



EKATERINA ZAHARIEVA
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Dear Professor Faßmann,
Honourable Presidents,

I would like to thank you and the honourable presidents of such a high number of European Academies for the open letter conveyed to President von der Leyen, Commissioner Serafin, the President of the European Council Costa and myself.

It is my pleasure to reply on behalf of President von der Leyen to your points shared at this crucial moment, where we shape Europe's future by drafting the proposal for the next multiannual financial framework (MFF).

The three major reports you mention in your letter are guiding our work towards the next multiannual financial framework, as do the Political Guidelines of President von der Leyen for 2024-2029. The reports have indeed identified challenges for the competitiveness of Europe and suggest pathways to address these. The Commission's work towards the future MFF is therefore drawing very much on those recommendations.

In this context, we remain strongly committed to research and innovation. As clearly stated in the Political Guidelines, we will put research and innovation, science and technology, at the center of our economy. We will focus more on strategic priorities, on groundbreaking fundamental research and disruptive innovation, and on scientific excellence.

Education, research and innovation will be at the forefront of our efforts to boost our competitiveness. The Horizon Europe Framework Programme will stay as a self-standing programme, but tightly connected to the European Competitiveness Fund. This will increase the impact of our investments in research and innovation and will support the objectives of the Competitiveness Compass.

Professor Heinz Faßmann
President of the Austrian Academy of Sciences



The Compass sets out our visions and actions to boost competitiveness along three transformational imperatives: i) closing the innovation gap; ii) a joint roadmap for decarbonisation and competitiveness; and iii) reducing excessive dependencies and increasing security.

While the Commission is still working on its MFF proposal, we welcome your suggestions for robust research and innovation policies as a valued contribution to the ongoing discussions.

Yours sincerely,
Ekaterina Zaharieva

