



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



Brussels, 7 November 2014

JOINT STATEMENT

Members of the European Round Table of Industrialists (ERT) and the European Research Council (ERC) would like to express their concerns about the significant cuts of payment appropriations proposed by the Council of Ministers to the European Commission's draft budget 2015, notably in key areas supporting growth such as research and innovation.

The prosperity of Europe depends on maintaining its competitive edge and securing global innovation leadership positions. Scientific discovery and technological progress will produce new products, processes and services, and new industries will be created in their wake.

If we want Europe to be an attractive place for research, investment and entrepreneurship, Europe's R&D budget must serve this purpose. The fact that the US, Japan and South Korea invest significantly more in research and development relative to GDP than the EU, is a clear warning signal that Europe should not cut its R&D budget. Europe is at the forefront in many scientific areas, while maintaining industrial leadership across multiple sectors.

The adopted budget for the EU's next research framework programme Horizon 2020 is already the bare minimum necessary for European research and industry, including SMEs, to meet the many societal challenges that face us at this time. Indeed, to keep the momentum and the perspective for European research and to put Europe back on a path of sustainable growth and employment requires avoiding any cut in the spending originally proposed for education, research and innovation.

Prof Jean-Pierre Bourguignon
President, ERC

Dr Kurt Bock
Chairman, ERT Competitiveness Working Group
Chairman Board of Executive Directors, BASF