



**Press statement:**

**Brussels, 7 July 2011**

**EUA welcomes the prominent role for education and research in the next multiannual budget of the EU**

EUA welcomes the emphasis placed by the European Commission on education and research in its proposals for the next multiannual budget (2014-2020). The proposed increases in funding for education and research set a clear signal that Europe is serious about achieving the EU2020 goals and specifically about educating and training “smart people for smart growth”. Prioritising education and research also clearly underlines the strategic European added value of common European education and research activities that bring people together, promote the sharing of knowledge, and enable synergies impossible to create at national level.

At EUA’s recent Annual Conference in Aarhus, Denmark, in the presence of President Barroso, EUA President, Professor Jean-Marc Rapp stressed that government expenditure on higher education should not be regarded as mere expenditure or “consumption” of public resources that can be easily cut, but rather as an “investment” in training, skills development and research crucial to leading Europe out of the present economic crisis.

European universities are therefore particularly pleased that the European Commission’s budget proposal clearly identifies education, research and innovation as “growth friendly expenditures” providing a clear added value that could not be achieved at national level alone.

EUA also appreciates the Commission’s aim of rationalising and simplifying the current structure of its programmes by proposing “Education Europe” and “Horizon 2020” but looks forward to the presentation of more detailed proposals on the specific priorities on both these areas. EUA will then provide more in depth comments on planned new activities and specific funding priorities from the perspective of Europe’s universities.

- Ends -

To read more about the Commission proposals:

[http://europa.eu/press\\_room/press\\_packs/multiannual\\_financial\\_framework\\_2014\\_2020/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/press_room/press_packs/multiannual_financial_framework_2014_2020/index_en.htm)

The European University Association, as the representative organisation of both the European universities and the national rectors' conferences, is the main voice of the higher education community in Europe. EUA's mission is to promote the development of a coherent system of European higher education and research.

**For further information, please contact: Andrew Miller,**

tel: + 32 2 743 1 159

email: [andrew.miller@eua.be](mailto:andrew.miller@eua.be)

You can also visit our website at [www.eua.be](http://www.eua.be)