It is with great sadness that we have learnt of the passing away of Professor José Mariano Gago. He was a remarkable man and a personal friend, who was, as a political actor and as a scientist, truly instrumental in the shaping of the European research landscape, not least for the European Research Council (ERC). We join the scientific and political Portuguese communities in paying tribute to Professor Gago’s immense contribution.

We thank him for his whole hearted support, which was key for the creation of the ERC. Our thoughts are with Professor Gago's family.

Jean-Pierre Bourguignon
ERC President