



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

**The Director-General**

Dear Petitioner,

I thank you for your interest in the European Research Council. The 'Friends of the ERC' initiative and the petition is an excellent example of the scientific community's trust in and support for the European Research Council and its important mission.

The Horizon Europe programme has a very important role to play in supporting the European recovery and resilience. Research funded by the European Research Council is also expected to lead to breakthroughs at the frontiers of knowledge and to set a clear and inspirational target for frontier research across Europe.

As the petition letter is sent to all three EU-institutions, it is a timely input to the ongoing negotiations on the EU-budget for the next programme period.

I trust that in the end we will have a budget for Horizon Europe that will allow the programme to reach its objectives and the European Research Council to continue to have a high impact in terms of excellent and ground-breaking European research.

Yours sincerely,

Jean-Eric Paquet