant Production and Agroecology in the Tropics and Subtropics, Stuttgart, Germany.
54. Prof. PD Dr. Nikolaos Bonaros, Deputy Chair, Department of Cardiac Surgery, Medical University of Innsbruck, Austria.
55. Prof. Christoph Mueller, Institut fur Planzenokologie, Giessen, Germany.
56. Prof. Dr. Thomas Rüfner, [Professor](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professor) für Römisches Recht, Privatrechtsgeschichte, deutsches und internationales Zivilprozessrecht, Universität Trier, Deutschland.
57. Prof. Dr. Martin Josef Schermaier, [Professor](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professor) für Römisches und Bürgerliches Recht, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität, Bonn, Deutschland.
58. O.Univ.-Prof. DDr. Johannes Michael Rainer, [Professor](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professor) für Römisches Recht und Modernes Privatrecht  Universität [Salzburg](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salzburg), Austria.
59. Prof. Manuel Castella, MD, PhD. Department of Cardiovascular Surgery. Hospital Clínic. University of Barcelona, Spain.
60. Prof. dr. Gregor Theilmeier, Carl von Ossietzky Universtitat Oldendurg, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Oldenburg, Germany.
61. Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, School of Economics, Director ReSEES Research Laboratory, Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece.
62. Prof. Adriaan A. Voors, Cardiologist, University of Groningen, Chief Scientific Officer G-CURE BV, Groningen, The Netherlands.
63. Prof. Dr. Thomas Finkenauer, Lehrstuhl für Bürgerliches Recht, Römisches Recht und Europäisches Privatrecht, Eberhard-Karls-Universität, Tübingen.
64. Dr. Antoon Kuijpers, Senior Researcher emeritus, Department of Glaciology and Climate, Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland, Copenhagen, Denmark
65. Prof. Iwan van der Horst, Head Department Intensive Care, Maastricht University Medical Center, Maastricht, The Netherlands.
66. Prof. Thierry Folliguet, Chief and professor of Cardiothoracic surgery in Hospital Henri Mondor Université de Paris 12, Créteil France.
67. Prof. Eleftheria Papadimitriou, Aristoteles University of Thessaloniki, Geophysics Department, Thessaloniki, Greece.
68. Prof. Vassilis Karakostas, Aristoteles University of Thessaloniki, Geophysics Department, Thessaloniki, Greece.
69. Prof. Rickard Sandell, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Social Sciences Department, Madrid, Spain.
70. Prof. Joos Vandewalle, Fellow of IEEE, IET and EURASIP, President (2018-2019) of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts, Emeritus Professor and former Head, Department of Electrical Engineering (ESAT) of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
71. Prof. Wouter Serdijn, Fellow of IEEE, Professor of Bioelectronics at Delft University of Technology and Medical Delta Honorary Professor at Delft University of Technology and Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
72. Prof. Rainer Joergensen, Head of Department of Soil Biology and Plant Nutrition University of Kassel, Germany.
73. Dr Naoise Nunan, CNRS, UMR 7618, iEES Paris, 4 place Jussieu - Tr 44-45 - 2e étage - Bureau 212, 75252 PARIS cedex 05
74. Prof. Peter Rabl, Erwin Schrödinger Center for Quantum Science & Technology (ESQ), Technische Universitaet Wien, Austria.
75. Dr Thomas Strohm senior research scientist at Bosch Research in Renningen - Robert Bosch GmbH
76. Georg Gesek - CEO Novarion Systems GmbH, Wien, Austria.
77. Dr Robert Keil, Department of Experimental Physics, University of Innsbruck, Austria
78. Prof. Caslav Brukner - Deputy Director Institute for Quantum Optics and Quantum Information (IQOQI), Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria
79. Prof. Gregor Weihs, Institute for Experimental Physics, University of Innsbruck, Austria
80. Prof. Georgios Katsaros – Institute for Science and Technology (IST) Klosterneuburg, Vienna, Austria
81. Prof. André Xuereb, Head of Department of Physics, L-Università ta' Malta (UM), La Valletta, Malta
82. Prof. Tommaso CALARCO (Director of the Institute for Quantum Control of the Peter Grünberg Institute at Forschungszentrum Jülich, Chair of QCN, Germany)
83. Prof. Yasser OMAR (Assistant Professor at the Department of Mathematics, Technical University of Lisbon, Vice-Chair of QCN, Portugal)
84. Prof. Christian TEICHERT (Associate Professor of Materials Physics, University of Leoben, Austria)
85. Dr. Krisztián VARGA (Research Engineer at Nokia Bell Labs, Hungary)
86. Dr. Giorgos FAGAS (Head of EU Programmes at Tyndall National Institute, Ireland)
87. Prof. Gerhard KIRCHMAIR (Senior Research Associate at Institut für Quantenoptik und Quanteninformation Technikerstr, Austria)
88. Anna ROIDER (no affiliation found)
89. Konrad A. ROIDER (no affiliation found)
90. Dr. Lorant FARKAS (Head of Department at Nokia Bell Labs, Hungary)
91. Hermann HAUSER (Co-founder Amadeus Capital Partners, UK)