



EUA Press Statement – 28 May 2013

EUA gives further support to European Parliament’s position on Horizon 2020 Cost Model

At a press conference today (28 May 2013) at the European Parliament convened by Mr Christian Ehler, MEP and Rapporteur on the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation, the European University Association (EUA) joined [Mr Ehler](#) in calling for the retaining of a reimbursement model based on the recognition of full costs in Horizon 2020, the next EU framework programme for research and innovation.

Mr Ehler invited the EUA and EARTO (European Association of Research and Technology Organisations) to express their views on this key issue in the present “trilogue” discussions (between the European Parliament, Council and the Commission) and in advance of the forthcoming Competitiveness Council meeting later this week.

Dr John Smith, EUA Deputy Secretary-General, said that EUA believed that the provision of a “full cost” option*, [as proposed by the European Parliament](#), would not work against the welcomed measures in Horizon 2020 designed to achieve greater simplification if rules are set up clearly and national and institutional methodologies are accepted. On the contrary, EUA saw the removal of the option for reimbursement based upon full costing methodologies as being both a backward step and counterproductive with respect to another key EU policy goal of moving forward the modernisation agenda in Europe’s universities, particularly the promotion of tools to support their financial sustainability. “Horizon 2020 as a flagship to enhance Europe’s research and innovation capacities needs to take a lead position here to strengthen European Universities’ competitiveness globally”, he suggested.

Dr Smith emphasised that EUA’s recent report [“Full costing: progress and practice”](#) showed that “the Seventh Framework Programme, FP7, had acted as an important “driver” for universities to modernise their financial management and encouraged national funders to improve their funding practices. If, in the future Horizon 2020, the European Commission accepted nationally recognised costing methodologies and usual institutional accounting practices this would be a major step forward in simplification and a significant reduction of administrative burden for universities participating in the programme. Europe’s universities and their researchers look for a more favourable balance between trust and control – they can be trusted!”

Background information:

- EUA’s position paper – [“EUA Input to the Debate on the Rules for Participation in Horizon 2020”](#)
- EUA’s public funding observatory has also shown that the trend to cut public funding for universities in many countries, in particular in Southern and Eastern European countries, continues. Therefore European funding schemes need to continue to provide reimbursement

models that support the financial sustainability of universities: <http://www.eua.be/eua-work-and-policy-area/governance-autonomy-and-funding/public-funding-observatory.aspx>

Ends.

For further information please contact Andrew Miller: Tel: +32 2 743 11 59 or +32 473 748785, email: andrew.miller@eua.be

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.

Notes for editors:

- *An option for reimbursement based upon full costing methodologies