



STATEMENT ADDRESSED TO HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ATTENDING THE 'EU BUDGET SUMMIT' FROM 22 TO 23 NOVEMBER 2012, BRUSSELS

'HORIZON 2020' AND 'ERASMUS FOR ALL' MUST HAVE HIGH PRIORITY IN EU 2014-20 BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

The 'Europe 2020 Strategy' goals of achieving smart and sustainable growth have to be built on enhancing research and development, human resources and skills to deliver the new products and services that Europe must offer to remain globally competitive. Europe's global regional competitors are not waiting. They are investing heavily in universities and the next generation of young people who will be the innovators of tomorrow. In Europe today we are at risk of marginalising ourselves and losing out in the competition through creating a 'lost generation' of young people as a result of under-investment in higher education and research.

The European University Association (EUA) has three messages for Heads of State and Government at the EU Budget Summit:

- A business-as-usual approach on the EU budget allocations for 'juste retour' purposes will not be good enough. The frequently stated political rhetoric which places emphasis on the central role of education, research and innovation in Europe's future competitiveness needs to be backed up by commitment and action by EU Member States.
- Increased investment in higher education and research to mobilise the potential and capacities of present and next generations of young people is the 'sine qua non' for Europe to exit the economic crisis and achieve future prosperity.
- EU-level investments are essential as a counter-balancing force when the economy is weak, and to act as catalysts for economic re-structuring and growth.

EUA supports strongly the European Commission and European Parliament proposals for an enlarged budget for 'HORIZON 2020' and the new 'ERASMUS FOR ALL' Programme. More than ever, for the very reason that economic recovery is not yet achieved, now is not the time to reduce investment in education, research and development.

As stated by EUA when the 'Innovation Union' Communication was launched as the first flagship of the 'Europe 2020 Strategy', Europe needs to invest in 'Smart People for Smart Growth'. Europe's future as a dynamic competitive global region will depend largely on its ability to offer creative research environments, to increase substantially the number of highly trained people within EU Member States and to attract others from abroad.

Europe's universities are ready to meet the challenge of the 'Europe 2020 Strategy' goals for higher education and research. High priority must be assigned to enhanced 'HORIZON 2020' and 'ERASMUS FOR ALL' budgets, which provide the instruments for these goals to be achieved.

Professor Maria Helena Nazaré
EUA President

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- Rectors' Conference, French Community of Belgium
- Flemish Interuniversity Council
- Bulgarian Rectors' Conference
- Croatian Rectors' Conference
- Cyprus Rectors' Conference
- Czech Rectors' Conference
- Universities Denmark
- Estonian Rectors' Conference
- Universities Finland
- Conference of University Presidents (France)
- German Rectors' Conference
- Greek Rectors' Conference
- Conference of Rectors of Roman Pontifical Universities
- Hungarian Rectors' Conference
- Rectors' Conference of Iceland
- Irish Universities Association
- Conference of Italian University Rectors
- Latvian Rectors' Council
- Lithuanian Universities Rectors' Conference
- University of Luxembourg
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