

Statement

All European societies are greatly affected by the consequences of the COVID virus. Many of our citizens mourn the loss of a loved one or are recovering from severe health consequences. We also see our economies being hit hard and people losing jobs or fear that their jobs might be at stake in the near future.

Governments and the European Union are constantly challenged and asked to make tough decisions. They try to provide financial support to those sectors and individuals that need it most. That serious budget cuts are part of the phase we are in is understandable.

Governments, however, need to be careful in their assessment of the kind of cuts and the effects on our societies in the long term. Cutting research budgets will have serious consequences for research and innovation within the European Union Member States.

We need all kinds of research; also fundamental research which is part of the mandate of the ERC.

Through proper funding of fundamental research, in combination with applied research, Europe will be able to become a forerunner in addressing the many challenges our societies face, which will greatly impact our societal and economic wellbeing.

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